



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

June 6, 2005

Councilmember Christine Quinn
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: Use of West 37th Street for access to Ramp C to Lincoln Tunnel

Dear Councilmember Quinn,

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 was distressed to have been notified by the Department of Transportation (DOT) that they have decided not to install a sign on West 37th Street east of Ninth Avenue prohibiting left turns into the Ninth Avenue traffic lanes dedicated to Ramp C of the Lincoln Tunnel from 3pm to 7pm. As indicated in our January 12, 2005 letter requesting such a sign and enforcement, the degree of traffic congestion caused by left turns onto Ramp C and the related lack of pedestrian safety has created intolerable conditions at that intersection and traffic delays north on Ninth Avenue to 49th Street. Recent pedestrian accidents with severe injuries at that intersection reinforce the need for actions such as this sign to improve area conditions.

Cars turning left onto Ninth Avenue from 37th Street could more efficiently (and likely more expeditiously) use one of the Lincoln Tunnel entrances from Ninth Avenue a few blocks further south without real inconvenience. Given the community's concerns, we find DOT's rapid denial without having conducted a full study of such a sign particularly disconcerting.

We appreciate the leadership your office has taken on traffic and pedestrian issues related to Lincoln Tunnel access and urge your assistance to appeal DOT's decision and request a sign be installed on West 37th Street east of Ninth Avenue prohibiting left turns onto Ramp C.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials