



**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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February 24, 2022

Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York NY, 10041

Edward Pincar Jr.  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Hon. Erik Bottcher  
City Council  
224 West 30th Street Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Re: Cyclist Fatality on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez, Borough Commissioner Pincar, Council Member Bottcher,

After the tragic death of yet another cyclist on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) requests that the recently installed protected bike lane on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue be extended from W38th to W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. The section from W38th to W30th should be extended immediately, traffic signal time reduced and traffic medians installed to calm the two way traffic.<sup>1</sup>

Our neighbor Kwok Kwan, 66, who lived on West 56<sup>th</sup> Street, was cycling on his e-bike on 11th Avenue near 37th Street at around 11 a.m. on January 16. He was doored by a taxi passenger

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the severity of the issue, this letter was unanimously recommended for approval by the Executive Committee on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and subsequently delivered. The letter is subject to ratification at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Full Board.

who opened the door in the moving lane without taking precautions required by law.<sup>2</sup> M. Kwan died of his injuries on February 11. Neither the driver nor his passenger was summonsed.

This area is notoriously dangerous. In 2016, a visitor was killed while crossing 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at W37th Street, in the crossing with the walk signal. The safety enhancement we requested was not installed. In 2019, a cyclist was killed on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at W30th Street. In the last five years, there were 12 injuries at the intersection of W34th Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, an intersection amongst many that MCB4 has flagged two years ago as needing more safety. The 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue protected bike lane that was just extended terminates at W38th Street where it connects with the crosstown bike lane.

DOT has implemented many safety projects in our neighborhoods, and we are very grateful for that. We note that the Western Rail Yard construction on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue may not happen for another 10 years. We cannot sit idly while our neighbors and visitors lose their lives because of antiquated road design.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance  
Hon. Jerry Nadler, U.S. Congressman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate  
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYS Senate  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

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<sup>2</sup> New York Consolidated Laws, VAT - Vehicle & Traffic, Title 7 - RULES OF THE ROAD , Article 33 - (1210 - 1229-D) MISCELLANEOUS RULES, 1214 - Opening and closing vehicle doors.: No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic