



Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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May 13, 2021

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

Re: Permanently Closing Ninth Avenue Slip Lane (W. 14/W. 15)

Dear Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its May 5th Full Board meeting, by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible¹ voted to wholeheartedly support the Meatpacking Business Improvement District (BID)'s plan to close permanently the Ninth Avenue slip lane on the west side of the avenue between West 14th and West 15th Streets and convert it to a plaza. We urge the Department of Transportation (DOT) to take this opportunity to bring long overdue safety improvements to the adjacent blocks.

MCB4 is on record for opposing the creation of the slip lane because it significantly reduced the size of the plaza. Metropolitan Lumber, located at the south-west corner of West 15th Street and Ninth Avenue, had been the reason the slip lane was created. Now that this business is closed and has been replaced with an office building, the slip lane should be closed, and the natural expansion of the plaza restored. We recommend undertaking an impact study on traffic loads on Ninth Avenue to be ready with any needed mitigation. Signage for routes to the West Side Highway and Washington Streets should be provided.

At the same time, we ask the DOT to install long overdue safety features:

- There is a dangerous gap in the Ninth Avenue protected bike lane between West 16th and West 14th Streets, where cyclists mingle with traffic with no protection. MCB4 is on record for asking for this gap to be closed.
- The intersection of Ninth Avenue and West 14th Street has a significant amount of open roadway. The vehicles coming down Ninth Avenue and turning east conflict with

¹ Board Member Jeffrey LeFrancois is the Executive Director of the Meatpacking District BID and was counted as Present but not Eligible to Vote.

pedestrians who have to cross a vast expanse of road. The vehicles going west on West 14th Street and turning south conflict with pedestrians crossing Hudson Street. Turning lanes and split phase signals should be installed at this intersection to protect pedestrians.

- Trucks have been observed speeding on West 15th Street. We request that measures are taken to slow their speed.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Jeffrey LeFrancois, Executive Director, Meatpacking District
Evan Sweet, Operations & Economic Development Manager, Meatpacking District