

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

424 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 580 New York, NY 10001  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

February 13, 2023

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

**Re: Sidewalk Extensions on Ninth Avenue (West 34<sup>th</sup> – West 51<sup>st</sup>)**

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its February 1<sup>st</sup> Full Board meeting, by a vote of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, requests that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) complete its installation of wider sidewalks on the East side of Ninth Avenue from West 34<sup>th</sup> to West 51<sup>st</sup> Streets.

The widening between West 57<sup>th</sup> and West 51<sup>st</sup> Street was just completed and has been extremely popular with pedestrians. The widening between West 30<sup>th</sup> and West 34<sup>th</sup> Streets is underway.

In the last 20 years, pedestrian traffic has significantly increased due to the explosion of trains and bus commuters and the development of Hudson Yards. The section between West 34<sup>th</sup> and West 51<sup>st</sup> Street experiences even more pedestrian traffic due to the proximity to West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Moynihan Station, Midtown West, and Hudson Yards. At the same time numerous restaurants have sidewalk cafes that take a significant portion of the sidewalk capacity.

According to DOT's Pedestrian Mobility Plan<sup>1</sup>, as is appropriate for a regional corridor, Ninth Avenue sidewalks should be 20-ft wide. However, the sidewalks have been shrunk to a total of 12-ft including the trap doors. This is woefully inadequate.

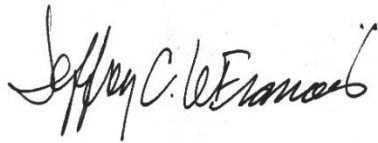
---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/pedestrian-mobility.shtml>

There were 261 injuries in the last five years on this stretch of Ninth Avenue.

We ask that you give a high priority to this project which would bring much needed safety and pedestrian congestion relief to this vibrant corridor.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee



Dale Corvino  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee

Cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate  
Hon. Tony Simone, NYS Assembly  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council  
Hon Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President