



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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www.mcb4.nyc

LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 16, 2020

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

Re: Installation of Bike Safety Measures on West 45th Street and 8th Avenue (Split LPI)

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) has heard from yet another cyclist who was hurt in a crash involving a truck making a westbound turn at West 45th Street and Eighth Avenue. In 2020, there have been 91 cyclist injuries in our district, which is 91 too many. We know you care about safety. At its November 4th Full Board meeting by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, MCB4 requests that a split LPI¹ signal be installed at this intersection to prevent any future injuries or fatalities.

This intersection sees a large volume of turning movements, especially since left turns have been barred at West 42nd Street. The West 45th Street intersection is currently equipped with a turning offset, which forces vehicles to slow down before making a sharp westbound turn and crossing the bike lane. The bike lane markings continue through the intersection to indicate the presence of bikes.

Currently, an outdoor dining corral at the southwest corner of the intersection, adjacent to the pedestrian crossing, obscures the sightline between drivers and cyclists. This installation is too close to the corner and does not respect the Department of Transportation guidelines for such an installation. We ask that your current guidelines be enforced and that permanent guidelines increase the sightline requirements for turning movements.

¹ A split LPI is a traffic signal for tuning vehicles at an intersection. It shows a red turn arrow for 7-10 seconds and then a blinking yellow turn arrow for the balance of the cycle, while the thru traffic has a fixed green light.

It is evident that the split phase LPI is the only tool that explicitly conveys to all road users that drivers do not have the priority. The blinking yellow arrow signals approaching drivers to exercise caution, expect obstacles, and prepare to stop when turning. It also compels other vehicles in the turning queue to slow down, thus eliminating honking and back pressure. The injured cyclist expressed this sentiment and proposed this very remedy. We urge you to install a split LPI at this intersection as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee