Good Evening Everyone, my name is Sharon Zea Rincon and I am the Climate Justice Organizer at UPROSE. I am here tonight to comment on the Department of Transportation’s 7th and 8th Avenue one-way conversion proposal. DOT’s proposal lacks meaningful community input and threatens to exacerbate transportation equity issues in Sunset Park’s Chinatown community.

Sunset Park’s Chinatown, like many Asian communities, was one of the hardest hit communities from the COVID-19 pandemic- with rising incidents of racism, xenophobia, and violence months before the City shut down. This makes it especially important to ensure community-led processes to move public resources and funding to support households and small businesses. DOT has failed to show what the community feedback & input has been from their outreach efforts and how it's incorporated into their proposal.

DOT’s proposal will result in eliminating 183 parking spots, and will significantly impact access to transportation on 7th and 8th Avenue. DOT is only approaching this from a data standpoint, and their proposal is not based on the lived experiences and everyday transportation concerns and priorities of the community.

UPROSE has been at multiple community meetings where DOT has presented their proposal, and there was always overwhelming opposition and concern expressed by community and business participants. We have not seen how these concerns have been documented or addressed. We cannot allow DOT to haphazardly implement a proposal void of community input and support, and that may further harm community members and small businesses that have had to fight for their livelihoods and wellbeing.