



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

November 28, 2022

Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner, Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: DOT Washington Bridge Improvement Project

Dear Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 26 votes in favor, 5 opposed, and 2 abstentions, at its Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022, General Meeting, asking that the approval of this bridge redesign adjacent to the Washington Bridge should be done minimizing the number of parking spaces to be removed and that efforts be made to locate additional parking spots to mitigate the big impact of parking loss of the proposed design.

- Whereas: For over a century, the Washington Bridge has connected West 181st street in Manhattan with University Avenue in the Bronx, most recently with three traffic lanes in each direction; and
- Whereas: Existing sidewalks in each direction are extremely narrow and must accommodate pedestrians, strollers, bicycles, and increasingly scooters; and
- Whereas: Transportation Alternatives' Washington Bridge 4 People petition to support safety and transit improvements on the Washington Bridge was signed by over 2,500 people, and several attendees to the DOT presentation shared stories of terrible conditions on the existing sidewalk; and
- Whereas: On September 14, 2022, Mark Levine Borough President of Manhattan, Vanessa, L. Gibson, Borough President of the Bronx, Carmen De La Rosa, Councilperson of District 10, and Althea Stevens Councilperson of District 16, signed a letter to the NYC Department of Transportation requesting that DOT evaluate bus and bike connections on the Washington Bridge, and that "infrastructure investments that encourage bus travel and make cycling safer must be the highest priority"; and,
- Whereas: The NYC Department of Transportation ("DOT") is proposing the following changes to reduce the number and severity of crashes, improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve bus transit: an eastbound bus lane and a two-way protected bicycle lane on the westbound side which would exit the bridge to Amsterdam via McNally Plaza then Laurel Hill Terrace; and
- Whereas: Two travel lanes would be maintained in each direction, and the existing sidewalks will be entirely for pedestrians. Two vehicular lanes in each direction were demonstrated to produce no detrimental effect on to the level of service of the bridge during the recently concluded emergency repair work on the Washington Bridge: and

Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
Re: DOT Washington Bridge Improvement Project
November 28, 2022
Page 2

- Whereas: The bike lane exit to Amsterdam Avenue will require the loss of approximately 20 parking spots on Laurel Hill Terrace; therefore, be it
- Resolved: Manhattan Community Board 12, approves this bridge redesign on and adjacent to the Washington Bridge; and be it further
- Resolved: This redesign work should be done while minimizing the number of parking spaces removed, and efforts are made to locate additional parking spots to mitigate the parking lots of the proposed design.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc:

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor	Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President	Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate	Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller	Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman	Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member
Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator	