



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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

JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

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

January 9, 2009

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street, Room 940
New York, N.Y. 10013

Re: Accessible Pedestrian Signals

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

During the last few years Manhattan Community Board 4 has made several requests to add Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at bicycle lane crossings and other upgraded intersections. To date, only one of these requests has been met. You are doubtless aware of federal guidelines requiring these installations wherever there is signal upgrading, and in response to identified safety considerations. We understand the City has both an inventory of this equipment, and that there is federal funding for pedestrian safety improvements.

We appreciate your letter dated October 22nd 2008, where you indicate that you will look into this matter. However, after several years of no progress, and with the more cost-effective approach of installing the APS during major renovations (such as bicycle lane installations) being frequently by-passed, we feel this needs your personal involvement. Indeed we hope your intervention can ensure the APS will be a part of the planned Eighth Avenue bicycle lane.

We are also requesting an APS at the intersection of West 55th Street and Eighth Avenue. A vision impaired resident living near that intersection has been requesting an APS since 2004. We understand your signal division has received documentation over half a dozen incidents at that corner related to residents who require non-visual information.

We appreciate your interest in this important pedestrian safety improvement for our vision impaired residents, seniors, and persons with cognitive disabilities and hope for a prompt response.

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.

Ken Stewart, President
Metropolitan Council of Low Vision Individuals