



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

August 2, 2018

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

Re: Eighth Avenue from 35th to 47th Streets

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

At its July 25th Full Board meeting and with a vote of 29 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) requests that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) undertake, without delay, the redesign of the west side of Eighth Avenue from 35th to 47th Streets, where the lack of pedestrian space is resulting in dangerous conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

On May 14th, during afternoon rush hour, a cyclist named Gregg Baker was using the Eighth Avenue bicycle lane. As he passed the crowded area north of the Port Authority Bus Terminal, a pedestrian walking south in the bike lane knocked Mr. Baker off his bike, resulting in injuries that required hospitalization. This incident occurred between West 45th and West 46th Streets, despite the fact that Mr. Baker was fully compliant and proceeding with caution, biking slowly and ringing his bell. The assailant was not pursued by NYPD.

In 2011, MCB4 supported the bike lane installation subject to certain features being incorporated in the project, including the widening of the sidewalks from 34th to 48th Streets. MCB4 warned DOT that a protected bike lane would entice more pedestrians to use it and thus would result in more bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.¹

In a letter dated August 8, 2016², on the occasion of a pedestrian fatality on Eighth Avenue at West 38th Street, we urged the DOT to undertake a study of a section of Eighth Avenue with an

¹<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/Resolutions/october%202011/12%20Trans%20Letter%20to%20DOT%20re%208th%20&%209th%20Ave%20Bike%20Lane%20Extension.pdf>

² [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/archives/july-august/30 trans letter to dot re fatality at 38th st and 8th ave.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/archives/july-august/30%20trans%20letter%20to%20dot%20re%20fatality%20at%2038th%20st%20and%208th%20ave.pdf)

eye towards improving pedestrian safety. In a subsequent letter dated November 14, 2017³, we requested a pedestrian congestion and sidewalk capacity study to include the section of Eighth Avenue from 34th to 57th Streets.

The record of injuries and fatalities along this corridor demonstrates that safety improvements are urgently needed. We urge the DOT to consider measures including but not limited to an enlargement of sidewalks by 60% in congested sections and the physical separation of bike lanes from both pedestrians and vehicles with planters and bollards, such as is in place on the block between 42nd and 43rd Streets.

Pedestrian congestion in this corridor is readily observed and persistent, and is only projected to worsen. We need to take measures that will alleviate the conflicts that led to this recent unfortunate incident.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council Speaker
Ed Pincar, Acting Manhattan Borough Commissioner, DOT
Colleen Chatergoon, DOT
Thomas Chan, NYPD