

'Reopen EDSA intersections'

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MAYOR Josefina Belmonte on Tuesday sought the reopening of two EDSA intersections — the EDSA-Munoz and EDSA-West Avenue North Avenue — to ease the worsening traffic jams in these areas.

She voiced her appeal in a letter Metropolitan Manila sent to the Department of Transportation, Development Authority (MMDA) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

“We made the request in response to the numerous complaints we received from motorists. 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,” Belmonte explained.

The city government also recommended the reopening of some Uturn slots closed by the government to give way to the carousel project.

After monitoring the Balintawak area, the city government determined that the bottleneck caused by the reduction of lanes from three to two at the EDSA Balintawak Cloverleaf to give way to the exclusive EDSA Bus Carousel lane had resulted in heavy traffic that at times stretches to EDSA corner North Avenue.

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

The **Quezon City government** deployed additional traffic enforcers in bottleneck areas and coordinated with MMDA to open closed access roads to allow vehicles coming from Quirino Highway to exit at North Luzon Expressway/Camachile and divert vehicles exiting along EDSA towards Monumento.

The measures reduced the congestion along the EDSA-Caloocan area and it would also address the long queues of northbound vehicles along EDSA-Balintawak, Belmonte said.