



OFFICE OF THE
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

VANESSA L. GIBSON

Greater Fordham Road Corridor Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

New York City Regional Economic
Development Council

Bronx, New York City

November 2025

New York City has submitted a letter of intent to be a **Pro-Housing Community**

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DRI Application Number: **154462**

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Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

It is an honor to present our application for the 2025 New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative for the Greater Fordham Road Corridor. I am committed in my support to one of The Bronx's essential corridors by helping Fordham Road thrive as a well-connected center for job creation and economic growth. Transformational changes can be made through strategic capital projects that reflect the area's cultural identity and establish it as a magnet for redevelopment and investment.

As one of the busiest retail corridors and transportation hubs in New York City, the Greater Fordham Road Corridor has untapped potential that could be realized through the prioritization of capital projects that would support existing business along Fordham Road and by strengthening connections with key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Avenue/Little Italy, and the Kingsbridge Armory. Previous planning and transportation initiatives, such as Fordham Road Bus Priority Program – which established the first Select Bus Service route in all of New York City – the Tremont and Third Avenue Rezoning, and the East Fordham Road Rezoning have positioned the area for continued success by creating opportunities for growth that will support transit access, housing opportunities, and commercial vitality.



Since taking office, I have championed economic development as a pathway to prosperity and have done so by making investments in projects that foster economic activity, such as the Kingsbridge Armory—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to breathe new life into this iconic site—and support for new opportunities, such as the Greater Morris Park community which will be seeing Metro-North expansion and was the recipient for the 2024 DRI award. Additionally, support for cultural institutions, including The Bronx Children's Museum—the first Bronx-based institution to be added to New York City's Cultural Institutions Group in 47 years—and the world's first Hip Hop Museum, opening in 2026. These are just a few of the projects that are reshaping The Bronx and positioning it for future success.

My vision for the Greater Fordham Road Corridor is ensuring it will continue to be a thriving, mixed-use community that seamlessly integrates economic growth with exceptional quality of life by improving infrastructure, supporting local businesses, and prioritizing cultural institutions. Receiving capital support for the Greater Fordham Road Corridor through DRI would help advance a number of projects that help meet these goals while setting a new standard for urban revitalization by creating a more walkable, inclusive, and vibrant urban environment that honors the historic character and economic vitality of Fordham Road.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vanessa L. Gibson
Bronx Borough President

Executive Summary

Fordham Road stands as one of the most active, visible, and economically significant commercial corridors in The Bronx. It is anchored by several of the borough's foremost institutions—including Fordham University, The Bronx Zoo, and the New York Botanical Garden—as well as the vibrant, densely populated neighborhoods of Belmont, Fordham, and Fordham Heights. As a transportation hub, with both critical east-west local connections as well as north-south regional connections, Fordham Road plays an essential role in regional mobility. The road is an essential thoroughfare and the home of the original Select Bus Service (SBS) corridor that began in 2008. It extends from the University Heights Bridge, through Bronx Park and toward the Pelham Parkway corridor, serving around 93,000 bus riders daily.

The corridor is home to over 300 businesses within the boundaries of the Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID), encompassing major retail destinations such as Fordham Plaza. This concentration of commercial activity has made the street one of the Bronx's busiest and most diverse shopping and pedestrian environments, serving both local residents and visitors from across the city and region.

Adjacent to this commercial spine is the Belmont neighborhood, widely recognized as one of The Bronx's cultural and culinary gems. Belmont features a strong and cohesive local community, centered around the Little Italy/Belmont Business Improvement District on Arthur Avenue, and is within walking distance of several major Bronx attractions. Together, these areas represent a unique blend of local character, institutional strength, and regional draw.

On the westernmost boundary of the study area, the ongoing redevelopment of the historic Kingsbridge Armory further underscores the extraordinary investment potential and catalytic redevelopment energy emerging in this part of the borough. The western end also includes Monroe University and Poe Park, home to Edgar Allen Poe cottage which was where he wrote some of his most famous works.

DRI funding would provide a timely and transformative opportunity to support one of The Bronx's most essential, high-traffic, and economically strategic corridors. Together, these neighborhoods that comprise the DRI form a dynamic and interconnected center of activity that attracts thousands of residents and visitors each day. Targeted investments through DRI can build on these existing strengths to enhance connectivity, promote inclusive economic development, and sustain the long-term vitality of this important area.



