



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

July 27, 2006

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: City Employee Commuters

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 strongly supports all possible measures to encourage City employees to travel to work without the use of personal autos.

Among the public benefits to a reduction of the quantity of personal autos entering the Central Business District each weekday:

- 1) Reduce traffic congestion, which will also lead to better emergency response times;
- 2) Less air pollution from exhaust fumes;
- 3) A more pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly street environment;
- 4) Lower demand for street parking near City workplaces;
- 5) Improved quality and quantity of public transit due to increased ridership;
- 6) Safer buses and subways due to greater presence of commuting police and other uniformed officers; and
- 7) Better informed emergency first responders who will have increased familiarity with subways by using them.

Measures which could encourage less use of personal autos include:

- 1) Promoting the use of "Transit Check" programs by which employees can pay for their public transit with pre-tax wages;
- 2) Reduced use of special street parking privileges, limited to extenuating circumstances;
- 3) Provision of favored parking locations for car pool vehicles; and
- 4) Public recognition of employee groups who excel at car use reduction.

We feel that these proposals are increasingly important, particularly as the new DC 37 contract will allow for more employees to live outside of the five boroughs, which may lead to an increase in the number of employees wishing to drive into the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee