

Testimony of Kendra Hems

On Behalf of

Trucking Association of New York

Before the

**New York City Council
Committee on Transportation
April 24, 2020**

Regarding

Int. 1933-2020: Temporary Space for Pedestrians and Cyclists

I would like to thank Chairman Rodriguez as well as the members of the committees for the opportunity to testify before you today. For over 85 years, the Trucking Association of New York (TANY), a non-profit trade group, has represented the trucking industry in New York, advocating for the industry at the local, state and federal levels. We provide educational programs to our membership, which enhance their safety and maintenance efforts and offer numerous councils and committees to meet the diverse needs of our membership. TANY comprises over 600 member companies from New York, Canada, every border state, and other states across the country and is the exclusive New York affiliate of the American Trucking Associations (ATA).

Along with our healthcare workers, law enforcement personnel and many others, professional truck drivers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis. Our drivers are working overtime to ensure that critical deliveries of food, water, toiletries, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies get to healthcare facilities, businesses, and consumers in a timely manner. In fact, it has recently been cited that approximately 90% of New York City's food supply is delivered by a truck. With that said, we understand the Council's intentions behind Int. 1933 to open up streets and other public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists but we must balance this with the ability for trucks and other delivery vehicles to be able to continue to serve their customers.

To that end, we would ask that the Council and the Administration take into account certain commercial and residential corridors that rely on a constant stream of deliveries of crucial supplies. Due to the restrictions put in place by Governor Cuomo, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of online orders and residential deliveries. We want to make sure our members can continue to meet these demands without being hampered by a series of complicated street closures.

The trucking industry has been asked to step up to meet the increase in demand for essential supplies and services necessary to combat COVID-19 and they have responded. We ask that the Council take this into consideration and include the trucking industry when deliberating on potential street closures.

We look forward to working with the Council on this important issue.

Trucking Association of New York