



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

August 3, 2020

Ed Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: 14th Street Traffic Mitigation

Dear Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), at its July 22nd Full Board meeting, by a vote of 46 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, requested that key traffic mitigation measures we have requested for months be implemented without further delay to coincide with the announcement that study of the busway on West 14th Street is completed and the installation permanent. We are disappointed that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) has not honored its commitment to our communities to implement these measures as warranted by the study and the survey of residents.

We note that some adjustments were made early on to improve the busway and mitigate impacts on adjacent streets, though not in our district.

The first two installments of the study (pre-COVID-19) showed that bus operation and ridership have significantly improved on 14th Street, and the corridor is much safer for pedestrians. They also showed that travel times on West 15th Street increased up to 23%; on West 17th Street they increased by 10%. Volumes on West 15th Street increased by 20% during peak hours in the most recent measurement. While these figures are better than DOT's predictions, they are averages for entire street lengths. We had requested measurements for the blocks within our district, but never received them. Certain friction points remain in our district that must be addressed.

The mitigation measures we previously requested are still necessary:

- The Sixth Avenue turn onto West 15th Street is dangerous. In August 2019, a driver hit two pedestrians in the western West 15th Street crosswalk, resulting in one death and one

injury. MCB4 has already requested a split phase at this intersection. With more traffic turning, we request that a fully protected signal be installed.

- On West 15th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, there is honking, more buses, and more trucks than usual. Signage and enforcement for honking, trucks, and buses would be beneficial. We suggest that cameras be installed to enforce the rules.
- On West 16th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, increased AM weekday congestion seems to be caused by cars turning onto Sixth Avenue and blocking the single lane of traffic. MCB4 had requested a turn lane at that location with a split LPI; we are asking that DOT install it as soon as possible.
- On West 16th Street, there are more trucks than usual. Signage and enforcement for trucks would be beneficial. We suggest that cameras be installed to enforce the rules.
- The intersection of Seventh Avenue and West 16th Street is often gridlocked. We suggest that the signal green time on Seventh Avenue be reduced, without adding to the green time on West 16th Street.

Implementing these changes is more necessary than ever, since the busway is permanent and the vehicular traffic loads will likely return to prior levels as the city reopens.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee