

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

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**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

February 13, 2023

Rick Cotton  
Executive Director  
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ)  
4 World Trade Center  
150 Greenwich Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10006

**Re: Impacts Mitigation for Holland Tunnel Closure**

Dear Director Cotton,

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) presented their plan to close the Holland Tunnel at night for two years to repair damage caused in 2015 by Hurricane Sandy in the westbound tube at MCB4's January Transportation Planning Committee meeting.

MCB4 voted by 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to request that additional measures be implemented to alleviate the negative impacts on our residential neighborhoods which are extremely burdened by New Jersey bound traffic. We request that the PANYNJ:

- Add certain hours and days to the schedule of additional westbound lanes in the tunnel.
- Encourage other alternate routes and use of public transit.
- Seriously explore the opportunity to close the Holland Tunnel during daytime non-peak hours in order to expedite the work and reduce the impacts on our residential community.
- Get back to us with a plan for the coordination with the platform construction over Dyer Avenue which is to start this year and will require closing some Lincoln Tunnel tubes.

Starting on February 5, 2023, for the next 30 months, the westbound Holland Tunnel will be closed overnight for repairs. In the late evening, from 11:00 PM. to 1:00 AM, approximately 1200-1600 vehicles per hour will be redirected to other crossings, with Lincoln Tunnel the most probable alternate route.

The proposed mitigations are as follow:

- Friday night: 12:00 AM. to 1:00 AM increase westbound lanes access to four from two currently.
- Saturday night: no closure
- Sunday night: 11:00 PM to 12:00 AM increase westbound lanes access to three from two currently.
- Adjustments for holidays and events: for example, there would be no closure on the first Friday of the New York Auto Show (April 7-16, 2023 at the Javits Center)
- Contractor will post seven NYPD Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEAs) in our district for the first two weeks of the construction.

We already suffer from bad air quality and persistent honking due to extreme congestion caused by the Lincoln Tunnel. PANYNJ and DOT continue to work to resolve the daily, intractable problem of too many cars in excess of tunnel capacity. This includes weekends and evenings after 11:00 PM.

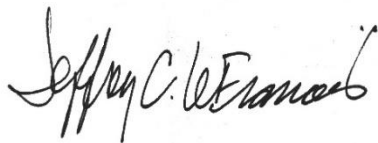
We appreciate that the PANYNJ was responsive to our comments and increased capacity and hours, but we fear the proposed measures will not be adequate. We are especially concerned for upcoming periods of increased congestion (from Spring through Fall, Holiday season).

We are requesting the following adjustments to the plan:

- Friday night: start at the increase in westbound lanes at 11:00 AM.
- Add Thursday night with four westbound lanes.
- Increase the use of TEAs (or Pedestrian Safety officers) to all seasons except winter. Use of TEAs for only two weeks is insufficient. Late evening drivers are not commuters. They do come only occasionally and will not learn the new patterns. In fact, commuters do gridlock every day even though they have been using the same routes for 20 years.
- Install signage to direct traffic to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at West 39<sup>th</sup> Street, and to the West side highway at Sixth Avenue.
- Encourage drivers to use the George Washington Bridge.
- Explore and advertise all possible measures to incite drivers to use mass transportation including but not limited to: Park and Ride system with PATH train, or even reducing fares on PATH and New Jersey Transit.
- Explore the opportunity to close the Holland Tunnel during daytime non-peak hours in order to expedite the work and reduce the impacts on our residential community.

We appreciate PANYNJ's willingness to explore more options and work with our community.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee



Dale Corvino  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning  
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