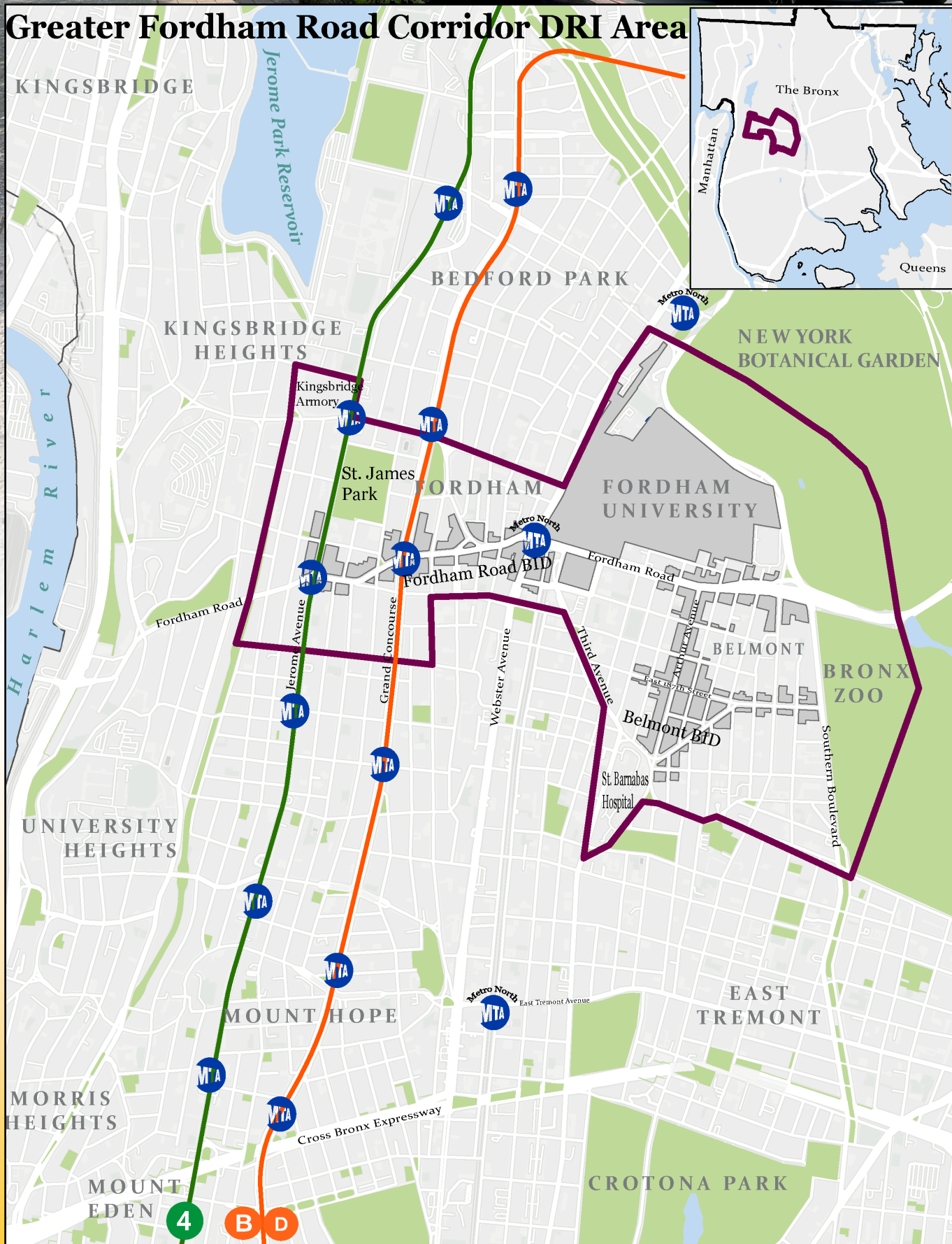


Basic Information

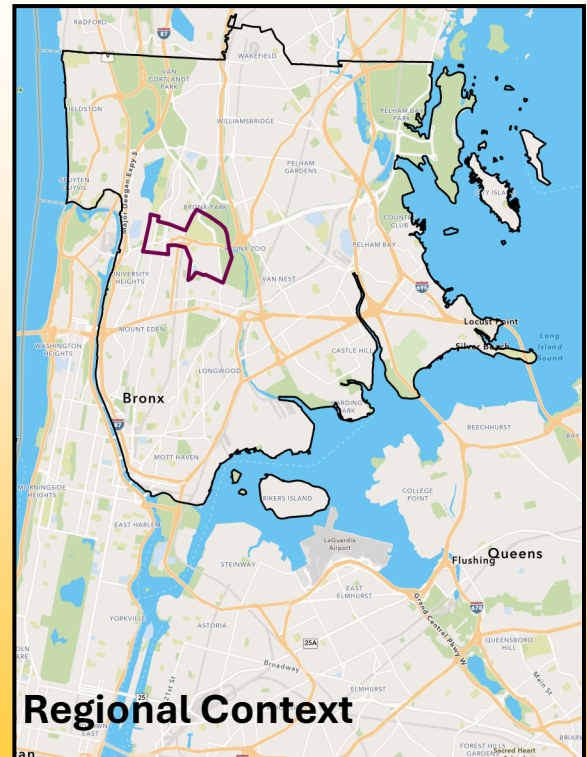
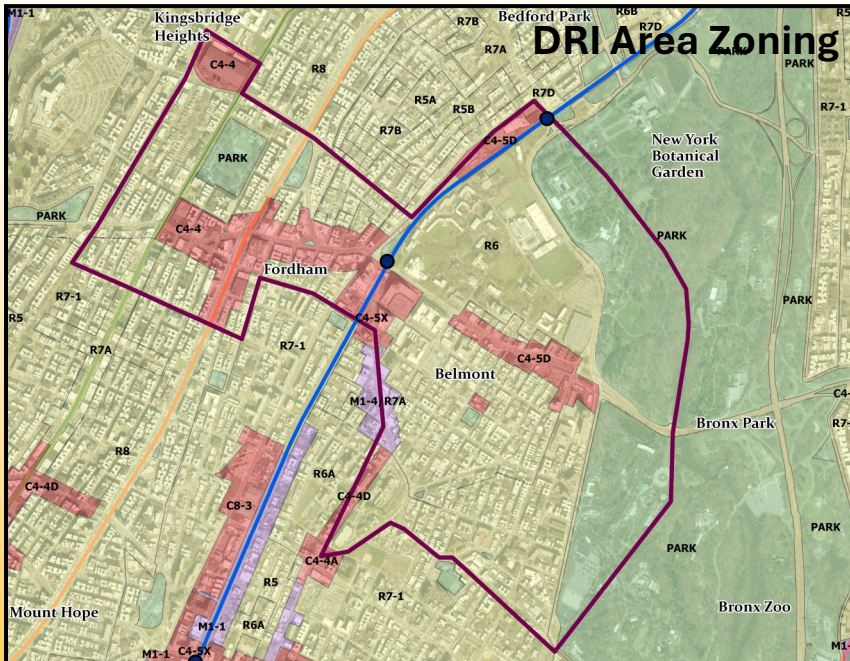
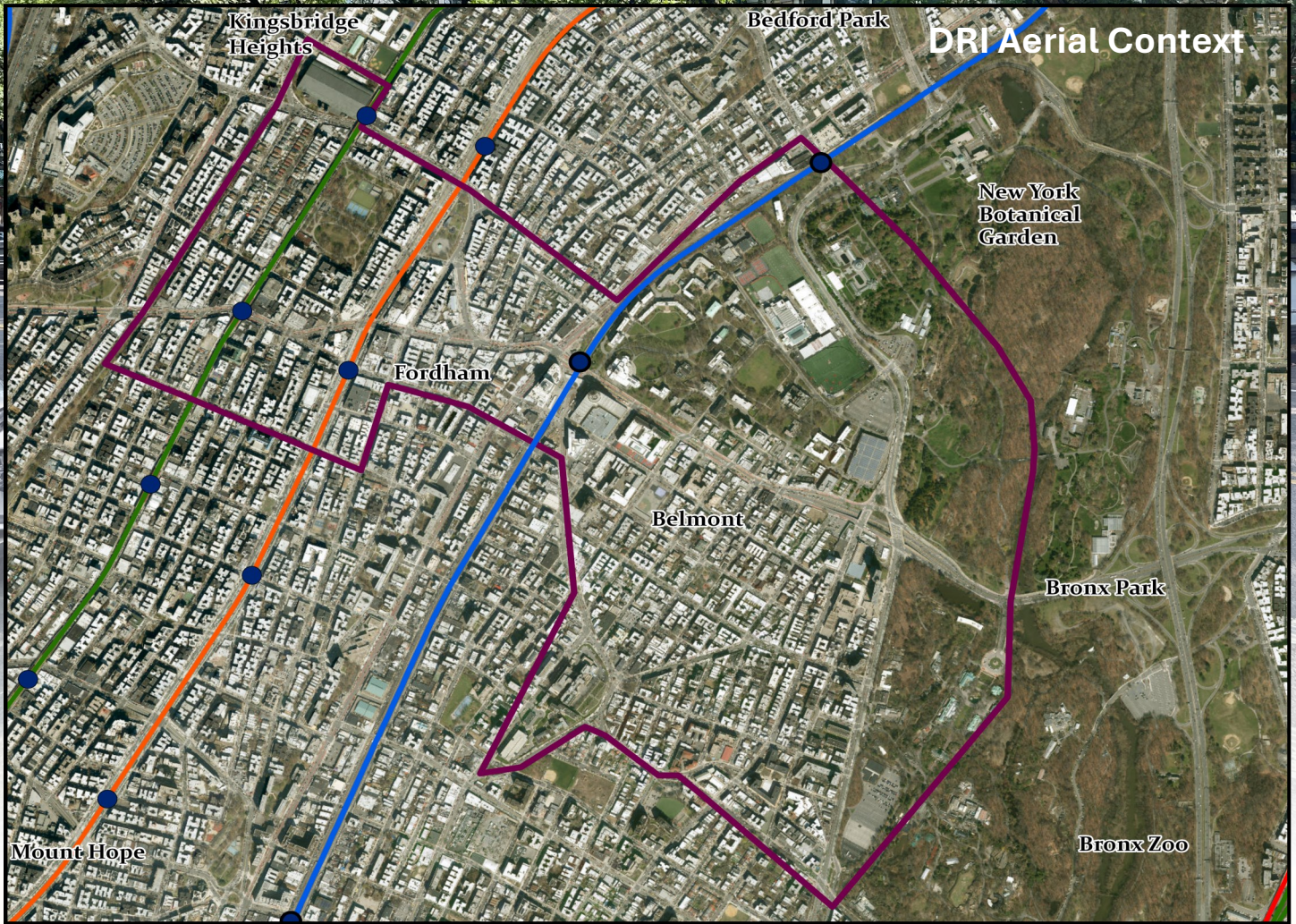
REDC Region	New York City
Program	Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)
Municipality Name	New York City
Downtown Name	Greater Fordham Road Corridor
County Name	Bronx
Applicant Contact	<p>Primary: Office of The Bronx Borough President Name/Title: Juton Horstman, Director, Planning and Development Email: jhorstman@bronxbp.nyc.gov</p> <p>Secondary: Bronx Economic Development Corporation Name/Title: Marshall Strawbridge, Director of Outreach Email: mstrawbridge@bxedc.org</p>
Applicant Partners	<p>8th Regiment Partners Belmont Business Improvement District Bronx Economic Development Corporation Bronx Independent Cinema Center Fordham Plaza Fordham University Mainland Media LLC, DBA From The Bronx New York Botanical Gardens Northwest Bronx Community Clergy Coalition NYC Department of Parks and Recreation R.A.I.N. INC. ReBORN & Fordham University The Bronx is Reading The Horticultural Society of New York University Neighborhood Housing Program</p>

Geographic Area and Justification

Greater Fordham Road Corridor DRI Area



Geographic Area and Justification



Sources: ESRI, MTA, DCP

Geographic Area and Justification

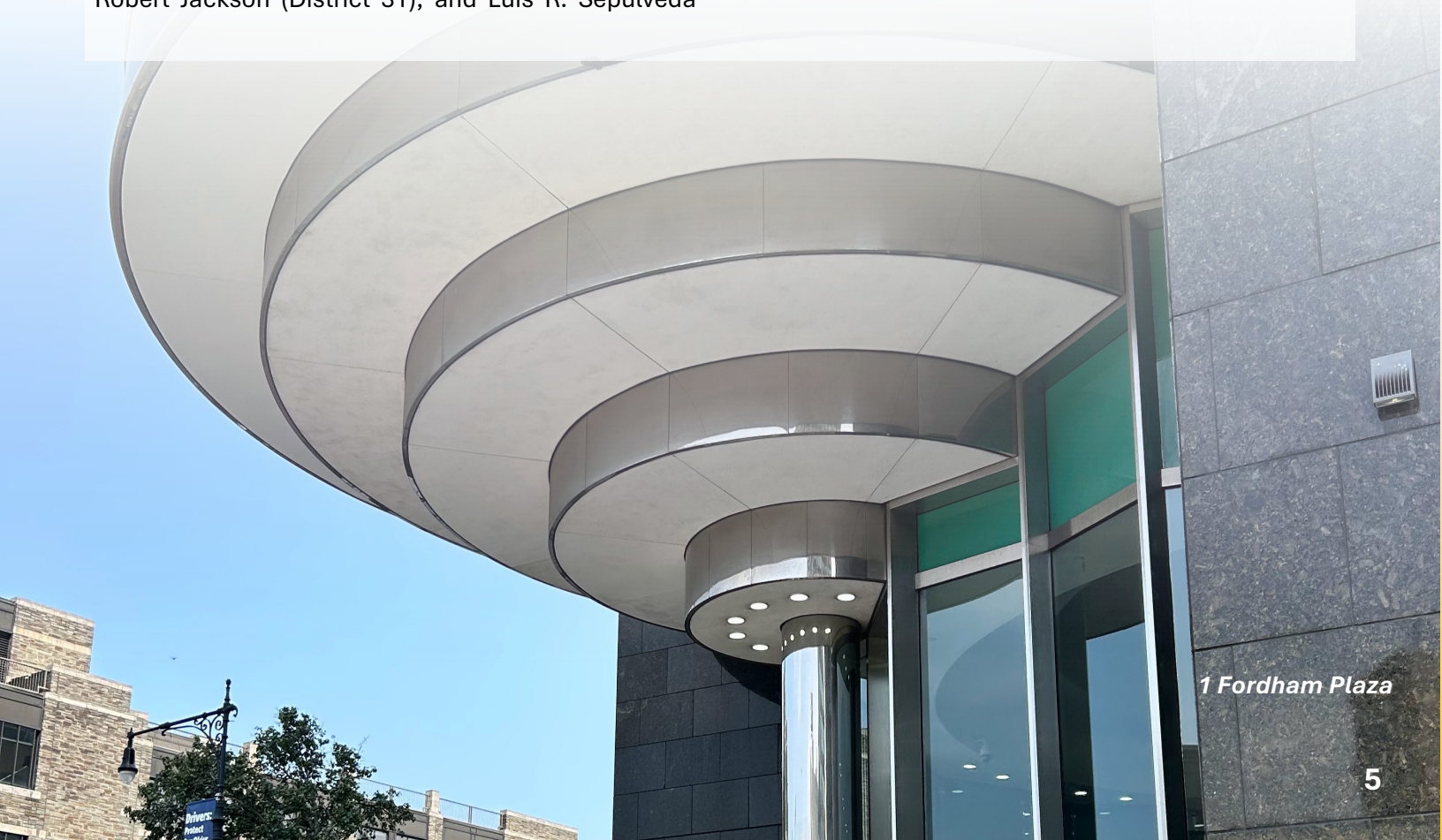
The Greater Fordham Road Downtown Revitalization Initiative area encompasses several major institutional and neighborhood anchors. It is bounded by Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, and the New York Botanical Garden to the northeast and east; Jerome Avenue and the elevated 4 train to the west; the Kingsbridge Armory and Monroe University to the northwest; and 184th Street, 188th Street, and Third Avenue to the south. These boundaries encompass the neighborhoods of Belmont, Fordham, and Fordham Heights, while adjacent communities include Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights, Bedford Park, Tremont, and Crotona. The designated area includes the service areas of both the Belmont and Fordham Road Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and includes one of the largest and most active commercial corridors and transportation hubs in the five boroughs at Fordham Road and Fordham Plaza.

The DRI boundaries include Community Boards 5, 6, and 7, and the ZIP codes 10457, 10458, 10460, and 10468. At the congressional level, the area is divided between New York's 13th and 15th Congressional Districts, represented by Representatives Adriano Espaillat and Ritchie Torres, respectively. At the state level, the area is represented in the New York State Senate by Senators Gustavo Rivera (District 33), Robert Jackson (District 31), and Luis R. Sepúlveda

(District 32), and in the New York State Assembly by Assembly Members George Alvarez (District 78), Yudelka Tapia (District 86), and John Zaccaro (District 80).

Fordham Road is an exceptionally strong candidate for the DRI due to the corridor's high volume of economic activity, its proximity to landmark New York City destinations, and the long-anticipated redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory—a transformative, catalytic project expected to generate significant economic growth, employment opportunities, and community reinvestment. The DRI presents an ideal opportunity to capitalize on this redevelopment, anchored by that project to the west and key Bronx institutions to the east.

To take advantage of this momentum, coordinated public and private investment will be critical. Government agencies, anchor institutions, and small businesses are working to align capital strategies that promote equitable development, enhance multimodal connectivity, and strengthen the urban fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods.



1 Fordham Plaza

DRI Readiness

One of the key strengths of the Greater Fordham Road area is the presence of multiple well-established and highly trafficked local and regional organizations that have played an active role in identifying priority areas for public investment. The corridor is supported by a range of committed stakeholders and anchor institutions, including business improvement districts, community-based organizations, private enterprises, and major institutions, who have both the capacity and willingness to serve as sponsors and partners in the successful implementation of DRI-funded projects.

Fordham Road Business Improvement District: established in 2005, serves a 30-block stretch of one of The Bronx's busiest commercial corridors, covering Fordham Road from Washington Avenue to Jerome Avenue, as well as parts of Grand Concourse and East Kingsbridge Road. Representing over 300 businesses and institutions, including Fordham University, the BID provides supplemental sanitation, graffiti removal, public safety coordination, and streetscape maintenance. It also supports the local economy through business workshops, seasonal programming, marketing, and advocacy for capital improvements that enhance the pedestrian and retail environment for the over 30 million visitors to this BID per year.

Belmont Business Improvement District: established in 1999, serves the historic Little Italy of the Bronx, centered along Arthur Avenue and East 187th Street, south of Fordham University. The BID represents over 100 small businesses, including numerous family-owned bakeries, butchers, specialty food stores. Known as a major cultural and culinary destination, the district attracts local residents, New Yorkers from all parts of the city, and tourists. The BID provides vital services like beautification, security coordination, and festive holiday lighting that supports a vibrant and lively atmosphere. In addition, the BID organizes cultural events, runs marketing campaigns, and collaborates with partners such as the Belmont Library, local schools, and Fordham University to strengthen community ties. Through its ongoing efforts, the Belmont BID plays a critical role in preserving the neighborhood's unique identity while supporting economic development.

Vision Statement

We seek to leverage DRI funding to advance targeted investments along the Fordham Road commercial corridor, with a focus on enhancing safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors. This initiative will strengthen connectivity between Fordham Road and major Bronx institutions, including Arthur Avenue, Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, and the New York Botanical Garden. Through strategic capital projects and infrastructure improvements that reflect the area's cultural identity, the DRI will support the creation of a more walkable, inclusive, and vibrant urban environment that honors the historic character and economic vitality of the Greater Fordham Road corridor.

DRI Readiness

Kingsbridge Armory: A historically significant structure and the largest known armory in the world at 180,000 square feet. It is currently undergoing a major re-development initiative and is positioned to catalyze economic growth, job creation, and community-centered programming in The Bronx. With initial commitments of over \$215 million from the City, State, and Federal governments, it is expected to generate over \$2 billion in economic impact and provide more than 3,300 jobs once fully completed.

Fordham University: The Bronx's most prominent university with 17,000 students, an over \$1-billion-dollar endowment, and over 3,000 employees, Fordham University is a leading private Jesuit institution with a flagship campus in The Bronx. It serves as a major academic and economic anchor in the borough, contributing to workforce development, research, and community engagement initiatives across a wide range of disciplines. Additionally, in July 2025, Fordham University announced a \$3 million grant to establish a Bronx Green Jobs Center which will focus on training for green-economy jobs. Fordham University generates nearly \$1.5 billion in economic impact, which includes \$150 million in student and visitor spending at local businesses.

Monroe University: Formerly known as Monroe College, it has served the Fordham area since 1967, and serves over 3,000 students annually. It achieved university status in 2024, recognizing its expanded graduate and health/life-sciences programs.

Fordham Plaza: 1.7 Acre plaza that serves as a major commercial and transportation hub between Fordham Road, Third and Webster Avenues, home to the bus terminal and a commercial and social center with shops, restaurants, street vendors. It has undergone a \$34 million redesign which was completed in 2016. Fordham Plaza serves approximately 85,000 daily bus riders from 15 different bus routes and serves approximately 11,000 daily passengers at the Fordham Metro-North station.

Bronx Zoo (Wildlife Conservation Society): At 265 acres, the Bronx Zoo is among the largest metropolitan zoos in the world. It consistently ranks among the top 10 zoos in the country and attracts more than two million visitors annually to see its more than 11,000 animals. It is also a global leader in wildlife conservation and environmental education.

New York Botanical Garden: A 250-acre National Historic Landmark and internationally recognized research and educational institution. It hosts over 1 million visitors annually which includes collaboration on local and global education programs.

Bronx Library Center: The largest New York Public Library facility located in The Bronx, the Bronx Library Center provides expansive educational-programming, research services, and public resources, serving as a central hub for community learning and digital inclusion.

Arthur Avenue Retail Market: Situated in the Belmont neighborhood of The Bronx, the market is a longstanding commercial and cultural anchor within the Bronx's Little Italy. It houses traditional Italian vendors and artisanal businesses, supporting both local entrepreneurship and heritage tourism.

St Barnabas Hospital: Part of SBH Health System, it is the oldest continually operating healthcare facility in New York City, it has been serving The Bronx for nearly 160 years. It offers comprehensive medical care, behavioral health, a level 2 trauma center, and community wellness services. It plays an essential role in addressing public health needs and reducing disparities in care.

Loews Paradise Theater: Located on the Grand Concourse, it is the second largest theater in New York City with over 3,800 seats and is a historical landmark.

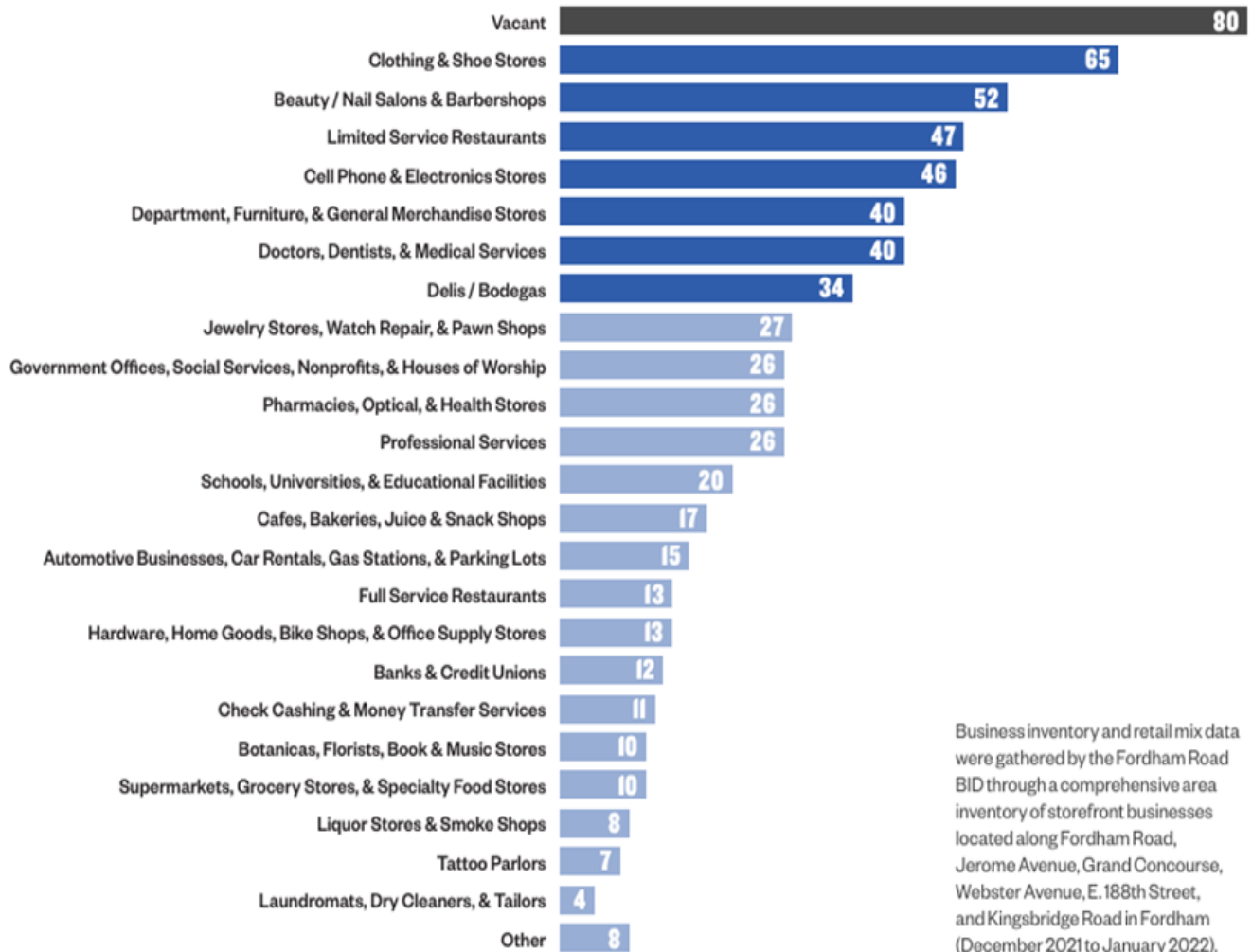


Keating Hall,
Fordham University

Recent and Impending Job Growth

Storefront & Retail Mix

Source: Fordham Road BID Needs Assessment



Business inventory and retail mix data were gathered by the Fordham Road BID through a comprehensive area inventory of storefront businesses located along Fordham Road, Jerome Avenue, Grand Concourse, Webster Avenue, E. 188th Street, and Kingsbridge Road in Fordham (December 2021 to January 2022).

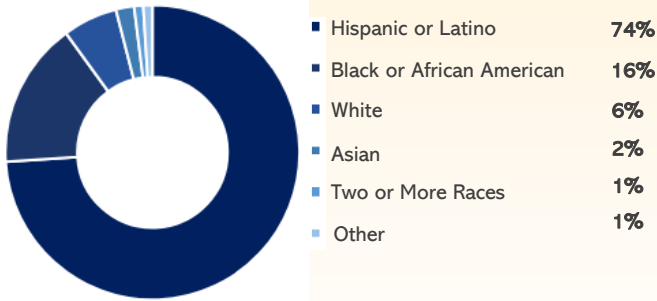
According to the 2023 American Community Survey, more than 70,000 residents living within the Fordham Road DRI area census tracts are employed across a range of industries. The corridor supports a robust commercial ecosystem, with over 657 storefronts and 188 licensed street vendors, as reported in the Fordham Road BID Commercial Needs Assessment. On average, businesses employ seven full-time workers, contributing to the local employment base. The area currently faces a

12.2 percent storefront vacancy rate, indicating opportunities for targeted reinvestment. The forthcoming Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment is expected to generate approximately 3,400 jobs, including 2,800 construction-related positions and 600 permanent roles, further enhancing employment prospects in the surrounding community.

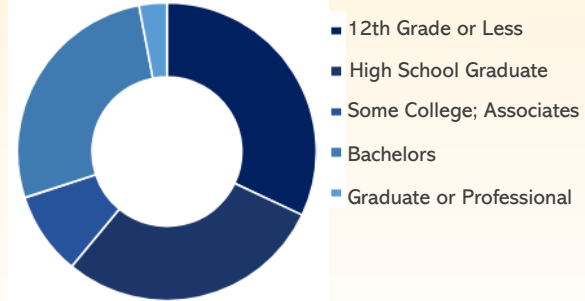
Demographic Data

Greater Fordham Road

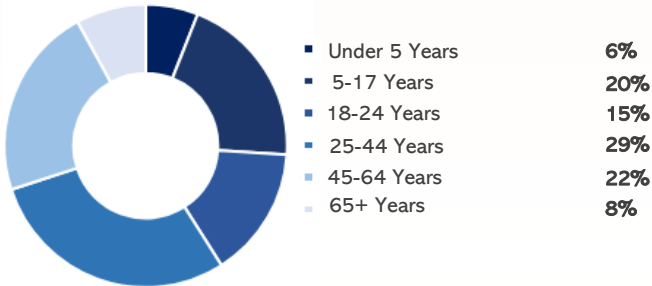
RACE & BACKGROUND



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



POPULATION AGE



Population

88,701

Median Age

30.4

Source: 2023 ACS Community Survey

INCOME

Median Household Income Avg.

\$37,121 Greater Fordham Road

Pop. Below Poverty Line

33% Greater Fordham Road

Employment

Population in Labor Force

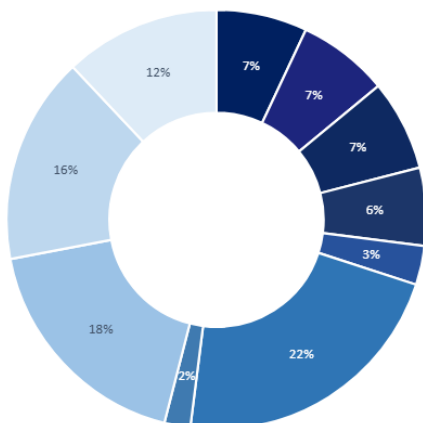
40,408

Unemployment

16.6%

LOCAL JOBS & EMPLOYMENT

LOCAL RESIDENTS EMPLOYMENT



Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	22%
Education, Healthcare, & Social Assistance	18%
Other Service	16%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	12%
Construction	7%
Public Administration	7%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, & Food Services	7%
Manufacturing	6%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	3%
Retail Trade	2%

Past Investment and Future Potential

Fordham Road has been the focus of sustained public and private investment over the past decade. The long-awaited Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment has completed public review and has been approved by the City Council. This mixed-use redevelopment of the massive historic landmark will most notably contain a 17,000-seat venue for sports and cultural events. Additionally, the Armory redevelopment consists of community facility space, recreation space, a music museum, and a 16-story, 389,000 square foot mixed-use affordable residential building on an adjacent lot. The Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment represents a \$650-million-dollar investment in The Bronx and is anticipated to create over 3,400 jobs.

The East Fordham Road Rezoning in 2013 laid the groundwork for targeted growth and revitalization in this neighborhood. Major infrastructure and

economic development projects have followed, including the revitalization of the historic Dollar Savings Bank Clock Tower. In 2021, the New York City Department of Transportation identified Fordham Road as a Tier 1 priority investment area in its NYC Streets Plan. That same year, the corridor received a \$300,000 multi-year Commercial Revitalization Avenue NYC grant from the Department of Small Business Services, supporting improvements through 2024. Most recently, in 2025, Fordham University started construction on its Green Economy Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship Hub on Fordham Road, slated to open in 2026, signaling a strong commitment to community partnership and inclusive economic growth in the area.



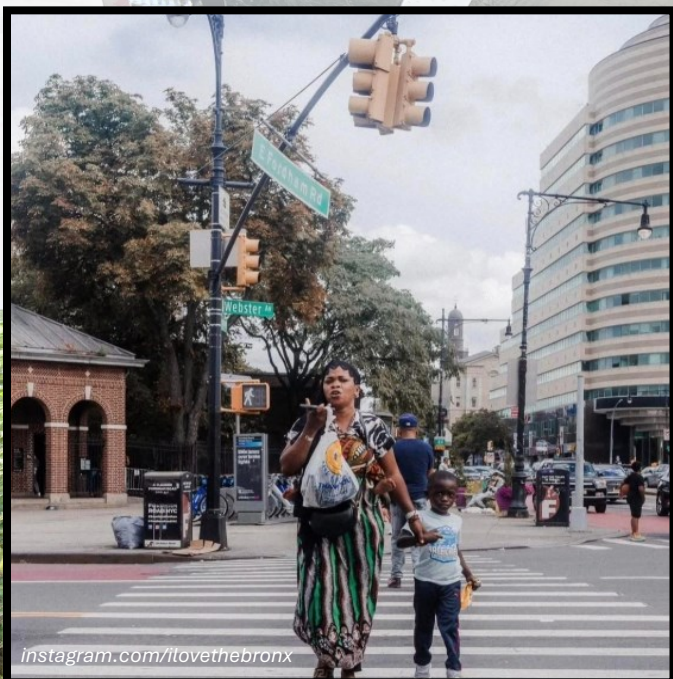


Quality of Life

The communities within the Greater Fordham Road Corridor are culturally rich and historically significant areas of The Bronx, with roots tracing back to colonial times. It is home to several landmarked buildings, including the Kingsbridge Armory, currently undergoing redevelopment, the restored Dollar Savings Bank and its iconic 1933 Art Deco clock tower, now adapted for commercial use, and the Loews Paradise Theater, a 3,800-seat architectural gem built in 1929, currently vacant and a potential site for future revitalization.

The area also hosts enduring cultural institutions such as the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, in operation since 1940, and major public events including the Fordham Road Festival and the regionally celebrated Ferragosto Festival. Demographically, the neighborhood reflects a diverse heritage, with deep Italian, Albanian, and Hispanic (particularly Dominican and Mexican) roots. It is also a critical transit and economic hub, served by Metro-North's Fordham Station—the third busiest in the system outside Manhattan—along with two subway lines, the B/D and 4 train lines, and 15 bus routes, including three Bee-Line routes connecting to Westchester County.

With over \$439 million in annual retail spending, Fordham Road ranks as the third busiest shopping corridor in the five boroughs and benefits from proximity to major attractions like the Bronx Botanical Garden, which draws approximately 850,000 visitors annually. The corridor also includes green spaces such as Poe Park, home to the historic Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, and St. James Park, a heavily used community recreation area.



