



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

MICHELLE SOLOMON
Acting District Manager

February 2, 2006

Terry Benczik
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals Dept.
1 Madison Avenue, 5th floor
New York, NY 10010

Re: Changeable Diversion Signs

Dear Ms. Benczik:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 is disturbed that the Port Authority Changeable Diversion Signs for Lincoln Tunnel access do not currently include any back covering, which leaves the interior electronic components exposed. We feel this violates the spirit of the agreement we had reached with the Port Authority on these signs and request that a covering be identified, in consultation with the Community Board on design decisions. We understand that the Port Authority is constrained by both the project budget and physical concerns, as the signs require adequate ventilation, but we also feel that attention to aesthetic concerns is a part of the Port Authority commitment to this neighborhood. Perhaps the steel mesh idea put forward by Mark Schaff at the Committee meeting on January 18 is a good place to start.

The Port Authority staff approached the Community Board last year on the design of these electronic signs, and following consultations, both you and the Port Authority design team worked diligently and creatively to revise your plans to create signs that could apply this highway-oriented technology in a neighborhood setting. We appreciate both the spirit and results (on the front and side views, at least) of that effort. We now request a similar spirit and effort in identifying capital funding for a part of the design we all omitted in our original concept.

As always, we appreciate your involvement and cooperation and look forward to working with you to resolve this situation.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials