



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

March 13, 2008

Deputy Commissioner Maurice Bruet
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Tim Tomkins, Director
Times Square Alliance
1560 Broadway, Suite 800
New York, NY 10036

Re: Times Square Street Lighting Project

Dear Mr. Bruet and Mr. Tomkins,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) applauds the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Times Square Alliance initiative to improve the quality of life on Eighth Avenue. Adding pedestrian-scale lighting is a good first step in that direction. However, we would like to share some concerns regarding the proposed implementation.

According to the proposed plan, M arm fixtures will be attached to existing street light poles at a 15-foot elevation above the sidewalk. There are a number of residential buildings on the west side of the avenue, and such a fixture will illuminate the first floors apartments.

1. We recommend that DOT select a fixture that directs 100% of its light downwards, which will be cost effective. A less cost effective option is that - before implementing the lighting - DOT equips those fixtures to be located in front of apartment buildings with a shroud to reduce glare in the apartments.

Lighting experts use High Pressure Sodium Lights (HPS) for highway applications, but recommend the use of Metal Halide to improve illumination of pedestrian sidewalks and provide an environment that can help revitalize downtowns because of its true light characteristics.

2. As the costs are equivalent, CB4 requests that DOT use Metal Halide instead of HPS to illuminate the sidewalks on Eight Avenue.

In conjunction, the Times Square Alliance plans to reach out to storeowners and encourage them to beautify their storefronts. This outreach should include an initiative to achieve evenly distributed storefront lighting. However, this cannot be a substitute for DOT's responsibility to uniformly illuminate the sidewalks. The spacing of the existing light poles is not adequate to provide an evenly distributed pedestrian lighting on the sidewalk.

3. We request that DOT install additional poles or use alternative lighting distribution techniques to achieve pedestrian safety on the sidewalks.

At its full board meeting on March 5, 2008, CB4 voted to support the project, provided it incorporates the above recommendations.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

C.c.

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione, NYC Department of Transportation
Will Young , Port Authority New Jersey New York
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
Speaker Christine Quinn
Assembly member Richard Gottfried
Senator Thomas Duane