

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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

tel: 212-736-4536
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

April 19, 2022

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

Re: Eleventh Avenue Congestion at 42nd Street

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its April 6th Full Board meeting voted 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to request that the Department of Transportation (DOT) study the feasibility of reorganizing the traffic flows at Eleventh Avenue and West 42nd Street to improve pedestrian safety, improve M42 bus travel time and facilitate the Eleventh Avenue flow of tunnel bound traffic going south.

With thousands of new residences on the block, this intersection is dangerous and overcrowded. Vehicles are coming from three directions to enter the Lincoln Tunnel which is frequently backed up. As a result, the eastbound vehicles on West 42nd Street block the bus lane and the intersection, and pedestrians crossing on the south of West 42nd Street are at high risks.

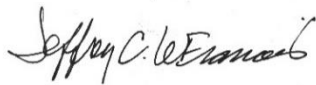
During a visit organized by the office of the previous Council Member, with PANYNJ and NYPD in attendance, it was suggested that the sign located on the West Side Highway directing traffic to the Lincoln Tunnel be relocated from West 42nd to West 34th Street. There, drivers would travel east on West 34th Street, turn north on Eleventh Avenue and enter the Tunnel by the existing access on West 40th Street. Access to the Tunnel from the west side of West 42nd Street would be prohibited.

This would reduce pedestrian conflicts, eliminate obstructions of bus lane and speed up traffic on Eleventh Avenue.

We also request that you study the feasibility of reducing the amount of green time for the southbound traffic signals on Eleventh Avenue at West 42nd Street. With Lincoln Tunnel chronically backed up, more green time only causes more gridlock. Finally installing a south turn red arrow on the westbound lane would provide much needed protection to pedestrians.

MCB4 appreciate your help in continuing to adjust these dangerous and complex intersections.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Kevin J. O'Toole, Chairman, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey