

February 6, 2004

Honorable Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10013

**Re: Request for Traffic Study on the West 400 Block of 53<sup>rd</sup> St.**

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione:

At its full board meeting February 4, 2004, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted to request that the Department of Transportation conduct a traffic study on the West 400 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, with special consideration of the installation of a cross walk and/or speed control devices.

The Principal of PS/IS 111, Sheryl Donovan, appeared before the Board's Transportation Planning Committee on January 21 to request the Board's help in addressing a dangerous situation affecting her school.

Principal Donovan said that the school sits on the south side of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, approximately in the middle of this block, and that a delicatessen sits on the north side of the street opposite the school. She said that large numbers of students patronize the deli in the morning on their way to school and in the afternoon when school lets out, crossing the street in the middle of the block between the two.

Principal Donovan said that traffic is both heavy and fast moving, and that there have been at least four near-misses during the three and a half years she has been at the school. She told the committee that her practice is to be present outside the school both before and after school, but that despite her

efforts to prevent students from crossing the street in the middle of the block many still do.

The Board would prefer not to encourage jay-walking, but it recognizes that simply exhorting students to walk to the corner to cross the street is not likely to change their behavior. The Board feels that measures to control the speed of traffic on the block are warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Joshua David  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



John Rust  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee