



CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

August 2nd, 2023

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

**Re: Improvements to West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street (8/9)**

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its July 26<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting voted, by a vote of 35 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, to support the Department of Transportation (DOT) proposal to install traffic calming measures on West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

In January 2023 MCB4 had requested a study of this block. This design addresses the speeding and safety issues, entrance area, gate and signage improvements, and the need for additional plants and plazas, that were expressed by the community in 2022.

The new design calls for 10 neck downs along the block, to be installed facing each other at approximately 200-ft intervals. Planters, granite blocks and flexible delineators will be positioned on each of them as well as a bike corral on the Eighth Avenue side. A 5MPH speed limit will be posted at the entrance of the block but there will be no barricade. The loading zone will be preserved, and the parking garage entrance will be unobstructed by the newly proposed neck-downs.

Similar designs have been installed at other locations in the city and have not been found to cause traffic impacts in the surrounding community.

MCB4 asks DOT to review the following suggestions and concerns and get back to us before installing the traffic calming features:

- As previously requested, DOT should provide all data gathered as a result of the study, especially concerning the impact of these proposed changes on the east-west traffic on the surrounding blocks before implementing the proposed plan.
- A neighborhood loading zone should be provided to allow pick up and deliveries without blocking the street – already a problem today.
- There is a concern that gatherings on the neck downs would impact residents' quality of life. Could the granite blocks surface be slanted to prevent seating and single “hoop” bike parking installation be added to each of them?
- Some residents are concerned that, where neck downs are facing each other, cars could be competing with bikes for street space. Is there a configuration that could avoid this situation?
- Is there a way to preserve an additional parking space and still achieve the community's traffic calming goals?

We are generally pleased with this design approach and hope you will implement it with our suggestions as planned in Summer-Fall 2023.



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Mark Levin, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council