



Via email:

NYC EDC, Brooklyn Marine Terminal Team
bmt@edc.nyc

September 17, 2024

Request for Additional Community Engagement Sessions on Brooklyn Marine Terminal Waterfront Redevelopment

Dear EDC Brooklyn Marine Terminal Team,

The Cobble Hill Association formally requests the addition of at least one in-person and one online session to the first round of community engagement for the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Waterfront Redevelopment Project. Currently, only a single in-person session is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Miccio Center in Red Hook.

We have received feedback from community members in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Columbia Street Waterfront, and Red Hook indicating that a Saturday meeting is difficult for many to attend. This day conflicts with the Sabbath and is the primary day for family responsibilities and errands (e.g., grocery shopping, going to the laundromat). While we recognize that some may prefer a weekend session, we believe it is essential to offer an additional in-person session on a weekday evening.

We also strongly recommend the addition of a Zoom session to ensure broader participation. While virtual meetings are not ideal, they have proven effective in increasing engagement, particularly among older residents and parents. Since the pandemic, we have observed a marked increase in participation from these groups when virtual options are provided. WXY Studios has experience facilitating virtual sessions from the BQE redesign process.

While three sessions may seem excessive, the size of the redevelopment area and its impact on multiple neighborhoods warrants thorough community involvement. At the September 11th Brooklyn Community Board 6 meeting, EDC reassured the public that it would conduct a robust community engagement process that would be crafted and overseen by the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Task Force. The scheduling of a single Saturday session before the Task Force has been established or met risks undermining public confidence in the process and the EDC's commitment to incorporating community feedback.

The Cobble Hill Association is eager to participate in this significant once-in-a-lifetime project. Our role is to ensure that community input is collected and reflected in the final plan. Given the scale and impact of this redevelopment, it is crucial that the engagement process is accessible to all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sue Nichols
President, Cobble Hill Association

Amy Breedlove
Chair, CHA Waterfront & Infrastructure Committee

CC:

Mikelle Adgate, EDC BMT Team

Tara Das, EDC BMT Team

Jennifer Montalvo, EDC BMT Team

Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer

Congressman Dan Goldman, Chair, BMTTF

Senator Andrew Gounardes, Vice Co-chair, BMTTF

Councilmember Alexa Aviles, Vice Co-chair, BMTTF

Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon

Councilmember Shahana Hanif

Community Board 6 District Manager Mike Raciopo