



ALEX BORES
Assemblymember 73rd District

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April 26, 2023
Matthew C. Fraser
Chief Technology Officer & Commissioner
New York City Office of Technology and Innovation
2 MetroTech Center, P1
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Fraser,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the ongoing installation of LinkNYC 5G Towers in the 73rd Assembly District.

I understand and appreciate the need to expand 5G infrastructure throughout our city, and concur that furthering equity in broadband access is a noble pursuit. The current plan for installation of LinkNYC towers across the City, however, provides a subpar solution to accomplishing this goal, both in terms of efficacy in providing 5G coverage and in minimizing disruption to our communities.

A vast array of constituents in my district have expressed concerns brought on by the size and appearance of the LinkNYC towers. There are more efficient and less intrusive ways to expand 5G coverage than installing 32-foot tall towers. Given the [FCC has weighed in](#) after Congressman Nadler raised this issue to their attention, I hope alternative proposals are being considered. I want to highlight two options which have already proven successful while providing less disruption to our communities. To expand 4G coverage, the telecom companies negotiated with individual buildings to install cells on them. This can easily be done with 5G cells, as it was with 4G. A different solution New York City has already been utilizing is placing smaller 5G cells on existing infrastructure, such as streetlights and traffic lights. Placing cells on traffic lights at intersections where the infrastructure allows will give broad coverage, as the signal would be unobstructed in four different directions. In addition to these ideas, I would be grateful to know of any alternative paths your office has explored to date or is currently exploring.

I am aware of the financial distress the LinkNYC program has been experiencing, but do not think the financial benefits to the program outweigh the downside generated by this proposal. As the ongoing installation of LinkNYC 5G towers continues, I want to be sure my concerns, and those of my constituents, are stated clearly: the 32-foot tall towers are an inefficient way of providing coverage, which also unnecessarily occupy public space.

I believe in the need to expand 5G infrastructure and the opportunities it can bring, and hope we can work together to deliver solutions which are effective and amenable to our communities.

Sincerely,

Alex Bores
Assemblymember for the 73rd District