The City of New York

Community Board 12 - Manhattan
Washington Heights & Inwood

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George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

March 30, 2015

Hon. Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

At our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, the Community Board 12 Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (27)Favor (0)Opposed (0)Abstain (1)supporting the overall proposal and installation of bicycle access to the High Bridge and additional pedestrian safety measures both on Edgecombe Ave. and W158 and W159th Streets and (2) urging DOT to consider significantly shortening the proposed protected bike lanes on Edgecombe Ave. between 165th and 167th Streets so as to minimize the loss of parking to local residents or ideally replace all removed spaces resulting in no net loss to the community.

Whereas: The Highbridge connects Manhattan and the Bronx and has been closed since 1970; and

Whereas: The city has invested $62M to restore the Highbridge and it is finally scheduled to reopen this summer; and

Whereas: Due to the anticipated reopening and influx of visitors to and from Manhattan – both on foot and especially on bike, DOT has proposed greater access to the bridge in the area south of 170th St. and to the nearby Greenway connections on both the West Side (at W158th St. and the GWB) and the East Side (at W155th St.); and

Whereas: Edgecombe Ave. has been designated as a new bike route for this project from W155th through W170th St. with the bulk of the street reducing the current 21' combined travel and parking lanes to 13' **shared** travel lanes in each direction for vehicles and bicycles (W155th-W165th) and a few blocks most adjacent to access the path in the park to the bridge (W170th-Jumel Pl & W167th-W165th) designated with **two-way protected** bike lanes; and

Whereas: The plan also includes access to the GWB by creating **two-way protected** bike lanes across W170th – inclusive of cutting through Duarte Square and Greenway connections by creating **shared** lanes on stretches of W158th and W159th St.; and

Whereas: DOT will also enhance pedestrian safety by shortening crossings with markings and curb extensions at W158th St. & Broadway and W159th St. & Broadway as well as at W158th St., Riverside Dr. & Edward Morgan Place; and

Whereas: DOT approximates a total loss of twelve parking spots, fourteen of which are on Edgecombe between 165th and 167th Street; and

Whereas: Street parking in Manhattan is a commodity and not easy to come by, especially in an area which has a public school, a historical landmark, and a police precinct; now therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12M supports the overall proposal and installation of bicycle access to the High Bridge and additional pedestrian safety measures both on Edgecombe Ave. and W158 and W159th Streets; and be it further

Resolved: That CB12M urges DOT to consider significantly shortening the proposed protected bike lanes on Edgecombe Ave. between 165th and 167th Streets so as to minimize the loss of parking to local residents or ideally replace all removed spaces resulting in no net loss to the community.

We thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

for Geoerge Fernandez, Jr.
Chairman - CB12 M

c: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Margaret Forgione, Man Boro Commissioner-DOT
Josh Orzeck - DOT Liaison
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member