Supportive Local Policies

Over the past fifteen years, the Greater Fordham Road area has been the focus of coordinated planning and transportation initiatives that have advanced community development. In 2008, the Department of Transportation launched Select Bus Service on the Bx12 route through the Fordham Road Bus Priority program. This corridor carries over 85,000 riders each weekday and became the first Select Bus Service route in New York City, introducing dedicated lanes, off-board fare collection, and signal priority that reduced travel times. The Department of City Planning reinforced these improvements with a series of rezonings, including the Tremont and Third Avenues Rezoning in 2010 and the East Fordham Road Rezoning in 2013. Together with related rezonings, these actions covered 167 blocks and created capacity for thousands of new housing units.

Building on this foundation, the Fordham Metro-North Study from 2014 highlighted opportunities for transit-oriented development and improved regional access at Fordham station, which already serves an average of 12,000 riders each day. The Fordham Road BID undertook a Commercial Needs Assessment in 2017 to identify retail gaps, infrastructure priorities, and investment strategies to support the district's role as The Bronx's busiest shopping destination.

In May 2021, the New York City DOT expanded the Fordham area bicycle lane network, adding more than four miles of new and upgraded lanes that improved safety and connectivity for cyclists, linking residents, workers, and students to nearby institutions such as Fordham University, Monroe University, the Bronx Zoo, and the New York Botanical Garden.

These initiatives demonstrate a sustained commitment to integrating effective planning, transportation investment, and community priorities. They have produced measurable outcomes in transit access, housing opportunities, and commercial vitality that position the Greater Fordham Road area for more continued success in these regards.

Public Support

Community engagement in the Greater Fordham Road Corridor is strong, exemplified by active civic organizations like Bronx Community Boards 5, 6, and 7 actively hosting and participating in public forums, workshops, and town hall meetings. The engagement process for past planning initiatives has been robust and collaborative.

A prime example is the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment ULURP Public Hearing, held at KIPP Academy, across from the Armory, on July 17, 2025. The event drew community members of all ages, local organizations, and union representatives to discuss the future of this landmark site. The proposal received broad support from community partners and long-time residents alike, underscoring a strong, united commitment to revitalizing the Armory and ensuring it serves as a hub of opportunity and economic growth for The Bronx.

Another example is Fordham Forward, launched by the Fordham Road BID, is a community-driven initiative that brings together residents, businesses, and local organizations to shape the future of the Fordham commercial corridor. Formed in response to the pandemic's impact, it fosters collaboration around shared priorities like safety, sanitation, wellness, and economic vitality. By uniting diverse stakeholders under a common vision, Fordham Forward exemplifies strong public support and collective action to strengthen the neighborhood's resilience and identity.

Transformative Project Opportunities

The partner organizations with longstanding connections to the communities that comprise the **Greater Fordham Road Corridor** have identified a diverse and impactful set of capital projects designed to improve the quality of life for local residents. The Office of the Bronx Borough President has been in active communication with local stakeholders pursuing capital funding for these initiatives as part of this DRI application.

	Title	Partner	Description	DRI Funding Request
1	Lighting Improvements	Belmont BID	The addition of street lights, pedestrian lights on existing light poles, up-lighting on tree guards, in ground solar lighting at curbs, and decorative lighted signage throughout the BID district commercial corridor.	\$1,500,000
2	Holiday Lighting	Belmont BID	Funds to facilitate Easter, Independence Day, and Autumn/Fall Harvest holiday lighting throughout the BID district commercial corridor.	\$100,000
3	D'Auria Murphy Triangle Lighting Improvements	Belmont BID	Installation of additional lighting in D'Auria Murphy Triangle.	\$100,000
4	Pernicone Plaza Beautification	Belmont BID	Install solar lighting and a decorative sculpture, facilitates repairs to existing flagpoles to enhance the pedestrian experience.	\$250,000
5	Mural & Medallion Installation	Belmont BID	Facilitate the installation of various murals and a pigmented concrete medallion with brass lettering "Little Italy of the Bronx The Good Taste of Tradition".	\$300,000
6	Storefront Enhancements	Belmont BID	Upgrades and enhancements to commercial corridor business storefronts and facades.	\$250,000

Transformative Project Opportunities

	Title	Partner	Description	DRI Funding Request
7	Decorative Crosswalks	Belmont BID	Enhancements to cobblestone crosswalks and the creation of decorative thermoplastic custom crosswalks at select intersections throughout the BID district.	\$800,000
8	Security Cameras	Belmont BID	Purchase and installation of security cameras at NYPD recommended locations throughout the BID district to deter criminal activity.	\$300,000
9	Beautification Signage	Belmont BID	Creation of two permanent “Welcome to Bronx Little Italy” signs at select intersections.	\$600,000
10	Fence Improvements	Belmont BID	Repairs to the fence on the East Fordham Road median to address pedestrian safety and beautify this major thoroughfare.	\$80,000
11	Municipal Parking Lot Developments	Belmont BID	Develop the Belmont Municipal Parking Field in order to increase vehicular parking capacity.	\$10,000,000
12	Fordham Road Corridor Public Space Activation	Belmont BID	Funds will support enhancements including lighting, benches, greening, shade made at 4 key public sites near Fordham University.	\$300,000
13	NWBCCC Manufacturing Hub	Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition	Transform 100,000 square feet of space into light industrial facilities sporting Bronx-based manufacture, food producers, and craftspeople.	\$10,000,000
14	Valentine Cinema Restoration	Bronx Independent Cinema Center	Restoration of the Valentine Theater on Valentine Avenue and Fordham Road.	\$5,000,000
15	NYBG Mosholu Entrance and Welcome Center	New York Botanical Gardens	The entry gate area will be expanded with a new entry pavilion featuring a bespoke architectural canopy to welcome visitors with a covered ticketing area.	\$5,000,000

Transformative Project Opportunities

	Title	Partner	Description	DRI Funding Request
16	Solar for Bronx Senior Citizens	University Neighborhood Housing Program	Support to install Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) technology and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) back-up at Rose Hill Apartments.	\$1,000,000
17	Storefront Improvement/Small Project Fund	Bronx Economic Development Corporation	Provides financial support to eligible property owners and tenants within the Fordham DRI boundary to upgrade façades, signage, lighting, and other exterior elements.	\$1,000,000
18	Belmont Community Land Trust Cooperative Housing Development	Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition	Deliver 37 new permanently affordable homeownership units across four clustered sites in the Northwest Bronx.	\$3,100,000
19	R.A.I.N. Older Adult Center Art Studio Construction Project	R.A.I.N. INC.	Funds will be used for the construction of a studio with shelving, storage, art friendly tables, lighting upgrade, wi-fi, window treatment, floor replacement, etc.	\$350,000
20	R.A.I.N. Older Adult Center -Male and Female Bathroom Upgrades	R.A.I.N. INC.	Complete renovation and accessibility upgrade of the center's male and female restroom located in the basement where the senior center is currently renting.	\$340,000
21	Towards Food Sovereignty Through Scaling Circular Food Innovation Systems in the Bronx	ReBORN & Fordham University	This project will establish a scalable, circular economy model for herb cultivation and processing across community gardens in The Bronx.	\$900,000
22	Fordham ROADS Public Community Café and Rooftop Learning Terrace	Fordham University	Capital funding to support the creation of a public community café featuring locally grown food and a public rooftop greenhouse.	\$1,800,000

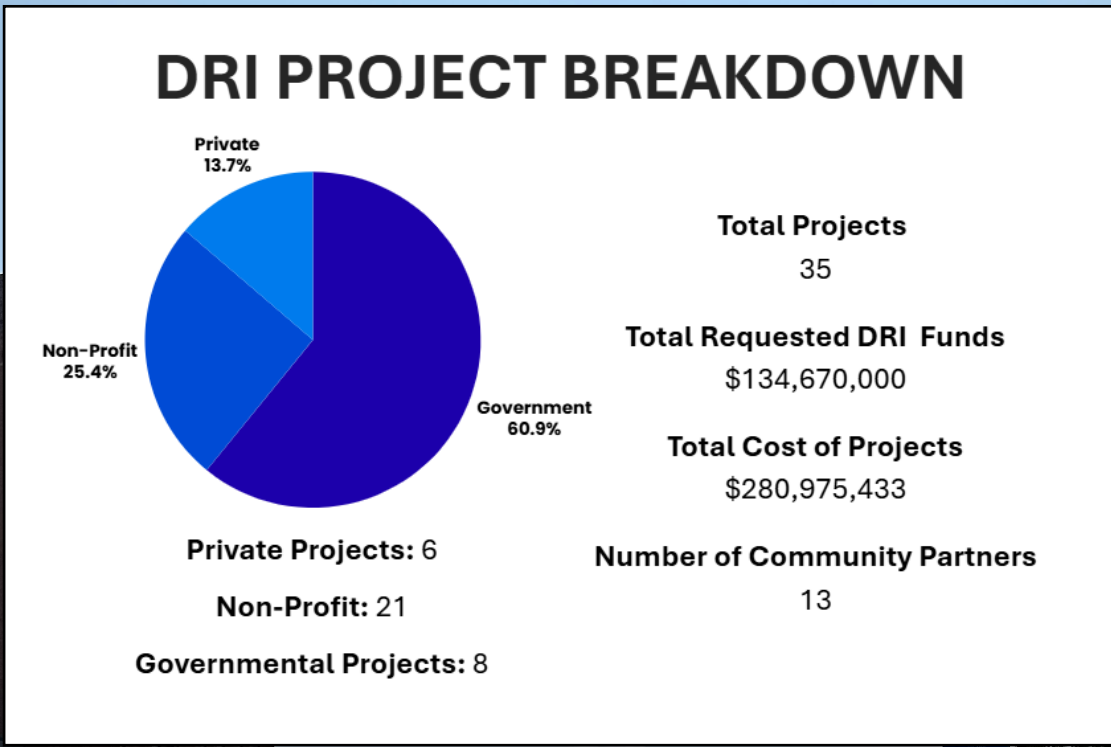
Transformative Project Opportunities

	Title	Partner	Description	DRI Funding Request
23	From The Bronx Maker Space	Mainland Media LLC, DBA From The Bronx	The From The Bronx Maker Space will be a creative design, production, and learning hub that empowers Bronx residents, students, and entrepreneurs to design, create, and produce their own ideas.	\$1,800,000
24	Fordham Plaza Art Beautification	Fordham Plaza	Work with local and Bronx based book illustrators and comic book artists to add art installations around the Plaza.	\$50,000
25	Bronx is Reading & Writing Community Third Space	The Bronx is Reading	TBIR would like to rehab/turn one of their university owned vacant spaces/properties into a third space to host literary community events.	\$250,000
26	Project Wildflower-Sunflower	The Bronx is Reading	Working with the Horticultural Society of NY to add more greenery along the Fordham Corridor.	\$100,000
27	Summer Reading Project	The Bronx is Reading	An annual summer reading activation at the Plaza over the course of 5 years where we would host large gathering of Bronxites to attend literary programming, free book giveaways and more.	\$50,000
28	Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment	8th Regiment Partners	Support plaza construction costs outside of the Kingsbridge Armory.	\$8,500,000
29	St. James Park Sports Field Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct the sports fields at St. James Park.	\$15,000,000

