



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

September 2, 2011

Ms. Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013

Mr. James Tuller
Chief of Transportation Bureau
New York Police Department
1 Police Plaza, Room 1102
New York, New York 10038

Re: Traffic Calming at 38th/39th Streets and 11th Avenue

Dear Commissioner Forgione and Chief Tuller:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests that the Department of Transportation (DOT) and New York Police Department take all appropriate measures to alleviate the gridlock situation at both 38th and 39th Streets intersections with 11th Avenue.

There is severe gridlock on these streets during rush hours. Cars coming Northbound on 11th Avenue are "blocking the box" at the intersection as they queue up to the West 40th Street entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel. In addition, traffic waiting on 39th Street to turn Northbound during rush hour typically takes up all lanes of West 39th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues, requiring vehicles that intend to turn south to wait with them.

This situation has created a particular hardship for two community businesses, DHL Delivery at 10th Avenue and West 39th Street and City Wide Towing and Auto Repair Services at 514 West 39th Street, both of whom are dependent on moving trucks and towing equipment, respectively, in a timely manner. Similarly, Zohra Auto Body and Repair on West 38th Street is often blocked entering West 38th Street from 11th Avenue by the gridlock at that intersection.

CB4 thus proposes that the Department of Transportation:

- Paint the boxes at both West 38th and West 39th Streets and 11th Avenue in high visibility markings
- Add prominent "Don't Block the Box" signs on northbound 11th Avenue at both these intersections.

CB4 also requests that the NYPD posts traffic agents at these locations during the peak hours to enforce the no gridlock law and enable westbound flow turning south and southbound flow turning east to proceed. This situation is repeated at many intersections where Lincoln Tunnel traffic blocks the intersections. Additional traffic agents should be dedicated to this entire area at peak hours.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: City Wide Towing
DHL
Zohra Auto Body and Repair