



Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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April 16, 2021

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 150 Greenwich Street, 22nd Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Re: Toll Gantries in Manhattan Community Board 4

Dear Director Cotton,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) reviewed the Port Authority (PA) plans to locate its new gantries for cashless tolls on the New York side of the Lincoln Tunnel in Manhattan Community District 4. The toll collection gantries will be located at Lincoln Tunnel Exit Plaza (a sunken area on the western side of the block between 38th - 39th Streets, Ninth – Tenth Aves) By a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, MCB4 supports the project provided certain improvements are made to the area adjacent to the project site as well as construction protocols are adopted. The project will last a year.

The Lincoln Tunnel tolling system is currently located in New Jersey on a very wide plaza where many flows of traffic commingle to enter the three tubes. We understand that the new gantries work best when the traffic is in straight lines with few merging movements. The immanent replacement project of the Helix (the wide-curving ramp bringing the traffic from I-495 to the tunnel level) precludes the near-term installation of gantries on the New Jersey side. Additionally, the pile-driving work required to support gantries would potentially interfere with existing underground infrastructure.

None of these issues are present on the New York side, nor will the proposed location interfere with the proposed green spaces that are part of the Port Authority replacement project.

MCB4 requests that a “green screen” be installed on the West 38th Street sidewalk adjacent to the perimeter wall that will support the gantries. This will shield the residents from this imposing additional infrastructure, contribute to improving the air quality, and help reduce the tunnel and construction noise for the residents of the large building facing West 38th Street. This green

screen would take the form of trees planted in a continuous tree pit from Tenth Avenue to where the wall ends in the middle of the block. We are pleased to hear that the Port Authority has already started evaluating to investigate the feasibility of such plantings.

During the project, Port Authority will minimize, but not completely eliminate, overnight work. We ask that a resident mailing list be created to disseminate a newsletter with advance notification regarding the construction activities and noise, including a 24-hour contact phone number and email address. This approach has been successful for other large projects in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee