



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

July 28, 2005

Michael DeGidio, Project Manager
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
1 Madison Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10010

Re: Proposed signage for Lincoln Tunnel bound traffic

Dear Mr. DeGido:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 endorses the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's proposal to install eight "Changeable Diversion Signage" (CDS) signs along Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Avenues and Galvin Plaza.¹ We believe that these "smart signs," which will display text and arrows on a black background (using light bulbs) on the lower part of the sign, will assist in creating more efficient traffic patterns by providing more information to drivers.

Our support is a result of the changes in the PANYNJ proposal in response to Board concerns (expressed in our April 13, 2005 and June 6, 2005 letters to you). Specifically we are pleased that the PANYNJ was able to change the proposal by:

1. *Reducing the number of signs:* From the originally proposed 11 signs to the current 8 signs – 6 of which will be replacing existing signs. The reduction includes the removal of signs from two sites cited as inappropriate by the community – 43rd street and Ninth Avenue and 42nd Street and Tenth Avenue;
2. *Improved style:* The current proposal reduces the size of the proposed CDS signs to the same dimensions as the existing static signs, reduces their height from the ground to 18' feet, installs the signs directly on the poles, includes borders around the electronic portion of the signs, and includes painting the poles;
3. *Removal of lighting of the static portion of the sign.*

Moreover we appreciate the spirit of cooperation that PANYNJ engaged in with the Board over the last few months to arrive at these improvements. We hope that is a dialogue that continues as these signs are installed and traffic impacts are monitored. Specifically, we request that the PANYNJ consults with CB4 on:

- The color for the paint for the poles and on the dates and times for installation;

¹ The PANYNJ proposes CDS signs on Tenth Avenue and 39th and 41st streets, on Galvin Plaza on 40th and 41st streets; on Eleventh Avenue at 40th Street and between 43rd and 44th streets; and on Ninth Avenue at 39th and 41st streets.

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- The data collected on changes in traffic patterns within six months after installation;
- Future locations of CDS signs (specifically on the recommendation in our 4/13/2005 letter that a site further north be considered to assist in diverting traffic from 9th Avenue to 11th Avenue);
- Discussions with the Department of Transportation and the Police Department on reducing the clutter and number of signs along Ninth Avenue between 42nd Street and 39th Street.

Most important, we request increased discussion – and action – from the Port Authority regarding traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety near the Lincoln Tunnel entrances along Ninth Avenue. Despite temporary improvements earlier this year, PANYNJ personnel have returned to a laissez-faire attitude regarding pedestrian safety and there lacks coordination between the Police Department, Department of Transportation, and the PANYNJ. Improved signage is irrelevant if there is a lack of enforcement of traffic laws and lack of respect for pedestrian safety.

Again, we appreciate the energy and high degree of communication you and the PANYNJ team brought to discussion on the CDS signs and hope that continues as we address continued pedestrian safety issues.

Sincerely yours,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Elected Officials