Transformative Project Opportunities

	Title	Partner	Description	DRI Funding Request
30	Muller Triangle Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct Muller Triangle.	\$10,000,000
31	Webster Playground Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct Webster Playground, to include new play equipment, spray showers, seating area, fitness equipment, and reconstruct the sports courts.	\$15,000,000
32	Thorpe Family Playground Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct Thorpe Family Playground.	\$15,000,000
33	Ciccarone Park Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct Ciccarone Park, to include new play equipment, spray showers, seating area, fitness equipment, and reconstruct the sports courts.	\$15,000,000
34	Bryan Park Reconstruction	NYC Parks	This project will reconstruct Bryan Park.	\$10,000,000
35	Fordham Corridor Resilience Plan	The Horticultural Society of New York	The project's key components include restoring 185 existing tree pits, planting 60 new trees and shrubs, and installing 60 large planters in high-traffic areas.	\$650,000

Transformative Project Opportunities



Administrative Capacity

The Office of The Bronx Borough President will partner with the Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC) to administer funds for this initiative. Established in 1981, BXEDC serves as the borough’s primary economic development agency, with a mission to strengthen Bronx-based businesses and expand employment opportunities for residents. It operates in coordination with the Borough President’s Office and oversees two subsidiaries, the Bronx Tourism Council and the Business Initiative Corporation, placing it at the center of economic, workforce, and community development in the borough.

Since 2023, BXEDC has represented the Borough President’s Office on the Boards of Directors of all 12 Bronx Business Improvement Districts. It has also administered the Bronx Empowerment Zone since its inception in 1994, demonstrating the capacity to manage public, private, and philanthropic resources and implement capital access programs, including the SBA Community Advantage Loan Program and Bronx Business Loans.

BXEDC regularly collaborates with funders to provide grants to small businesses and community organizations. Recent initiatives include a grant program with Santander Bank and the 2023 Green Action Challenge, which awarded \$1 million to Bronx Community College in partnership with the New York Power Authority for environmental sustainability improvements.

For the past five years, BXEDC has served as the local administrator for a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative in the Hub/Third Avenue. It led the development of the Bronx Civic Center Strategic Investment Plan, a community-driven effort co-led by the Borough President. This five-month process engaged local stakeholders and produced 15 implementation-ready projects, such as a storefront improvement program along 161st Street and capital upgrades in the 149th Street/Third Avenue Hub. These efforts are expected to generate more than 800 jobs and leverage over \$21 million in additional investment. Additionally, BXEDC is facilitating the Greater Morris Park \$20 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative awarded in 2025. BXEDC’s experience, institutional relationships, and track record position it uniquely to implement a DRI project that is responsive to community needs and aligned with borough-wide development goals.



Letters of Support





October 8, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

For these reasons, I support this application and urge that it receives full and fair consideration, applicable with all rules, laws, and regulations.

Sincerely,

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

October 14, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am writing to express my full support for the joint application submitted by Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and the Bronx Economic Development Corporation for funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) to support the Fordham Road commercial corridor in the Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for the Bronx. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors to key institutions in the area, including Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Avenue-Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

A strategic investment in infrastructure and public spaces will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and most crucial east-west transportation corridors in the city and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza. Supporting the redevelopment of Fordham Road represents a vital investment in the future of the Bronx.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that this application will receive full and fair review, consistent with applicable agency guidelines.

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

ALBANY OFFICE
306 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2041

DISTRICT OFFICE
5030 Broadway, Ste. 701
New York, NY 10034
Phone: (212) 544-0173

EMAIL: JACKSON@NYSenate.GOV
WEBSITE: JACKSON.NYSenate.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ROBERT JACKSON
SENATOR, 31ST DISTRICT

CHAIRPERSON
Civil Service and Pensions
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Education
Higher Education
Health
Housing, Construction and
Community Development
Labor
New York City Education

MEMBER
New York State Black, Puerto Rican,
Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus

October 16, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application. With those remarks, I fully support this application.

In Unity,

Robert Jackson
New York State Senator

CHAIR
Cities 1
Judicial Diversity Subcommittee
MEMBER
Codes
Crime Victims, Crime and Correction
Finance
Judiciary
NYC Education
Rules



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

SENATOR LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA
32ND DISTRICT

Albany Office:
Room 412
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2511 Office
(518) 426-6845 Fax
District Office:
975 Kelly Street, Ste. 203
Bronx, New York 10459
(718) 991-3161 Office
(718) 991-0309 Fax

August 27, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application. With those remarks, I fully support this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luis R. Sepúlveda".

Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda, Esq.
NYS Senate, 32nd District



September 3rd, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough, as well as the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application.
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GRIVERA".

Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator
33rd Senate District, The Bronx



LONDON C. DAIS
Assemblymember 77th District
Bronx County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Banks
Cities
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Energy
Housing
Small Business

10/8/25

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Harlem River Gateway District.

The Harlem River Gateway District is experiencing a long-overdue resurgence in economic activity and investment in infrastructure. The DRI investment would address these needs directly by uplifting the small businesses, creative entrepreneurs, and service providers that form the backbone of this community.

By prioritizing local business development, workforce opportunities, and accessible public infrastructure, this initiative will cultivate inclusive, sustainable growth and provide much-needed support to local businessowners and service providers ensuring they are not left behind in the face of rising investment.

The Harlem River Gateway District sits at a critical geographic and economic junction, offering natural linkages to major Bronx institutions, greenways, transit hubs, and surrounding commercial corridors. Investment in this district is an investment in the future of The Bronx—one that ensures revitalization reaches those who need it most.

I fully support this application as this funding will help advance a vision of equitable economic development that reflects the needs, culture, and potential of the Harlem River Gateway District and The Bronx as a whole. With those remarks, I fully support this application.

Sincerely,

Hon. Landon C. Dais
Member of the Assembly
77th District, Bronx County



GEORGE ALVAREZ
Assemblymember 78th District

THE ASSEMBLY STATE
OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Codes
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Labor
Real Property Taxation
Transportation

9/16/2025

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application. With those remarks, I fully support this application.

Sincerely,
George Alvarez
Member of Assembly, 78th District
New York State Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 920, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5414, FAX:
518-455-5322 DISTRICT OFFICE: 2633 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York 10458 • 718-933-2204, FAX:
718-933-2535
EMAIL: AlvarezG@nyassembly.gov



YUDELKA TAPIA
Assemblymember 86th District
Bronx County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Banks
Labor
Housing
Corporations,
Authorities and Commissions
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
MEMBER
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic
and Asian Legislative Caucus
Legislative Women's Caucus
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

September 3rd, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia

DISTRICT OFFICE
2065 MORRIS AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10453
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FAX: (347) 599-2878

CITY HALL OFFICE
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psanchez@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT, BRONX

CHAIR
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
FINANCE
LAND USE
PUBLIC HOUSING
RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS

September 22, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am pleased to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application.

Sincerely,
Pierina Ana Sanchez
New York City Council Member – District 14

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Pierina Ana Sanchez".

DISTRICT OFFICE
573 East Fordham Road
(Entrance on Hoffman Street)
Bronx, NY 10458
(718) 842-8100
FAX: (347) 397-8370

CITY HALL OFFICE
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FAX: (212) 788-8977

OFeliz@council.nyc.gov
www.council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OSWALD FELIZ

COUNCIL MEMBER, 15TH DISTRICT, BRONX

CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

SUB-COMMITTEE
LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS, AND
DISPOSITIONS

September 4th, 2025
Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

I am proud to express my support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation's joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx's most essential corridors by improving connectivity and encouraging economic growth. By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest east-west transportation corridors in the borough.

With the support of the Regional Economic Development Council, the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and nearby regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

I am proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oswald Feliz".

Oswald Feliz
New York City Council Member, District 15



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 – Email: BX06@cb.nyc.gov – Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

September 25, 2025

Mr. William D. Rahm, Co-Chair
Mr. Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
New York City Regional Economic Development Council
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

Bronx Community Board 6 is in support for Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation’s joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx. Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx’s most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough and the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza and one of the busiest commercial corridors in the Bronx.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

We are proud to support this initiative and urge full consideration of the Greater Fordham Road Corridor application.

Sincerely,

Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

October 7, 2025

William D. Rahm, Co-Chair and Felix V. Matos, Co-Chair
 New York City Regional Economic Development Council
 633 Third Avenue
 New York, NY 10017

RE: Letter of Support for Greater Fordham Road Corridor DRI Application

Dear Co-Chairs Rahm and Matos,

Bronx Community Board 7 writes in support of Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and The Bronx Economic Development Corporation’s joint application for Regional Economic Development Council funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for the Fordham Road commercial corridor in The Bronx.

