



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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BURT LAZARIN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

October 5, 2018

Vikki Barbero
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 5
450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109
New York, NY 10123

Re: Intercity Bus Stop for Carl R. Bieber Inc.

Dear Vikki:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like Manhattan Community Board 5 (CB5) to be aware of a number of serious concerns related to the application by Carl R. Bieber Inc. (Carl Bieber) for an inter-city bus stop for drop-offs and pick-ups on the east side of Eighth Avenue between West 38th and West 39th Streets (in front of 590 Eighth Avenue). CB4 recognizes the proposed stop is not located in CD4, however it would have major negative impacts on the traffic and safety in both districts.

As proposed, there would be 24 pick-ups/ drop-offs per day, from 8:00 AM to 10:45 PM, Monday through Friday. The buses would travel from New York City to Hellertown, Wescosville, Kutztown, and Reading, Pennsylvania.

This stretch of Eighth Avenue, one block away from the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) is a major bottleneck, due to the fact that there are only three moving lanes instead of four (one parking lane and a moving lane are reserved to taxis from West 39th to West 42nd Streets).

Here are additional reasons for CB4's opposition. These were voted at our October 3rd Full Board meeting by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote:

- Until August 2018, Carl Bieber was operating inside the PABT and CB4 questions what caused them to cancel their gates. CB4 believes it is bad policy to facilitate the move of bus companies' operations from the PABT to a curbside location in close proximity to the terminal, since it worsens traffic congestion, safety, air quality and quality of life for

nearby residents and businesses. What will be the impact if additional bus companies in the PABT ask for curbside terminal instead, within one block from the Port Authority Bus Terminal? As a new bus terminal is being planned for, moving operations out of the terminal to the curb goes counter to the objectives of the community and of the project.

- The stop is located in an MTA bus stop. NYC Transit is working on a plan to improve local bus service in the city; thus installing long distance bus stops in MTA bus stops defeats this goal. It is our experience that Intercity buses take up to 15 minutes to load and unload and usually layover in the space until the next departure/arrival. MTA customers will have to get on and off the MTA bus in the second lane, an unacceptable situation for disabled users who need ramp access at this very important connection. This will also cause additional congestion leaving only two lanes of traffic for other vehicles.
- The stop is located at a curb, adjacent to an excessively crowded and very narrow sidewalk with an MTA grate. Any queue of bus customers will cause pedestrians to walk in the street with the traffic, at peak hours.
- In order to reach or leave the stop, each bus will have to cross three lanes of traffic and a bike lane on Eighth Avenue, competing with thousands of pedestrians and bicyclists. Because of the existing gridlock and their large size, these vehicles will spill over in the bike lanes and the intersections and put pedestrians and bicyclists in danger.
- Instead of using the ramps to reach their gates, buses will use West 38th and West 39th Streets, which are already extremely congested in the mornings and afternoons respectively, with Lincoln Tunnel-bound traffic. West 39th Street has a non-protected bike lane and a Citibike docking station; the buses will have to compete with the cyclists and with the loading and unloading for six hotels on that block. This is a recipe for disaster for the cyclists, much worse than 26th Street, where a Citibike rider was killed last year.

For these reasons CB4 would not approve a permit for this location and asks CB5 to take this recommendation under consideration.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Committee