

Belmonte wants EDSA intersections reopened

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has appealed to national government agencies to open two intersections that they closed along EDSA to lessen traffic along the major highway. Belmonte sent a letter to the Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board requesting the reopening of the interchanges at EDSA-Muñoz and EDSA-West Avenue-North Avenue.

“We made the request in response to the numerous complaints we received from motorists,” she said in a statement yesterday.

“While we fully support the national government’s transportation initiatives, particularly the EDSA Bus Carousel project, we have to do a balancing act so that we won’t compromise the welfare of those using EDSA,” she added.

Belmonte also suggested reopening some of the U-turn slots closed by the national government to give way to the EDSA Bus Carousel project.

Monitoring also showed that the reduction of lanes in Balintawak Cloverleaf to give way to the exclusive EDSA Bus Carousel lane resulted in bottleneck and heavy traffic.

“We expect traffic to improve in those areas once our request is granted, especially with the Christmas rush and the easing of our general community quarantine guidelines,” Belmonte said.

“The city government is ready to work with authorities to find ways in improving the flow of traffic in intersections, U-turn slots and bus loading bays within the city,” she added. Belmonte said they have also deployed additional traffic enforcers in affected areas and coordinated with MMDA to open access roads to ease congestion.

She said that local government agencies are exploring other solutions to address bottlenecks in major thoroughfares in the city, especially during the Yuletide season.

MMDA general manager Jojo Garcia said the agency’s traffic engineers will look into the feasibility of reopening the EDSA-Muñoz and EDSA-West Avenue-North Avenue interchanges, as well as U-turn slots along EDSA, to ease the traffic brought about by the U-turn slot closures.

He said the MMDA is closely coordinating with Belmonte about her proposal.