



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

July 26, 2012

Mr. Norberto Acevedo  
NYC Department of Design & Construction  
30-30 Thompson Avenue  
Long Island City, New York 11101

**Re: 30<sup>th</sup> Street & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Water Main Trunk Installation**

Dear Mr. Acevedo:

Manhattan Community Board 4 appreciates the presentation by NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) regarding the installation of the Trunk Water Mains for the NYC Water Tunnel #3 at W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street between Tenth Avenue and Route 9A, along Tenth Avenue from W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street to West 31<sup>st</sup> Streets and along Eleventh Avenue between West 29<sup>th</sup> and the rail yards. We understand the importance of this long-planned (begun in 1970) third water tunnel for the infrastructure and safe drinking water of New York City.

We also appreciate your outreach to the community and Community Board regarding the construction schedule and impacts of this project. The overall project will take approximately two and a half years, with the first phase beginning this fall and lasting for approximately nine months. Our comments are limited to the first phase and we appreciate that you will be returning to the Community Board next year before beginning the second phase.

During the first phase DDC will be replacing a 48 foot sewer line and upgrading area utilities. The project is being coordinated with Con Edison, Related Company (who is developing a building at the northwest corner of W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue) and the Friends of the Highline (who are renovating the W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street portion of Section 3). During most of the nine months, W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street will only have one traveling lane between Tenth Avenue and Route 9A. Work hours are scheduled for 7am to 4 pm, Monday-Friday during most of the 9 months and from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during a portion of the project. Work abutting Route 9A will occur primarily in the evening hours. We understand the construction will not impact the Hudson River Park.

During construction, there will be a reduction to three travel lanes along Tenth Avenue between W. 30<sup>th</sup> and W. 31<sup>st</sup> Streets and along Eleventh Avenue from W. 29<sup>th</sup> to the Amtrak tracks. There will also be a reduction of W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street between Route 9A and Tenth Avenue to one lane.

DDC has already begun discussions with the Post Office, which has a large facility between Ninth and Tenth Avenues between W. 29<sup>th</sup> and W. 30<sup>th</sup> Streets and has committed to outreach to the other businesses on W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues and the Ohm residential building at W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Eleventh Avenue. They indicated a Community Construction Liaison, with a telephone number, they will do active door to door outreach to ensure the completeness of their e-mail list and will provide monthly updates on-line and in print on the construction status and reports on what to expect in the coming months. They have also indicated that they will provide a traffic control agent during work hours at Tenth Avenue and W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Manhattan Community Board 4 would like to respectfully request:

- Ensure there is a traffic control agent at W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Tenth Avenue during the 4:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m. rush hour, as well as during their work hours;
- Work with DOT to devise warning signs further North on Eleventh Avenue and both North and South on Route 9A of the lane reductions on W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street and further south on Tenth Avenue of the lane reduction north of W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Work with DOT to reroute the bicycle lane currently on W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street between Tenth Avenue and Route 9A to W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street during at least first phase and, depending on the impact on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, for future phases. DOT should provide adequate signage on the bicycle path along the Hudson River Park of this change, as well as signs at W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street and should provide notification through various bicyclist websites.
- It would be preferable to make two of the three traveling lanes between W. 30<sup>th</sup> and W. 31<sup>st</sup> toward the West side of Tenth Avenue (DDC has indicated the work hour will be in the middle of the block, with a flashing sign directing traffic to either side) to enable traffic seeking to pass the Tunnel entrance at W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street to flow more easily; and
- The south side sidewalk of W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street should have adequate protection and lighting; All walkways that may be required along Tenth and Eleventh Avenue have decorative side walls and adequate lighting;
- Provide advance notice of several days be provided before any water shut off that may be required in the area.
- The south side sidewalk of W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street should have adequate protection and lighting;
- The Community Liaison and Construction site manager's phone number should be widely disseminated, including posting on the Community Board website and in the lobby of the Ohm building.
- The Community Liaison should make a concerted effort to work with the residents, students and staff members at the Fashion Institute of Technology to ensure all parties receive notification concerning noise issues.

Again, we greatly appreciate the communication on this important project and look forward to its successful completion with as minimal community and traffic disruption as possible.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Margaret Forgione, Department of Transportation  
Patricia Richardi, Consolidated Edison