



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

February 8, 2016

Ms. Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, New York 10038

Re: Safety Concerns at the Intersections around 23rd Street and 11th Avenue

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4(CB4) requests that the Department of Transportation (DOT) study the intersections of Eleventh Avenue and West 23rd Street, West 24th Street, and West 22nd Street for pedestrian safety and traffic flow improvements. The very unusual traffic pattern at this series of intersections, current signal timing, and the intersection of two two-way streets does not allow for safe pedestrian crossing or optimal traffic flow. At West 24th Street, 11th Avenue changes from one-way southbound to two-way; as a result, pedestrians who cross West 24th Street with the walk signal, are in conflict with northbound drivers on 11th Avenue, who all must turn west at 24th Street, and the southbound drivers headed towards 23rd street and the West Side Highway. In addition the pedestrians who cross 11th Avenue at 23rd Street are in conflict with the West 23rd Street traffic, which is turning both north and south, and traffic from Eleventh Avenue turns east onto 23rd Street. At both intersections the pedestrians do not have any exclusive time to cross without major conflicts with cars. It is worth noting that 11th Avenue joins with the West Side highway a block away and all cars are travelling at fairly high speed and the presence of the Hudson River Park which includes a playground, dog park and sporting fields in this area makes this issue more urgent. New York Police Department (NYPD) crash data* for the two year period from 2011 to 2014 reports:

- 143 people were involved in a crash at the intersection of 11th Avenue and West 23rd Street
- 68 people were involved in a crash at the intersection of 11th Avenue and West 24th Street
- 48 people were involved in a crash at the intersection of 11th Avenue and West 22rd Street

***NYC Crashmapper**

<http://nyc.crashmapper.com/11/8/14/2/standard/collisions/2/10/40.704/-73.874>

A total of 259 people (pedestrians, people in vehicles, cyclists) were involved in some type of crash at these intersections and as traffic to the Hudson River Park and residential development in the area increases, so these numbers may rise unless safety measures are installed.

In a letter dated October 10, 2012 (attached) CB4 requested the assistance of the DOT in correcting the problems at the 23rd Street and 11th Avenue intersection. As of today no improvements have been made. We believe it is urgent that the DOT study this intersection and we recommend the following improvement be made as soon as possible:

- CB4 requests that DOT work with NYPD to place a traffic agent at the intersection of 23rd Street and 11th Avenue immediately, while the DOT is studying the intersections and safety improvements are being implemented
- The turning east signal on northbound Eleventh Avenue and the West 23rd Street signal should be green at the same time. In addition the green arrow to turn east on the southbound 11th Avenue, should be changed to a Split Phase Signal, removing the conflict between cars and pedestrians.
- A Split Phase Turn Signal should also be installed to protect the south crossing of 11th Avenue from cars turning southbound from West 23rd Street.
- Considering the complexity of this intersection, the installation of a Barnes dance** may be warranted.

It's time to fix these intersections and CB4 urges the DOT to take action quickly.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

cc Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
Councilmember Corey Johnson
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
Senator Brad Hoylman
Madelyn Wils, Hudson River Park Trust President
Michael Pilecki, NYPD Traffic Deputy Inspector
Michele Irizarry, NYPD 10th Precinct

A **Barnes Dance is a pedestrian crossing system that stops all vehicular traffic and allows traffic and pedestrians to cross an intersection in every direction, including diagonally, at the same time.