



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

January 11, 2010

Ms. Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10038

**Re: Study of Surface Transportation Plan for Midtown Manhattan**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) agrees with CB5 that a comprehensive Surface Transportation Plan for the portion of the Manhattan Central Business District (CBD) between 60th Street and 14th Street, river to river, as proposed in its letter to you dated November 13, 2009 (attached) is needed

A wholesale look at mode prioritization and preferred routes for various types of users would inform a more rational street space allocation. CB4 will gladly participate in this effort.

However, CB4 requests that the proposed CBD study not delay the implementation of the recommendations of the Clinton – Hell's Kitchen Transportation study (lead by the DOT in collaboration with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey). The vast majority of these recommendations is due within six months and deal with traffic calming and pedestrian safety at the Lincoln Tunnel approaches. We do recommend that all data collected be shared, thus alleviating the need for duplication of data collection.

We agree that the streets in this area are frequently overwhelmed with single occupancy motor vehicles and that pedestrians, deliveries, emergency vehicles and surface transit in particular are negatively impacted, resulting in a substantial waste of time for everyone.

A comprehensive plan for optimizing transportation, parking and pedestrian thoroughfares in the CBD is urgently needed. The plan should include specific recommendations for properly balancing the share of street space allocated to pedestrians, cyclists, trucks, surface transit and other vehicles over this entire area.

Sincerely,



John Weis  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: CB5 (Vikki Barbero, Thomas Miller)  
CB6  
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer  
Hon. Thomas Duane  
Hon. Liz Krueger  
Hon. Richard Gottfried  
Hon. Carolyn Maloney  
Hon. Deborah Glick  
Hon. Christine Quinn  
Hon. Jonathan Bing  
Hon. Rosie Mendez  
Hon. Dan Garodnick  
Hon. Gale Brewer  
Howard H. Roberts, Jr., MTA NYC Transit