



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.nyc.gov/mcb4

CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

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

March 7, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Re: Request for continued DOT responsiveness

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like to compliment the NYC Department of Transportation for their increasing responsiveness to community concerns and Community Board requests and hope you will encourage DOT to continue that trend.

During the last few years, DOT has been responsive to important CB requests and active in accommodating our concerns. Such recent steps as the rapid approval (within two weeks) of CB4's request to install a delayed left turn signal at West 57th and Ninth Avenue, traffic light timing and sidewalk improvements along Ninth Avenue and West 42nd and West 41st Street based on the recently completed Lincoln Tunnel Traffic study, the quick investigation and approval of a CB4 recommended alternative site for intercity bus stop, traffic light timing improvements around Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, and an increase in placing speed bumps at requested areas are evidence of this change just during the last year. We also note that CB4 recommendations for parking rule changes are typically approved and implemented within one to two months. Most CB4 recommendations for Citibike Station placements were accepted and all but one of the few problem locations (out of over 70 Citibike locations in CB4) were changed within a couple of months. The above responsiveness has been an increasingly welcome trend over the last several years.

Much of the above responsiveness can be credited to our hard working DOT Community representative Colleen Chattergoon who has been remarkable both in her availability and involvement in the community (attending most CB4 Transportation Planning Committee meetings and answering phone calls and emails within hours). Particularly in the last few years, Colleen has been instrumental in ensuring CB4 requests become quick victories and ensuring when we are denied that we get a full hearing and clear explanations. Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiione always encouraged active CB4 involvement in decisions, often taking a direct involvement in reviewing CB4 requests (including those that differed from initial DOT recommendations) and typically enabling their success.

We still have major disagreements with DOT on important issues. While we appreciate their active support for the New York State law that enabled city regulation of intercity bus locations, we are disappointed by the process they permitted for existing intercity bus stops to be grandfathered in. We remain disappointed that left turn signals were not installed at several dangerous intersections along enclosed bicycle lanes. Additionally, CB4's long term request to have Eleventh Avenue southbound only north of West 44th Street remains unheeded.

However, the trend toward acting positively and often expeditiously on CB4 requests and DOT's implementation of most CB4 recommendations is a welcome change of the last several years and one that we hope your administration will continue.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

CC: NYC Department of Transportation, Colleen Chattergoon