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CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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August 9, 2022

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

Re: Eighth Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (34th - 51st Streets)

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Thank you for the presentation at our July Transportation Planning Committee meeting about the planned pedestrian improvements for the Eighth Avenue Corridor. Overall, we are pleased with the proposed painted pedestrian sidewalk extension along the west curb, the introduction of left turn lanes with lead pedestrian interval (LPI) signals, offset crossings, protections for cyclists in the bike lane, and commensurate parking regulation changes. To avoid a long duration between breaking ground and substantial completion along such a large portion of a vital arterial, we request that the work be substantially completed in 2-block segments. MCB4 at its July 27th Full Board meeting by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, included the following additional concerns about conditions during implementation:

- The ongoing work and staging areas of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC)/Con Edison between 32nd-34th Streets creates obstacles for cyclists. Please assure that those entities are taking all appropriate measures to maintain safe conditions.
- The extensive use of steel plating creates slippery conditions for cyclists. We request that nonslip coatings be applied.
- Temporary markings of bike lanes have been unclear and inconsistent.
- Immediate deployment of plastic jersey barriers as bike lane protection.
- We want to avoid non-compliance of operators of restaurant sheds within the work area to cause delays as we have seen on Ninth Avenue with the DDC. We were pleased to learn that the process of notifying the operators has begun; please take all steps to ensure the sheds' timely removal.

On the proposed improvements, MCB4 has the following requests/comments:

Throughout the corridor:

- Robust vertical protection for cyclists in the bike lane.
- Partner with BIDs to install planters along the sidewalk extension.
- Move street furniture, such as bike corrals, into the roadway where appropriate.
- Reserve the sidewalk extension for pedestrian use. It is not to be occupied by restaurant sheds.

38th - 39th Streets:

- In light of the presence of a hotel on this block, we request that the parking lane regulation be changed to a Hotel Loading Zone.

42nd - 43rd Streets:

- We appreciate the effort to enlarge the bulb-outs at 42nd and 43rd Streets. As this is one of our most heavily trafficked sidewalks, we request that the entire painted pedestrian sidewalk extension be widened to meet the 19' measure.
- A split-phase signal at West 43rd Street.

46th Street:

- There are existing pedestrian refuges (with trees) between the existing bike lane and the travel lane. Perhaps they can be enlarged.

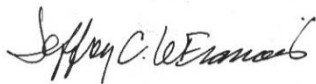
46th - 48th Streets:

- We request that the parking lane regulation be change to Truck Loading Only. On 46th - 47th Street there are two hotels (the Riu and the Econo Lodge), so we request a Hotel Loading Zone.

Also please consider extending this treatment from 51st - 59th Streets in the future.

We are pleased that the increased allocation of our roadway space to pedestrian and cyclist usage gets us closer to actual use patterns. With that said, we look forward to a capital project which permanently enlarges both east and west sidewalks along Eighth Avenue.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee