

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 25, 2022

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

Re: Redesign of 11th Avenue

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) appreciates being consulted by the Department of Transportation for the high-level design of 11th Avenue from West 22nd Street to West 34th Street. This project will be the third phase of redesign of 11th Avenue (in 2015 from West 42nd Street to West 58th Street, and then from West 38th to West 42nd Street).

By a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, MCB4 supports the recommended design below West 34th Street of three southbound moving lanes including a potential bus lane, and one parking-protected bike lane. The other designs presented (two-way bike lanes or planted median) were inconsistent with our goal of installing a bus lane on that stretch.

We urge DOT to incorporate the following recommendations before returning to MCB4 with a more advanced design of the balance of 11th Avenue.

- The missing bike lane between West 34th and West 43rd Street must be completed first, or at the same time
- Similar to the treatment north of West 42nd Street, all pedestrian and bus islands should be completed in concrete
- Similar to the treatment north of West 38th Street, the whole length of the bike lane should be protected with robust vertical separations and entrances from the north should be obstructed for cars.
- Connectivity to Hudson River Park should be provided in a safe manner at the intersections with existing and future bike lanes.

- The bike lane should be installed one foot off the curb and be as wide as possible, by narrowing the buffer (the vertical separation would address dooring).
- There should be at least one bike corral installed on each block's parking lane
- The bike lane should be completed in small increments of 2 to 3 blocks to prevent dangerous conditions along long stretches of the avenue – as we are currently experiencing on 8th, 9th, and 11th Avenues.

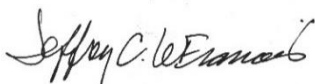
We were pleased to also hear that traffic flow on 11th Avenue, West 40th Street, and on the West Side Highway is being modified as follows: West 40th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues will be reserved for MTA bus and the current two-way bike lane. Signs on the highway will direct Lincoln Tunnel-bound cars to the 30th Street Expressway and trucks to West 34th Street. The bike lane on 11th Avenue from West 41st to West 43rd Streets is being upgraded.

The volume of Lincoln Tunnel traffic on both 9th and 11th Avenues is worse than ever. On 11th Avenue this results in cars and trucks systematically using the bike lane as a shortcut. We ask you to evaluate the following measures to mitigate the situation:

- As previously requested, based on residents' complaints, Lincoln Tunnel-bound cars should be diverted from West 42nd Street where they overtake a dedicated bus lane, slow down the 11th Avenue northbound and southbound vehicular queues and make the intersection with 11th Avenue chaotic and unsafe for pedestrians. NYPD personnel has the impossible task to protect pedestrians and coordinate four conflicting flows going to the Tunnel. Instead, cars coming from the West Side Highway should be channeled to 11th Avenue further north.
- Progressively reduce the green time on the Avenue (without increasing the cross streets green time) so that less traffic is allowed to accumulate in intersections between West 42nd and West 47th Streets.
- Install gridlock cameras at all intersections.
- Consider extending to the northern blocks the hard separation between Lincoln Tunnel lanes and the through lanes. There is a bus line along the corridor that is effectively shut down multiple hours of the day.
- Install a robust vertical separation between cars and bike lanes on the length of the Avenue and obstruct car access to the bike lane from the north using armadillos.

We appreciate your continued partnership with our community.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Cc: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Rick Cotton, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, NYS DOT