



Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West West 33 Street, Suite #580
New York, NY 10001

tel: 212-736-4536

www.nyc.gov/mcb4

August 5, 2021

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

Re: Cargo Corral Pilot Program at West 25th Street (7/8)

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) thanks you for the presentation of the Commercial Cargo Bicycle Pilot Program's forthcoming location on West 25th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. We are generally favorable to the proposal, as we believe it will help to organize the thousands of daily local and "last-mile" deliveries in our district which are being completed via cargo bike.

At its July 28th Full Board meeting, MCB4 voted by 35 in favor of the proposal, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote but we would like to register the following requests:

- The pilot as proposed appears too small for existing capacity, to say nothing of projected future capacity. We recommend enlarging it as much as possible on this site. We understand that you are coordinating with other agencies/stakeholders on the street, such as the NYPD Traffic Enforcement and block residents, and encourage you to do so in assessing the optimal length of the corral at this location.
- At the moment, stores do not sign a contract or take over the maintenance of loading zones in the roadway. While it seems to make sense for Amazon, DHL, and UPS, among others, to sign a maintenance contract for these loading areas, this is a slippery slope towards privatization of the curb space and there are unintended consequences to such contracts. Will other cargo users be barred from using the loading zone? As we have seen with other programs, requiring liability insurance of maintenance partners tends to slow down the roll-out and limit participation to private entities, leaving out smaller stores, community

organizations and other stakeholders. We hope to avoid this unintended consequence with the Cargo Corral program.

- We are eager to see this pilot operational in our district but are also looking forward to an eventual monetization of the program, so that there is an equitable revenue stream from commercial users of our streets. In light of the positive environmental impact of cargo bike usage over trucks, we would encourage a green offset in the charges for bike corral vs. truck parking.

We look forward to the roll-out of the Cargo Bike Corral Pilot Program in our district and seeing how our requests can be implemented.

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. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, NYC Council