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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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June 16, 2021

Edward Pincar Jr.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

Thank you to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) for responding to Community Board 2 Manhattan's (CB2) request for a presentation describing the Bike Boulevard concept and updating DOT's efforts gathering community input on how University Place can better meet community needs.

As you know, Mayor DeBlasio's announcement that a bike boulevard would be coming to University Place was both surprising and disconcerting, especially when DOT is currently conducting outreach to the CB2 community and on-site study to ascertain potential improvements to that street, a process that is far from complete and expected to continue in the coming months before any types of conclusions are reached and in concert with the community.

Although DOT's description of bike boulevards at CB2's Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting on June 3rd was very limited, and there's still a great deal of confusion about the concept, it was encouraging to learn that the University Place outreach and study process will be continuing into the Fall and that no conclusions have been reached. We hope we were mistaken in construing from the conversation that regardless of the results of the process, a bike boulevard is contemplated.

We are looking forward to the workshop(s) DOT is planning and to learning the results of DOT's further data collection. Over 100 community members attended the June 3rd meeting voicing their University Place concerns, and CB2 also received letters of concern from both individuals and community organizations totalling a representation of over 1500 people, and a workshop format as well as subsequent updates will offer a needed opportunity for additional input.

In the meantime, CB2 urges DOT to do further on-site analysis of uses and activities on University Place, including observations, modal counts, and foremost, intercept interviews which will reach more constituents by actively encountering them on the street as well as on the adjoining side streets. CB2 also strongly requests that a study be commissioned to address the

enumerated traffic related community concerns on E 12th and 13th Streets as outlined in CB2's resolution adopted at its Full Board meeting, September 17, 2020.

CB2 further asks that more and more comprehensible information about bike boulevards be made available for dissemination to the community, e.g. clearly written, easy-to-understand descriptions and illustrations, and perhaps a video at an upcoming meeting.

Finally, CB2 expresses its strong hope that DOT will not definitively conclude any design approach to University Place before conducting and completing a sufficient outreach, data gathering and analysis process and conferring with the community on suitable alternatives. To that end, CB2 firmly encourages DOT to return to CB2 to report its complete findings from the surveys, workshop(s), data collection and analysis outlined herewith along with initial design concepts derived from these findings for review and comment before proceeding to further design refinement and a final design proposal presentation.

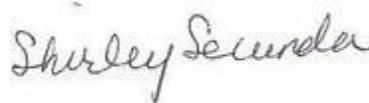
Thanks once again for DOT's responsiveness and also for DOT's willingness to answer community members' questions that CB2 will be submitting.

We look forward to continuing this important process and receiving DOT's further feedback.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely  
Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

cc: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member