

Belmonte: Reopening of EDSA U-turn slots win-win solution

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte welcomed yesterday the decision of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to reopen two U-turn slots along EDSA to ease traffic congestion during the Christmas season.

During a House committee hearing on Tuesday, MMDA general manager Jojo Garcia said the U-turn slots in front of the Quezon City Academy and near Dario Bridge in Balintawak would be reopened.

Belmonte had requested for the reopening of the U-turn slots as well as two intersections amid complaints from motorists about monstrous traffic jams caused by its closure to pave the way for the EDSA busway.

“This is a win-win solution for motorists who have been experiencing traffic gridlocks due to the closure of U-turn slots on EDSA and other roads due to the spillover of vehicles,” Belmonte said.

“Patients and visitors at the Quezon City General Hospital will benefit the most. We thank the MMDA for the favorable response,” she added.

The city’s task force on transport and traffic management said it would manage the stop-and-go scheme for the U-turn slots.

The U-turn slot in front of the Quezon City Academy will be open for light vehicles. The one near Dario Bridge will be for emergencies and government vehicles only, according to the MMDA.

The city government said it would monitor the flow of traffic in the areas to determine if it could request for the reopening of other closed U-turn slots.

Belmonte reiterated her support for the national government’s efforts to find solutions to the traffic problems in Metro Manila, such as the elevated busway plan.

“The city government and the MMDA will continue to explore short and longterm solutions to the perennial bottlenecks along EDSA,” she said. “We are willing to help for as long as it will bring comfort to our constituents and ensure that their mobility is not hampered.” –