



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

June 6, 2005

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

Re: Proposal to change the direction of traffic on West 15th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Thank you for sending Brendon Fleming to the May 18, 2005 meeting of Manhattan Community Board No. 4's Transportation Planning Committee to discuss DOT's proposal to change the direction of traffic on West 15th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, from two-way to one-way, westbound.

Mr. Fleming explained that DOT originally changed this block to two-way traffic in order to accommodate MTA buses, traveling east-bound from the bus depot at Pier 57. As the bus depot is no longer active and DOT studies have shown very little east-bound traffic, with heavy west-bound evening traffic on this block, it makes sense for traffic to flow west-bound only.

One member of the committee was concerned because he has frequently observed vehicles travel very quickly north on Ninth Avenue near 14th Street and recklessly turn west on to West 15th Street. He stated that the proposed change to a west-bound only traffic flow might make it easier for vehicles to maintain high speeds as they enter the West Side Highway. A change in the direction of traffic on Ninth Avenue, between West 14th and 16th Streets, from two-way to south-bound only, as requested in our letter dated January 12, 2005, would help prevent this potentially dangerous situation.

At its Full Board meeting on June 1, 2005 Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted to approve the DOT proposal regarding West 15th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, and reiterate its request to change the flow of traffic on Ninth Avenue, between West 14th and 16th Streets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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