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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.manhattancb2.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@manhattancb2.org

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June 4, 2025

Jennifer Sta. Ines
Deputy Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Fl.
New York, NY 10038

Honorable Deputy Commissioner Sta. Ines:

At its Full Board meeting on May 22, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

Resolution supporting re-coordination of the green light (“walk”) phase crossing north from the southwest corner of the eastbound fork of Canal St. at Washington St.

Whereas Canal St. going to and from West St. is split into two separate forks by Canal Park, with the northern fork going west and the southern fork going east up to just beyond Canal Park between Washington and Greenwich Sts. where both forks merge; and

Whereas pedestrians coming to Canal Park from the south, which entails crossing Canal St.’s eastbound southern fork, have been observed accessing the park more frequently from the western side of Washington St. at the Canal southern fork than from the side of the park at West St. where automotive traffic is heavier with frequent turning movements from West St. into that southern eastbound fork; and

Whereas pedestrians can cross the eastbound southern fork of Canal St. where it intersects with Washington St. only on the west side of the street where there’s a crosswalk going south-north/ north-south; and

Whereas the traffic signal’s green light (Walk) phase for crossing from the southwest corner of the eastbound fork of Canal St. at Washington St. to the northwest corner is extremely short, and the red light (Don’t Walk) phase is very long, resulting in pedestrians having to wait a very long time to cross the street; and

Whereas the lengthy south to north Don’t Walk (red) signal phase occurs concurrently with the green light for motorists on Washington St. going in the same direction as the pedestrians, with the Walk

signal (green) only coming on much later, confusing those waiting to cross from south to north and resulting in them assuming that the traffic light is broken, which leads to their crossing the street against the light; and

Whereas. signage as well as a green arrow in the traffic signal directs all vehicular traffic coming north on Washington St. to turn east on Canal St.'s southern fork to avoid running into Canal Park which juts out there; and

Whereas since all motor vehicles coming up Washington St. must turn right (east) at the Canal St. southern fork intersection, no left turns (i.e. to the west) are allowed, while at that same time the light is red for vehicles heading east at the crosswalk on the intersection's west side, stopping those eastbound vehicles from proceeding when the light is green for drivers on Washington St., thus allowing pedestrians to cross safely without fear of any vehicular traffic incursion; and

Whereas consequently, the exceptionally long Don't Walk (red) traffic signal for pedestrians wanting to cross from the southwest corner of the eastbound fork of Canal St. at Washington St. to the northwest corner isn't needed for safe crossing when automotive traffic on Washington St. (headed in the same direction as the pedestrians and then turning east) has a green light, and it causes unnecessary delay;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board No. 2, Manhattan strongly recommends and requests that the traffic light synchronization be adjusted at the eastbound fork of Canal St. at Washington St. to allow for a much longer green (Walk) light for pedestrians crossing from the southwest to the northwest corner there to ensure them sufficient time to cross safely and comfortably in the crosswalk at that location.

Vote: Unanimous, with 43 Board members in favor.

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the above.

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

VDLR/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, U.S. Representative
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Ms. Kate Scherer