



LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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June 8, 2021

Henry Gutman
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: Fatality at West 42nd Street and Eleventh Avenue

Dear Commissioner Gutman,

Once again Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is mourning the loss of a resident, who was killed at Eleventh Avenue and 42nd Street, in a very residential portion of our district. This area has numerous high rises, families, and a playground but it is also a major point of entry to the Lincoln Tunnel, with vehicles coming from the north, east and west and conflicting with residents crossing the streets.

The first information we received from NYPD indicates that this fatality happened while a truck was backing up. Nevertheless, this intersection is deadly, with one person killed and 12 injured in the last five years and 2019 being one of the most dangerous years to date. Although your teams have brought many improvements to this area over the years and made it significantly better, those improvements were not completed as they did not include the installation of exclusive split phase signals to deliver full protection to pedestrians.

As indicated in our letter of January 2020¹ and voted on during MCB4's June 2nd Full Board meeting by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, exclusive split phase signals are needed at

- Westbound West 42nd Street southbound turn onto Eleventh Avenue (There is a green arrow, but the red arrow is missing)
- Eastbound West 42nd Street southbound turn onto Eleventh Avenue (Lincoln Tunnel access)

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/02/02-TRANS-Letter-to-DOT-re-Dangerous-Intersections.pdf>

We have also suggested that the exit from the Henry Hudson Highway to access the Lincoln Tunnel, could be relocated from West 42nd Street to the West 44th Street exit. The traffic would then merge into the Lincoln Tunnel bound traffic on Eleventh Avenue South to access the Tunnel. This would reduce tunnel merging from two locations instead of three today and would make it much more manageable for the NYPD officer posted there.

We appreciate your attention to this intersection to prevent another crash from happening.

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. Robert Jackson, NYS Senator
Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, NYS Assemblymember
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker
Ed Pincar, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC DOT
Jee Mee Kim, NYC DOT
Rick Cotton, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey