



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

Ms. Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10038

**Re: Follow- up Commentary on the West Side Traffic Study and Bike Lane Extension**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is pleased that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed its study of the west side of Manhattan and made a number of excellent recommendations to calm traffic and improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow. MCB4 has participated in all phases of the study and provided commentary throughout the process.

This study covers only a small part of our district from W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street to W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, from Eighth to Twelfth Avenues, however this area is the gateway to the flow of trucks that enter our district to the north. It is home to the Time Warner building and the Hudson Hotel on W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street, a challenging combination, as well as the Columbus circle subway station that has become a destination for a number of commuter shuttle buses coming from large developments located in the transit-starved far west side. The Ninth Avenue bike lane is a new element to the configuration that was not contemplated during the study.

**Truck Routing at W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street**

MCB4 is pleased that DOT will install signage on Ninth Avenue and on W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street to direct truck traffic to use the Eleventh Avenue entrance of the Lincoln tunnel. We ask that DOT expedite the installation of those signs especially as the bike lane is being installed on Ninth Avenue.

- In conjunction, we reiterate our long-standing request that signs be installed on W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street and on Ninth Avenue barring truck traffic from using W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street.
- We also reiterate our long standing request that Eleventh Avenue be converted one-way from W. 40<sup>th</sup> to W. 57<sup>th</sup> Streets and two ways from W. 34<sup>th</sup> to W. 40<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**Pedestrian Safety**

- MCB4 applauds the plan to install curb extensions at many intersections, in particular at the southeast corner of W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street and Ninth Avenue, to shorten the north south crossing of this 5-lanes street.
- MCB4 reiterates its request that a split phase signal (which creates separate times for pedestrian crossings and turning vehicles) be installed on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue for cars turning east onto W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street. Though W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street is one way, it is as wide as a two-way street for which this kind of treatment is customary along bike lanes. The street

between Eighth and Ninth Avenues includes several large residential buildings, an entryway to the Time Warner Offices and Center, the Hudson Hotel (as well as its substantial nightlife component), and several retail establishments. The combination of substantial pedestrian traffic, truck deliveries and taxicabs from the usage mandates a split phase signal. In addition a kindergarten is opening on the northeast corner. Large number of children will be using this crossing.

- We also request that left turn green phase from W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street onto Ninth Avenue be shifted from the beginning to the end of the green cycle to become "lagging left arrow signal", a method that has been demonstrated to be safer for pedestrians.
- It should further include a red arrow whenever the green arrow is turned off, this creating a "split phase". The June Midtown North Precinct report indicated that crashes are increasing along the W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and residents have complained that the absence of a red left arrow signal on the westbound W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street at the same time as the pedestrian "Walk" sign comes on for those crossing the south corners creates a safety concern.

### Double Parking and Safety on W. 58<sup>th</sup> Streets between Eighth and Ninth Avenues

- MCB4 is pleased that DOT will install 120 feet of bus stop on the south side of 58<sup>th</sup> Street West of the Hotel 6 entrance for four shuttle companies: 33WEA, Corpexpress, Helena and ShuttleBusPlus. This long-standing request of CB4 will reduce the double parking, congestion and honking on the street.
- Although it is five lanes wide in places, W. 58<sup>th</sup> street has no markings. Its width encourages drivers to speed while parkers feel free to double or triple park. MCB4 requests that markings be installed to define clearly two lanes of traffic and striping be installed on both sides to reduce double parking occurrences. We request "No Double Parking" be installed along the second lane in front of the Hudson Hotel.

We appreciate the community consultation process and the fact that DOT listened to the community requests. We are anxious to see these improvements in place.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: MCB4 elected officials