



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

P.O. Box 2622, New York, NY 10108
www.mcb4.nyc

LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

January 12, 2021

Hon. Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Jessica Tisch
Commissioner
Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications
2 Metro Tech Center, 5th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Links Relocation Sites on Tenth Avenue

Dear Borough President Brewer and Commissioner Tisch,

Manhattan Community Board 4, (MCB4) at its January 6th Full Board meeting, voted by 40 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to recommend that the following sites be removed from the list of potential Links relocations, and not be considered for the relocation of the Eighth Avenue Links (based on your November 13, 2019 letter)

- o Tenth Avenue – Westside (16th St-17th St.): from the middle of the block to 25ft from corner
- o Tenth Avenue – Westside (20th St-21st St.): from the middle of the block to 25ft from corner
- o Tenth Avenue – Westside (22nd St-23rd St.): from the middle of the block to 25ft from corner
- o Tenth Avenue – Westside (14th St-15th St.): from the middle of the block to 25ft from corner

MCB4 continues to request that the problematic link installations on Eighth Avenue be removed to restore safety on these blocks (see our letter dated November 13, 2019)¹.

In 2015, while the new DOITT contract was being renegotiated, we proposed a significant

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/05-TRANS-Letter-to-DOITT-re-Removal-of-Links-on-8th-Ave-w.-attachments.pdf>

reduction in the number of phone booths on avenues which were oversaturated. It was requested that we provide relocation sites. We proposed installations in the remainder of the district in order to establish a high-speed Wi-fi network and bring valuable services to the public in the underserved areas of the district.

Since then, much has changed in our City life and in our understanding of the value of the links.

In many areas, the Links have turned out to be a magnet for loitering, drug dealing, public harassment and unwanted gatherings. We worked for months on the Eighth Avenue and 40th Street installation. The NYPD indicated that the Links installed further south on Eighth Avenue were also problematic.

With COVID, small businesses on Tenth Avenue are fighting for their survival, using the sidewalk as a safe extension of their business. Residents complained that NYPD is rarely available to address petty crime and quality of life complaints. Break-ins and intoxication are common instances.

In view of these drastically different circumstances, we recommend that these sites be removed from the list of potential relocations, and not be considered for the relocation of the Eighth Avenue Links planned for in your November 13 letter.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Congress
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senate
Hon. Richard Gottfried, New York State Assembly
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council