Fordham Road has long served as a vital economic engine for The Bronx, linking residents, small businesses, institutions, and visitors from across the city. DRI funding presents an opportunity to support one of the Bronx’s most essential corridors by improving connectivity and economic growth between the bustle of Fordham Road and the visitors that these key institutions attract.

By investing in capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and placemaking efforts that reflect the local culture, this investment will create a more walkable and welcoming environment along one of the busiest and crucial east-west transportation corridors in the borough, as well as the regional transportation hub at Fordham Plaza.

Investment from the Regional Economic Development Council through the DRI initiative will also provide capital support to establish stronger connections between existing businesses on Fordham Road and neighboring key regional stakeholders such as Fordham University, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Arthur Ave/Little Italy, and the future Kingsbridge Armory.

If you have any questions, please email me at kcabreracarrera@cb.nyc.gov and/or call me at (929) 496-0748.

Sincerely,

Karla Cabrera Carrera
 District Manager
 Bronx Community Board 7

Leury Acosta
 Chair
 Bronx Community Board 7



Appendix



Detailed Project List

Project Title: Lighting Improvements

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: The addition of street lights, pedestrian lights on existing light poles, up-lighting on tree guards, in ground solar lighting at curbs, and decorative lighted signage throughout the BID district commercial corridor to improve public safety, increase economic development, and promote community revitalization and accessibility.

DRI Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,500,000

1

Project Title: Holiday Lighting

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Funds to facilitate Easter, Independence Day, and Autumn/Fall Harvest holiday lighting throughout the BID district commercial corridor to boost retail activity, foster a sense of community, establish the district as a destination, enhance branding, encourage evening activity, and enhance seasonal events and media coverage.

DRI Funds Requested: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

2

Project Title: D'Auria Murphy Triangle Lighting Improvements

Project Location: Adams Pl. &, E 183rd St

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Installation of additional lighting in D'Auria Murphy Triangle, including lighting of Columbus statue to deter crime and vandalism, assist in creating an inviting atmosphere and highlight the statue that was carved by world renowned sculptor Attilio Piccirilli.

DRI Funds Requested: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

3

Project Title: Pernicone Plaza Beautification

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Install solar lighting and a decorative sculpture, facilitates repairs to existing flagpoles to enhance the pedestrian experience and improve the sense of place, attract more visitors, and create a photo opportunity.

DRI Funds Requested: \$250,000

Total Project Cost: \$250,000

4



A1

Detailed Project List

Project Title: Mural & Medallion Installation

Project Location: Belmont BID

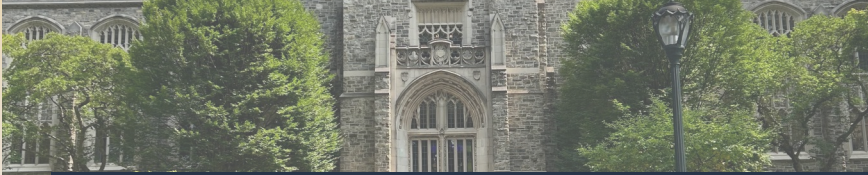
Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Facilitate the installation of various murals and a pigmented concrete medallion with brass lettering “Little Italy of the Bronx The Good Taste of Tradition” to serve as focal points and symbolic gateways to the district. Aims to draw foot traffic, increase marketing potential, and help define the district’s character.

DRI Funds Requested: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$300,00

5



Project Title: Storefront Enhancements

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Upgrades and enhancements to commercial corridor business storefronts and facades.

DRI Funds Requested: \$250,000

Total Project Cost: \$250,000

6



Project Title: Decorative Crosswalks

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Enhancements to cobblestone crosswalks and the creation of decorative thermoplastic custom crosswalks at select intersections throughout the BID district to help define the district’s character, create a sense of place, attract more visitors, and beautify the district.

DRI Funds Requested: \$800,000

Total Project Cost: \$800,000

7



Project Title: Security Cameras

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Purchase and installation of security cameras at NYPD recommended locations throughout the BID district to deter criminal activity, improve public safety, support law enforcement, and promote equity and fairness.

DRI Funds Requested: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$300,000

8



Detailed Project List

Project Title: Beautification Signage

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Creation and installation of two permanent “Welcome to Bronx Little Italy” signs at select intersections to beautify the district, increase foot traffic, business attraction and retention, establish a sense of place, promote local pride, and boost marketing efforts.

DRI Funds Requested: \$600,000

Total Project Cost: \$600,000

9

Project Title: Fence Improvements

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Repairing and upgrading the fence on the East Fordham Rd median to address pedestrian safety and beautify this major thoroughfare.

DRI Funds Requested: \$80,000

Total Project Cost: \$80,000

10

Project Title: Municipal Parking Lot Developments

Project Location: Belmont BID

Project Sponsor: Belmont BID

Description: Develop the Belmont Municipal Parking Field in order to increase vehicular parking capacity. The lack of parking in the Belmont commercial district prohibits our growth and limits our economic development and business activity. A parking lot would increase accessibility and convenience for our visitors, stimulate economic growth, attract new business, enhance traffic flow, and support events and community engagement.

DRI Funds Requested: \$10,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000

11

Project Title: Fordham Road Corridor Public Space Activation

Project Location: Fordham Plaza, Rose Hill Park, Bryan Park, Sgt Johnson Triangle.

Project Sponsor: Fordham University Division of External Affairs

Description: Funds will support enhancements including physical Improvements (lighting, benches, greening, shade) made at 4 key public sites near Fordham University, installation of branded signage and wayfinding elements, launch of centralized digital platform and public calendar of events.

DRI Funds Requested: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

12

Detailed Project List

Project Title: NWBCCC Manufacturing Hub at Kingsbridge Armory

Project Location: Kingsbridge Armory

Project Sponsor: Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

Description: The NWBCCC Manufacturing Hub at the Kingsbridge Armory will transform 100,000 square feet of underutilized space into affordable, light-industrial facilities supporting Bronx-based manufacturers, food producers, and craftspeople. Through long-term community ownership, the project will keep rents at least 20% below market, stabilize local businesses, and create over 100 family-sustaining jobs with workforce development opportunities.

DRI Funds Requested: \$10,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$40,990,973

13

Project Title: Valentine Cinema Restoration

Project Location: 2510 Valentine Avenue, Bronx NY

Project Sponsor: Bronx Independent Cinema Center

Description: Restoration of the former Valentine Theater on Valentine Avenue and Fordham Road. This project aims to establish a vibrant "third space" dedicated to fostering aspiring filmmakers and empowering local residents interested in careers within the film and television industries through below the line workforce development programs. Essentially, a movie theater, a film school and community center all in one.

DRI Funds Requested: \$5,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$16,000,000

14

Project Title: NYBG Mosholu Entrance and Welcome Center:

Project Location: 2950 Southern Blvd , Bronx NY

Project Sponsor: New York Botanical Gardens

Description: The existing Mosholu Entrance will receive a comprehensive makeover. The entry gate area will be expanded with a new entry pavilion featuring a bespoke architectural canopy to welcome visitors with a covered ticketing area. The project will introduce a separate vehicular gate entry at the intersection of Southern Boulevard and Mosholu Parkway to distinctly separate pedestrian and vehicular access, and improve pedestrian safety at the NYBG Mosholu Entrance. The project will also enhance the pedestrian crossing from Metro-North Station to the Mosholu Entrance by raising the prominence of the entry gateway to visitors and calming traffic along Southern Boulevard.

DRI Funds Requested: \$5,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$50,000,000

15

Project Title: Solar for Bronx Senior Citizens

Project Location: Rose Hill Apartments – 2855 Southern Boulevard Bronx, NY

Project Sponsor: University Neighborhood Housing Program

Description: University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) is seeking support to install Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) technology and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) back-up at Rose Hill Apartments, a low-income senior citizen affordable housing project in the Bronx as part of a renovation and financial repositioning of the building. The proposed Solar Arrays and Bess will provide benefits to the tenants, the overall project, the community and the environment. Tenants will benefit from the improvements to their apartments, including new windows and refrigerators, as well as improvements to the common areas and community room.

DRI Funds Requested: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,498,000

16

Detailed Project List

Project Title: Storefront Improvement/Small Project Fund

Project Location: Fordham DRI Area

Project Sponsor: Bronx Economic Development Corporation

Description: As part of the Fordham area's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), the Storefront Improvement Fund aims to enhance the visual appeal and economic vitality of local businesses. This grant program provides financial support to eligible property owners and tenants within the Fordham DRI boundary to upgrade façades, signage, lighting, and other exterior elements. By investing in storefront improvements, the fund seeks to foster a more inviting, vibrant, and cohesive streetscape that attracts shoppers, strengthens community identity, and supports small business growth.

DRI Funds Requested: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,212,500

17

Project Title: Belmont Community Land Trust Cooperative Housing Development

Project Location: 710 E 180th Street, 2045 Belmont Avenue, 2124 Washington Avenue, 4382 Third Avenue

Project Sponsor: Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)

Description: The Belmont Community Land Trust Cooperative Housing Development will deliver 37 new permanently affordable homeownership units across four clustered sites in the Northwest Bronx. Developed by the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) in partnership with Lemle & Wolff and the Bronx Community Land Trust (Bronx CLT), this project represents a first-in-the-Bronx model of community-owned cooperative housing designed to preserve affordability, build resident equity, and strengthen local ownership of land and housing assets.

DRI Funds Requested: \$3,100,000

Total Project Cost: \$37,328,960

18

Project Title: RAIN Older Adult Center Art Studio Construction Project

Project Location: Mt. Carmel Senior Center, 2405 Southern Boulevard, Bronx NY 10458

Project Sponsor: R.A.I.N. INC.

Description: The Mt. Carmel Creative Haven Arts and Crafts Studio aims to enhance the quality of life for seniors in the Greater Fordham Road Corridor by providing a dedicated space for creative expression, social interaction, and skill development. Funds will be used for the construction of a studio with shelving, storage, art friendly tables, lighting upgrade, wi-fi, window treatment, floor replacement, interior painting, consultation of an interior designer/architectural planning, studio workspace furniture, etc.. Revise space for handicap accessibility. Purchase materials and equipment for digital arts and printmaking. New energy efficiency appliances for art equipment.

DRI Funds Requested: \$350,000

Total Project Cost: \$350,000

19

Project Title: RAIN Older Adult Center -Male and Female Bathroom Upgrades

Project Location: Tolentine Senior Center (Church of Tolentine), 2345 University Avenue, Bronx NY 10468

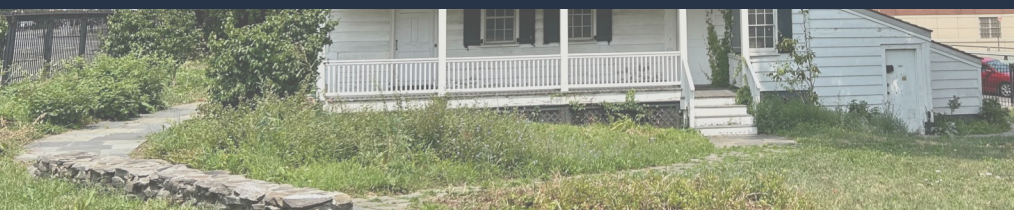
Project Sponsor: R.A.I.N. INC.

Description: The Tolentine Senior Center proposes the complete renovation and accessibility upgrade of the center's male and female restroom located in the basement where the senior center is currently renting. The renovation aims to provide modern, safe, clean, and ADA-compliant restroom facilities to support and safety to center members and other church related programs in this shared space. This initiative directly supports the DRI goals of increasing quality of life to amenities to local community.

DRI Funds Requested: \$340,000

Total Project Cost: \$340,000

20



Detailed Project List

Project Title: Towards Food Sovereignty Through Scaling Circular Food Innovation Systems in the Bronx

Project Location: Fordham Road BID Area

Project Sponsor: ReBORN & Fordham University

Description: This project will establish a scalable, circular economy model for herb cultivation and processing across community gardens in The Bronx, beginning with five pilot sites and expanding to forty in partnership with Bronx Green-Up. Centered on culturally relevant herbs with culinary and medicinal significance, the initiative addresses urgent environmental justice issues such as food insecurity, economic disenfranchisement, and lack of green infrastructure in one of the most environmentally and economically burdened communities in the U.S.

DRI Funds Requested: \$900,000

Total Project Cost: \$950,000

21

Project Title: Fordham ROADS Public Community Café and Rooftop Learning Terrace at the Bronx Green Jobs Center

Project Location: 585 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458

Project Sponsor: Fordham University

Description: Fordham University is requesting capital funding to support the creation of a public community café featuring locally grown food and a public rooftop greenhouse and learning terrace as part of the new Bronx Green Jobs Center, opening in September 2026. The café will activate the Fordham Road corridor with a welcoming space for residents, students, and visitors. Funding will also support streetscape improvements, café build-out and equipment, rooftop public space enhancements, and accessibility features connecting the ground floor and upper levels.

DRI Funds Requested: \$1,800,000

Total Project Cost: \$17,500,000

22

Project Title: From The Bronx Maker Space

Project Location: Fordham Road DRI Area

Project Sponsor: Mainland Media LLC, DBA From The Bronx

Description: The From The Bronx Maker Space will be a creative design, production, and learning hub that empowers Bronx residents, students, and entrepreneurs to design, create, and produce their own ideas. The 6,000 sq. ft. facility will include: design & production labs, computer workstations, dedicated sound booth and video editing, a retail storefront, and an event and presentation space.

DRI Funds Requested: \$2,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000

23

Project Title: Fordham Plaza Art Beautification

Project Location: Fordham Plaza

Project Sponsor: The Bronx is Reading

Description: Work with local and Bronx based book illustrators and comic book artists to add art installations around the Plaza perimeter inspired by their books. This installation will help encourage reading among Bronxites as well as beautify the Plaza.

DRI Funds Requested: \$50,000

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

24

Detailed Project List

Project Title: Bronx is Reading & Writing Community Third Space

Project Location: Fordham Road DRI Area

Project Sponsor: The Bronx is Reading

Description: Currently there is only one bookstore in the Bronx and no physical writing centers in our borough. Working with Fordham University, TBIR would like to rehab/turn one of their university owned vacant spaces / properties into a third space to host literary community events, ranging from author talks, live podcast recordings, to bringing in traditionally published authors to provide dynamic and engaging craft and illustration workshops to the community.

DRI Funds Requested: \$250,000

Total Project Cost: \$250,000

25

Project Title: Project Wildflower-Sunflower

Project Location: Fordham Road DRI Area

Project Sponsor: The Bronx is Reading

Description: Working with the Horticultural Society of NY to add more greenery along the Fordham Corridor. Specifically thinking to add more planters along Fordham Road. Planting more trees in the area as well as sunflowers and wildflowers to help absorb car exhaust, and many other pollutants. This will not only help with climate change, it would also help to reduce the number of asthma attacks Bronxites experience.

DRI Funds Requested: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

26

Project Title: Summer Reading Project

Project Location: Fordham Plaza

Project Sponsor: The Bronx is Reading

Description: Working with other stakeholders, DOT, Fordham University, Fordham Bid, NYPL, we'd like to propose an annual summer reading activation at the Plaza over the course of 5 years where we would host large gathering of Bronxites to attend literary programming, free book giveaways and more.

DRI Funds Requested: \$50,000

Total Project Cost: \$75,000

27

Project Title: Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment

Project Location: 1 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx NY 10468

Project Sponsor: 8th Regiment Partners LLC

Description: Funding will support a portion of the plaza construction costs, which includes expanded sidewalks, lighting, utilities, new paved and landscaped areas, accessible entrances, water fountains, bike racks, and shaded seating. New canopy trees and bioretention gardens will manage stormwater on the site, adding green space while meeting the project's ambitious environmental goals. These investments will create a flexible and inclusive space that facilitates public programming for and by Bronx residents, including outdoor markets, play areas, cultural events, informal gatherings, and family activities. The DRI funding will support the Kingsbridge community's economic growth while amplifying social connection and neighborhood vitality for generations.

DRI Funds Requested: \$8,500,000

Total Project Cost: \$17,000,000

28

Detailed Project List

Project Title: St James Park Sports Field Reconstruction
Project Location: Jerome Ave. East 193rd Street and Creston Avenue E.
Project Sponsor: NYC Parks
Description: This project will reconstruct the sports fields at St. James Park.
DRI Funds Requested: \$15,000,000
Total Project Cost: \$15,000,000

29

Project Title: Muller Triangle Reconstruction
Project Location: East Fordham Road and Creston Avenue, East 190th Street
Project Sponsor: NYC Parks
Description: This project will reconstruct Muller Triangle.
DRI Funds Requested: \$10,000,000
Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000

30

Project Title: Webster Playground Reconstruction
Project Location: E. 188th Street, between Webster Avenue & Park Avenue
Project Sponsor: NYC Parks
Description: This project will reconstruct Webster Playground, to include new play equipment, spray showers, seating area, fitness equipment, and reconstruct the sports courts.
DRI Funds Requested: \$15,000,000
Total Project Cost: \$15,000,000

31

Project Title: Thorpe Family Playground Reconstruction
Project Location: E. 183rd Street, between Park Avenue & Webster Avenue
Project Sponsor: NYC Parks
Description: This project will reconstruct Thorpe Family Playground.
DRI Funds Requested: \$15,000,000
Total Project Cost: \$15,000,000

32



Detailed Project List

Project Title: Ciccarone Park Reconstruction

Project Location: E. 188th Street, between Arthur Avenue & Hughes Avenue

Project Sponsor: NYC Parks

Description: This project will reconstruct Ciccarone Park, to include new play equipment, spray showers, seating area, fitness equipment, and reconstruct the sports courts.

DRI Funds Requested: \$15,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$15,000,000

33



Project Title: Bryan Park Reconstruction

Project Location: East Kingsbridge Road at East Fordham Road

Project Sponsor: NYC Parks

Description: This project will reconstruct Bryan Park.

DRI Funds Requested: \$10,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000

34



Project Title: Fordham Corridor Resilience Plan

Project Location: Fordham Road Corridor

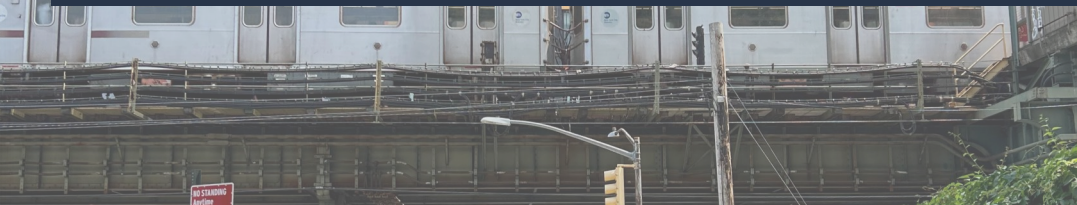
Project Sponsor: The Horticultural Society of New York

Description: The project aims to reduce urban heat, improve air quality, manage stormwater, and enhance the pedestrian experience through added shade, greenery, and visual cohesion—all while strengthening local economic vitality and fostering community engagement. The project's key components include restoring 185 existing tree pits, planting 60 new trees and shrubs, and installing 60 large planters in high-traffic areas. This project will incorporate stormwater management and sustainable elements to ensure long-term success.

DRI Funds Requested: \$650,000

Total Project Cost: \$650,000

35



A9

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