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June 17, 2020

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Announcement -14th Street Busway Being Made Permanent

Dear Mayor De Blasio:

Community Board No. 2, Manhattan (CB2) was disturbed to learn of your announcement that the 14th Street Busway is to become permanent well in advance of the designated time assigned to conclude the Transit and Truck Priority (TTP) Pilot Project that was designed specifically to monitor and evaluate the busway's performance and its effects (positive and/or negative) on the surrounding community. Not only is this a premature and unfounded decision, lacking in any detailed and conclusive findings (which the TTP was created to collect), but also a complete abandonment of the City's commitment to the community, as well as to the City Council and our elected officials, to conduct the extensive analyses and obtain the thorough feedback that is needed and was promised before any decision about permanence can be made.

Although we recognize the improvements that the busway has achieved so far, it is nowhere yet near being the "success by every measure" that you claim it to be. As the Sam Schwartz Winter 2020 Quarterly Report on the TTP Pilot notes, "NYCDOT and MTA continue to address issues as they arise to ensure the success of the TTP Pilot Project."

The TTP was organized as an 18-month study to give ample time to address whatever unresolved issues come up and then apply suitable, successful solutions. In CB2, such concerns as taxi access and impacts on side streets have yet to be resolved, while the Sam Schwartz report refers to congestion on University Place and 13th Street to be considered (among other issues). With only five months given to studying conditions on the busway before the COVID-19 emergency brought atypical changes in travel patterns that led to temporarily suspending TTP data collection and analysis, it is imperative to continue the studies that are needed in sufficient time once transportation conditions stabilize.

We urge you to refrain from abruptly ending the TTP, both because the further study of the busway is greatly needed to make it the true success it can be, and while it is under study, it still

can continue to serve the public as it continues to improve. By following the course of action that was assured to the community, we can hopefully avoid eroding the confidence and trust in the City that the public deserves to have.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

cc: Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
Ed Pincar, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Speaker
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member