



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

July 27, 2011

Thomas F. Prendergast
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: Reconstruction of Eleventh Avenue viaduct (36th Street to 38th Street)

Dear Mr. Prendergast:

Manhattan Community Board 4 met with representatives of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Department of Transportation (DOT) and Javits Center Operating Corporation (Javits), and Senator Duane's office, to review the traffic plans during the reconstruction of the Eleventh Avenue Viaduct between 36th and 38th Streets to start on July 20, 2011.

The MTA will be building one of the four Fan Plants for the Subway 7 line at the southeast corner of 36th Street and Eleventh Avenue, which extend below the Eleventh Avenue viaduct. Simultaneously MTA will rebuild the viaduct between 35th and 37th Streets and 36th Street between Eleventh and Tenth Avenues. The project is slated to start in July 2011 and extend for a period of less than 18 months.

We are pleased that our meeting resulted in a consensus on traffic flow as follows:

- From 35th to 37th Streets there will be two lanes of traffic going south and one lane of traffic going north;
- From 34th to 35th Street, there will be two lanes of traffic going south and two lanes of traffic going north;
- Way finding signs will be installed at 34th Street and Twelfth Avenue on Twelfth Avenue and at 34th Street and Eleventh Avenue on 34th Street to direct Lincoln Tunnel bound traffic to use Twelfth Avenue then 40th Street to access the Tunnel;
- Way finding signs will be installed at 36th Street and Tenth Avenue to direct westbound pedestrians to either 35th or 37th Streets;
- Traffic Enforcement Personnel will be positioned at 35th Street and Eleventh Avenue;
- The DOT will evaluate the feasibility of converting Eleventh Avenue to one-way from 45th to 50th Streets as suggested in the Hell's Kitchen Transportation Study;
- The Javits center will evaluate the feasibility of opening the gate located at 37th Street and let taxi traffic originating from 37th Street to enter the plaza and make drop offs on the plaza, within their property boundary; and
- The Javits center will coordinate with the Taxi Limousine Commission to notify taxi drivers of the new flow and pick up drop off areas.

This configuration will mitigate the risks that all tunnel bound traffic diverted from the northbound lanes of Eleventh Avenue overwhelms other approaches already over capacity at peak hours.

While we regret not having been notified earlier, we thank all the participants for their willingness to work together on a tight schedule and be responsive to the community concerns.

We are particularly grateful to Sarah Myers Zimble of Senator Duane's office who notified the board of the issue and organized the meetings necessary to its resolution in a record time.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: MTA
Javits Center
NYC DOT
Local Electeds