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Susan Kent, *First Vice Chair*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

January 5, 2023

Edward Pincar Jr.
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

At its Full Board meeting December 20, 2022, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

1. Resolution in response to presentation by the Meatpacking BID of an update on their ongoing Western Gateway study.

Whereas the Meatpacking Business Improvement District (MPD) presented an update of their ongoing Western Gateway study, last presented to Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) in May 2022, now with a more developed vision in view of the input and feedback from that May 2022 meeting as well as from outreach to block associations, property owners, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders and neighborhood representatives, and with the expectation that more details focusing on specific location segments will come in future presentations; and

Whereas the update addressed the study's scope area as previously presented (Horatio St. to the south, W. 17th St. to the north, 8th Ave. to the east and the Hudson River to the west), as well as both interim and subsequent capital improvements being considered for the six individual project areas included therein (14th St. and 10th Ave. Interchange; 10th Ave./Meatpacking Cooperative (W. 13th and Little W. 12th Sts.); Gansevoort Landing at 10th Ave. (the first of the envisioned programmatic pilots/interim projects undertaken by DOT and approved by CB2); Washington St.; 14th St, Gateway; and Chelsea Market Streets (this not within CB2)); and

Whereas CB2 appreciates the conduct of physical and data analysis of pedestrians and bicycles, vehicular volume, street safety, transit connectivity, traffic flow, and curbside use (plus stakeholder outreach) for this study with WXY Architecture + Urban Design and Sam Schwartz Engineering (civil engineers), long-time, well recognized professional practitioners in their fields with extensive experience in and knowledge of CB2 conditions and needs, and respects their guidance with project principles for an area that is safe + inviting, people centered + balanced, connected + seamless, rational + organized, high quality + timeless, and coordinated + innovative; and

Whereas CB2 welcomes the many goals for improvement put forth in this broad overview, such as safety at intersections and at West St. crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists, simplification and clarity in defining directions and routes, rational and comfortable access for all, drop off, pick up and loading zones where needed, greening and other public space enhancements, and an equitable balance for all street uses and modes, all of which can benefit the community; and

Whereas CB2 recognizes that this broad vision is the starting point for further detailed, defined and separate presentations of each of the four remaining individual interim projects in CB2 for additional input and refinement and of subsequent proposed capital improvements;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 supports the MPD's continued work on its Western Gateway Study and development of the individual projects within its purvey; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 looks forward to being apprised of continued Study progress and hosting future project presentations.

Vote: 38 Board Members in favor
1 recusal (D. Raftery).

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

JK/EM

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Jeffrey C. LeFrancois, Executive Director MPD BID

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Edward Pincar Jr.
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Pincar:

At its Full Board meeting December 20, 2022, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

2. Resolution in response to presentation of design concept for an enhanced King St. off Hudson St. by Hines real estate.

Whereas, Hines/Hudson Square Properties, presented a design concept for proposed public space improvements on King St. btw. Hudson and Greenwich Sts.; and

Whereas, with the goal of creating a vibrant and welcoming place where the community can gather, relax and enjoy socializing, attending an event or just walking through, the Hines team has been working with the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) for over three years to address site constraints and comply with requirements, and also consulting with the Hudson Square BID in order to incorporate elements that correspond with the BID's improvements in the district while applying some others that highlight the street's own identity; and

Whereas the design for the newly revitalized street includes:

- A new street tree, adding to the two already existing, along with several large, above grade tree planters (working around existing vaults and utilities).
- Extensive planting beds/gardens on both sides of the street.
- Sidewalk widenings bulbing out on the northeast, southeast and southwest sides, providing extra space for greenery and shorter, safer crossings for pedestrians.
- 77 seats, including 36 in built-in timber benches with backrests, 10 in timber benches on planters with backrest capacity, and 31 on granite platforms salvaged from construction and restored, providing a historical reference to the past.
- Preservation of the existing Access-A-Ride facility with seating for four and a glass bus-type shelter.
- Use of local artwork on walls for murals to offset the effect of loading docks; and

Whereas the street's current condition reflects the district's former industrial nature, lacking enhancement and now underutilized, presenting an opportunity to add amenities, activities, comfort and character to better serve this upcoming commercial and residential community; and

Whereas maintenance will be performed in partnership with the Hudson Square BID; and

Whereas final project completion is anticipated for 2024; the bulk of the improvements, including landscaping and roadside work, are expected to be done within a few months in 2023, providing quick positive changes for the community, while the benches, which will go through revocable consent review, are expected to be installed in 2024; and

Whereas considerable support was expressed for the project by neighborhood residents and organizations, including the president of the Van Dam St. Block Association, who indicated that the planners reached out to area residents on Van Dam and also on King and Charlton Sts., addressing and satisfactorily answering all their concerns regarding traffic flow, sanitation and security, the Hudson Square BID, Here Arts Center, the Children's Museum, and other local people;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) fully supports the proposed public space improvements on King St. btw. Hudson and Greenwich Sts. and admires the Hines team's perseverance in developing this scheme for improving community life and enhancement, working around constraints and limitations in cooperation with the DOT; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 encourages DOT and all the other involved City agencies to facilitate all efforts to ensure swift implementation of these welcome improvements.

Vote: Unanimous, 39 Board Members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

JK/EM

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
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Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Samara Karasyk, Hudson Sq. BID
Matt D. Viggiano, Kasirer