



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan

Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

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

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

RE: Resolution in Opposition NYC DOT Proposal for Lane Changes in the Amsterdam Avenue Corridor

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, May 23, 2017 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention not supporting the current proposed changes on the Amsterdam Avenue corridor between West 155th and West 162nd Streets.

Whereas: the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) is in the process of introducing traffic calming measures to many streets as part of its Vision Zero pedestrian safety efforts; and

Whereas: on March, 2017 the NYC DOT gave a presentation and proposal to the Traffic and Transportation Committee as part of a street improvement project to improve safely along Amsterdam Avenue between West 155th to 162nd Streets and address a gap in the cycling network; and

Whereas: this project is not only an extension of one approved by the transportation committee of Community Board 9 from West 110th Street to West 155th Street, but one that proposes to provide more left turn lanes, organize traffic and improve bicycle safety; and

Whereas: the specifics of the proposed project would involve removal of one travel lane in each direction, the installation of left turn bays and bike lanes in both directions (where there are now none) with parking maintained on both curbs; and

Whereas: the specifics of the traffic flow analysis failed to show any significant improvement in the seven block corridor from West 155th Street to West 162nd compared to the forty-five corridor from West 110th Street to West 155th Street; and

Whereas: there would be more congestion in this small corridor given the presence of three buses (M100, M101, and the M3) with multiple stops in each direction and a final stop for limited buses at West 161st Street; and

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Whereas: the proposal failed to take into account the danger to public safety with the added congestion due to a heavily used fire house located at west 161st Street between Amsterdam and Broadway and emergency ambulance routes to three NYCHA Senior Citizen Houses between West 155 and West 158th Street; and

Whereas: the proposal failed to take into account the increase congestion on loading areas for businesses, faith base institutions, two schools, and a questionable left lane turn at a closed off PAL Play Street at the west end of West 159th Street; and

Whereas: Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) a major Community Based Organization is opposed to this proposal for its failures to adequately survey this community district; and

Whereas: there have been no survey(s) conducted with businesses and or local residence on this project; therefore be it

Resolved Community Board 12, Manhattan does not support the current proposed changes on the Amsterdam Avenue corridor between West 155th and West 162nd Streets.

Sincerely



Sharabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

cc:	Luis Sanchez, Manhattan Borough Commissioner	Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator
	Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor	Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
	Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate	Hon. Carmen De La Rosa
	Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President	Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
	Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller	Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
	Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman	