



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

February 8, 2005

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

Re: Proposed bicycle rack sites

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on proposed bicycle rack sites within our district. At its January 19, 2005 meeting, the Transportation Planning Committee of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 discussed the list of DOT-proposed sites as well as additional sites proposed by members of our community. Please find our comments attached.

The committee also discussed its concerns regarding the design and placement of bicycle racks in relation to pedestrian safety and ease of travel. We are concerned that the present design of bicycle racks allows for too many variations in how one may lock a bicycle to the rack. This could lead to an inappropriate use of sidewalk space at best, and a serious sidewalk obstruction or safety hazard at worst.

We are also concerned that both the design and orientation of these racks are a potential hazard for visually impaired pedestrians. Because it is very easy for a cane to pass between the rack's posts as currently designed, the visually impaired person using the cane may not detect the rack until he or she walks into it. This possibility is more likely to occur when the rack is placed perpendicular to the curb.

We ask that you research and consider safer designs and placement policies for bicycle racks. We also request that you inform us of your findings.

On February 2, 2005, the full board of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted to support the committee's recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Mankoff'.

Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Enc.