



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

July 27, 2015

Polly Trottenberg
Transportation Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

We first want to thank you for your extraordinary commitment to Vision Zero. It is very important to our district. Impressive progress is being made under your leadership.

In the midst of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) asks for your agency's increased attention to the plight of seniors and people with disabilities in our district. The horrendous state of the pedestrian ramps here makes it extremely difficult to move around our neighborhood.

It rains an average of 120 days a year in New York City. For a third of the year the accumulation of water at the bottom of ramps makes it dangerous – if not impossible – for seniors to cross the street. Potholes at the bottom of pedestrian ramps trap wheelchair users. No wonder 13.7% of our district's sidewalk complaints concern damaged pedestrian ramps, four times more than the city's average.

Only a structural solution can improve the situation. We urge you to implement the "Raised Pedestrian Crossing", which eliminates ramps by installing speed tables. The tables raise pedestrian crossings to sidewalk level and connect to the sidewalks via a small bridge. The bridge is made of movable segments for easy maintenance of the gutters. The bridge also acts as a detectible warning stop for vision-impaired persons. You can see an illustration here <https://youtu.be/0Iyu65cMZKA>. This solution eliminates major obstacles: the need to relocate catch basins and the costs associated with it.

The voters chose the Raised Pedestrian Crossing project¹ as one of the winners in the Participatory Budget process of Manhattan District 3. We are very grateful that Council Member Johnson gave \$250,000 in capital funds to DOT to prototype this solution at a few intersections, including West 45th Street and Ninth Avenue, which is near a NORC and also where two pedestrians have been killed in recent years, and where 24 persons were injured in the last three years (an increase of 300% over the previous periods).

We ask you to expedite the installation of this prototype at this location. We would appreciate working closely with your team to finalize the design and look forward to finding out when it will be implemented.

Our best regards,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

Council Member Corey Johnson
Victor Calise, Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

¹ Sponsored by the Chelsea-Clinton-Hell's Kitchen coalition for Pedestrian Safety (CHEKPEDS)