



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

March 10, 2020

Ed Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10037

Re: Dangerous Intersections on West 23rd Street

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) has received complaints from Chelsea Block Associations related to the crossings of Tenth and Eleventh Avenues at West 23rd Street. At its March 4th Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted to support their request for signal improvements that will better protect pedestrians in the crosswalks by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote.

At West 23rd Street and Tenth Avenue, there is a split-phase signal with lagging green phase installed on the eastbound West 23rd Street, for vehicles turning north on Tenth Avenue. However, during the phase where there is no green arrow, vehicles frequently turn north and conflict with pedestrians. Many parents and children travel through this intersection, close to a large school and on the way to a park. We ask that the signal be converted to an exclusive split phase, with a red arrow to prevent vehicles from turning ahead of their designated time.

At West 23rd Street and Eleventh Avenue, a 7 second Lead Pedestrian Interval (LPI) gives a head start to pedestrians on the north crossing of Eleventh Avenue. This crossing is used by many families and children to access the recently reopened Chelsea Waterside Park. With slow moving children, the 7 seconds is inadequate to protect pedestrians who cross west to east and conflict with the cars turning north from West 23rd Street. We request that you install a split LPI signal on West 23rd Street for the northbound turn, with a red arrow for seven seconds and then a blinking yellow arrow to indicate to drivers that they do not have the priority and must slow down.

We appreciate your attention on these safety matters.


Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee