



DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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October 17, 2016

Luis Sanchez
Acting Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Mount Sinai Emergency Service Vehicles

Dear Acting Commissioner Sanchez,

Manhattan Community board 4 (CB4) recommends that 59th Street be converted to a two – way between 10th and Columbus Avenue to mitigate the negative impact on emergency response time caused by the new traffic flow being implemented as part of the Lincoln Square Traffic Study.

Mount Sinai West responds to 65,000 emergency calls a year with an average response time of 8 minutes. Until now, the emergency vehicles were using east bound 60st Street to bring back patients from northbound 10th Avenue to the emergency bay on westbound 59th Street.

A new plan recently adopted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) will convert 60st Street to westbound. As a result, the ambulances will have to travel up to 65th Street on 10th Avenue and come back down Columbus Avenue, through a very congested area, to make a westbound turn at 59th Street. This adds eight blocks to each of the 65,000 trips with potential life and deaths implications.

We recommend that 59th Street be converted to a two-way street between 10th and Columbus Avenues with the eastbound segment restricted to the EMS traffic. A similar configuration works well for the Fire Department on 43rd Street between 10th and 11th Avenues.

We appreciate your prompt consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Yoni Bokser
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

CC Lincoln Square BID
 Manhattan Community Board 7
 NY Fire Department Emergency Services
 Mount Sinai West



September 26, 2016

Patricia Gouris
Community Associate
Manhattan Community Board 4
330 West 42nd Street, 26th Fl.
New York, NY 10036

Dear Ms. Gouris,

Thanks you for allowing Mount Sinai West to present at the Community Board 4 Transportation Meeting concerning the Lincoln Square Safety Improvement Study.

Mount Sinai West is a designated 911 emergency receiving hospital in the 911 system, the only multi-specialty, full service hospital on the West side of Manhattan below 113th Street. The emergency department ambulance entrance is located mid-block on westbound 59th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues.

The hospital is contracted to the New York City Fire Department to operate ambulances in the New York City 911 system. Mount Sinai EMS operates 12 basic and advanced life support ambulance units 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service responds to 65,000 emergency assignments annually, resulting in 40,000 patient transports to the hospital. Overall, the ambulances respond and transport patients through our community 105,000 times a year.

Our EMS mission is to provide competent, high quality pre-hospital patient care and services. This includes moving critically sick and injured patients to the hospital as rapidly as possible. The proposed changes listed in the Lincoln Square Safety improvement study will have a negative impact on ambulance operations in the midtown area.

The emergency department ambulance entrance is located mid-block on westbound 59th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues. Ambulances responding to the hospital from below 59th Street currently have two direct roadway options:

- Option one is Sixth or Eighth Avenue, around Columbus Circle, turn right on 60th Street, and then left on Columbus, then right on W59. This route is congested through the fifties, and continues through Columbus Circle.

- Option two is Tenth Avenue to Eastbound W60, right turn on Columbus and right turn right on W59. This is the least congested and fastest route of the two options.

The study calls for redirection of W60 to a westbound direction. Therefore, the next eastbound option for ambulances traveling north on Amsterdam Avenue would be W62nd Street, re-designated two-way between Columbus and Amsterdam. Historically, this street was two-way and highly congested with traffic, double parked tractor-trailer trucks loading, unloading and parked for Lincoln Center events.

The next eastbound street is W65, which is above the Broadway – Columbus Avenue merge. The ambulance would be required to travel south on Columbus to W59, six additional blocks. This could add an additional 3-4 minutes of ambulance travel time, life threatening for critical and unstable patients requiring immediate Emergency Department care.

The Community Board 4 Transportation Committee's recommendation to change W59th Street to two-way traffic, with the east bound lane designated for 'Emergency Vehicles Only' would certainly improve ambulance transport time and access to the Mount Sinai West Emergency Department. However, this change will also impact parking for the reserve ambulance fleet and the on-call physicians. We support a NYC Department of Transportation traffic improvement review for W59 Street that addresses these and other community issues affected by the proposed change in traffic flow.

We thank you for allowing us to participate in this planning.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Davis

Joseph J. Davis, EMT-P
Administrative Director
Mount Sinai EMS

