



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

March 15, 2018

Chairman Joseph Lhota
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Commissioner Polly Trottenberg
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: L Train Canarsie Tunnel Closure

Dear Chairman Lhota and Commissioner Trottenberg,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank you for your joint presentation on coordinated plans for provisional service and traffic mitigation during the shutdown of the L Train Canarsie Tunnel in 2019. We appreciated the presentation on ridership data analysis and we thank the presenters for their detailed explanations about swipe data collection, methodology, and past successes with modeling projected ridership.

The complexity of this challenge is hard to overstate. The residents of West 15th, 16th, and 17th Streets have raised serious concerns about re-routed traffic resultant of the 14th Street closure, which your data estimates as a 30% increase. We ask that you evaluate reversing the direction of traffic on these streets between Sixth to Seventh Avenues and between Eighth to Ninth Avenues to prevent these narrow, largely residential streets from being used as thru streets.

In addition, MCB4, at its March 7th Full Board meeting, voted with 34 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote on the following comments:

Provisional Transit Service

- We recommend off-board fare collection for both local and express buses on the 14th Street route in order to prevent delays.

- We would prefer that zero-or-low-emission buses were deployed on this high-volume corridor
- The pedestrian tunnel between Sixth and Eighth Avenues should be reopened to mitigate surface level crowding.

Surface Impacts

- On 14th Street, we are pleased to see a shared lane designated for emergency vehicles, local deliveries, cars using garages, and Access-A-Ride vehicles.
- We are pleased to note the implementation of an HOV +3 lane on the Williamsburg Bridge. We support 24-hour, permanent HOV +3 lanes on all East River bridges.

Trucks

The closure of 14th Street to thru traffic will aggravate a problem already at hand: a substantial increase in street non-local truck usage and construction trucks using local streets rather than truck routes. Please see attached letters from 2013 and 2014 on this matter. We will address enforcement issues to the NYPD but would like NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure clear designation of truck route detours, and coordination in the enforcement effort.

Bicycles

We recommend coordination with Motivate to ensure that enough Citibikes and docks are available to meet increased demand, with valet stations and rebalancing programs deployed as necessary.

Construction Permits

Residents raised concerns about the potential negative impact of construction sheds on 14th Street. We recommend the DOT coordinate with the Department of Buildings to minimize the approval of permits for sidewalk sheds and construction lanes during the shutdown and consider declaring a construction embargo on the 14th Street corridor.

Ferry Service

We recommend the addition of ferry routes to Pier 57.

Looking Ahead

We request that upgrades for ADA-compliant accessibility to the 14th Street/Sixth Avenue station of the B/D/F/M lines be made during the shutdown.

MCB4 thanks the MTA and DOT for their presentation and we look forward to further discussions on improving mitigation plans for the planned L Train Canarsie Tunnel Shutdown.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

CC: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblyman
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assemblywoman
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Enclosure