



Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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July 31, 2018

Edward Pincar, Jr.
Acting Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10037

Re: Eighth Avenue Bike Lane – 56th Street to Columbus Circle

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) supports by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote, the extension of the Eighth Avenue protected bike lane from 56th Street to 59th Street and around Columbus Circle, subject to a few improvements in safety:

- Adjust the signal timing on all of Eighth Avenue to comply with the 25mph speed limit during day and night
- On the eastern side of the circle extend the green ribbon of the bike lane to the intersection with Central Park South and add flexible bollards to protect it from turning vehicles
- Install flexible bollards along all the Columbus Circle segments of the bike lane to make it really protected and signal to cars its boundaries.

The bike lane will be located on the west side of Eighth Avenue. It will be parking protected and pedestrian refuges will include concrete islands and trees. In particular, the intersection of 57th Street and Eighth Avenue will be equipped with a split phase signal, a feature that will markedly improve safety for both pedestrians and bicyclists. We had requested such a change for many years and are delighted that it is included.

On Columbus Circle the protected lane will hug the round garden in the inner circle, and allow connections with the avenues by lanes painted alongside the existing signalized pedestrian crossings that connect the outer ring to the Columbus Statue in the middle. On the east side, an outer ring lane will allow the connection from Central Park South to the Central Park West bike lane.

The numerous speakers also suggested that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) evaluate the following for the future:

- Install a segment of bike lane on the outer ring on the west side of the circle to provide connectivity to cyclists riding southbound from Broadway;
- Install stumps of bike lane on all avenues that start or end at the circle to establish more clearly the presence of bicyclists;
- Convert the eastbound left turn signal at 57th Street and Eighth Avenue to a trailing green signal to improve safety.

With our requested improvements, this installation will bring much safety to an area, which was dangerous for both pedestrians and bicyclists and will give families in our neighborhood a safer access to Central Park.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: Colleen Chattergoon, NYC DOT