



March 23, 2026

Julie Su, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)  
One Liberty Plaza, 165 Broadway, 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10006

Dear Deputy Mayor Su,

First, congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice.

The undersigned served together on the EDC's Brooklyn Marine Terminal (BMT) Task Force which voted in September 2025 to approve a Vision Plan for the site. This plan included an agreement to form the BMT Development Corporation (DC), the BMT Advisory Task Force (ATF), and to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI). While our views on the Vision Plan vary, we write collectively to express our concerns about the lack of communication from the EDC regarding the work of these newly created public bodies and the timely results of the RFEI.

The DC and ATF were to guide and advise the BMT project, ensuring it remained on track, and to inform the local elected officials, government agencies, and the impacted communities about the project's status. However, those commitments have fallen short. The two DC meetings that have taken place in December 2025 were standard, pro-forma meetings to set up the DC. The first and only meeting of the ATF was held on October 23, 2025 and reviewed previously covered information; the second ATF meeting was supposed to have occurred in January 2026.

We are also concerned about a lack of communication on the RFEI submissions, which were to be submitted to EDC in mid-December 2025. The RFEI solicited input on the optimal size, layout, and economically viable uses of the commercial port and the marine terminal site. The proposals were supposed to inform the basis of possible adjustments to the Draft Scope of Work (DSOW) before the BMT Vision Plan moves into the meat of the environmental review. It was further understood that RFEI submissions might form the basis of additional uses of the BMT site as alternatives to be assessed in the Draft Environmental Review Statement (DEIS). Apart from EDC sharing cursory information as to the number and broad categories of the submissions, no further communication has been shared with the ATF, the public or the local elected officials. Since EDC put out an RFEI and not a formal Request for Proposals, they are not subject to procurement regulations.

On March 18, 2026 EDC sent an email stating that they will hold two public virtual meetings to present the RFEI proposals on March 24th and March 25th. While we were pleased to learn about the public meetings, this is too short notice and too close to the final deadline for public comment. This would give the community less than a week to review 25 proposals and to develop and provide testimony on the DSOW that might incorporate aspects of them by the March 31, 2026 deadline. EDC has fallen short of delivering the information it committed to in the Vision Plan on a timely basis.

We recognize that analyzing the RFEIs is substantial work, and the plane is being built while flying. Nonetheless, since EDC's work has been delayed, the public's role should not be given short shrift. The public deserves to have information on the submissions since they might influence how they'd like to see the Vision Plan modified. This puts elected officials and the public at a distinct disadvantage.

There has been little communication provided from the EDC or the consultants about the delayed timelines, upcoming meetings, and next steps.

Since the EDC never presented a viable port-centered alternative plan, members of the community have taken it upon themselves to pursue these plans with other stakeholders. [PortSide New York](#) has submitted an RFEI proposal that would create a maritime hub with B-to-B services for tugs and other workboats, on site job training which would create a pipeline to marine careers, while also serving as a community hub to access the working waterfront. This plan must be considered. Tom Fox has also publicly presented [his plan](#) to various local elected officials and community members and it has been received with great interest. This alternative approach should be considered for inclusion in a final scope of work and DEIS as a formal alternative to be fully studied in the environmental review.

Given the above, we request the following actions:

1. EDC convenes the DC and the ATF, briefs them on the status of the project and shares the RFEI submissions along with their assessments of them;
2. EDC hosts two community meetings: one in Red Hook and one in the Columbia Street Waterfront District—to complement the two virtual meetings—to share the RFEI submissions along with their assessments of them; and
3. Extend the comment period on the DSOW until 30 days after the community has been briefed on the RFEI submissions, thus allowing their testimony to be comprehensive, and to address all aspects of the Vision Plan or other approaches they would like to see incorporated into the Final Scope of Work and DEIS.

When the Vision Plan was approved, it came with a commitment to open communications and to collect and share port-centered alternatives for the site, which at the very least is required by the New York Open Meetings Law. By honoring our requests, the EDC will ensure that the BMT redevelopment proceeds with public trust, robust engagement, and improved communication.

We look forward to collaborating with you on the future of the BMT. We stand ready to meet and discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes



City Council Member Alexa Avilés



City Council Member Shahana Hanif

cc: Julia Kerson, Deputy Mayor for Operations for New York City  
Community Board 6 and Community Board 2