



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, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Flix Bus stop on West 31st Street (8/9)

Dear Borough Commissioner Pincar:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its July 26th Full Board meeting voted, by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, to requests that the Long-Distance Bus stop recently reassigned to Eastern Coach Inc. (DBA Flix Bus), be relocated due to its continued negative impact on traffic. MCB4 also request changes to address pick up and drop off chaos and pedestrian safety concerns at the intersection of West 31st Street and Eighth Avenue, one of the entrances of Moynihan Station.

In March 2023 MCB4 passed a resolution to deny Flix Bus' request for a bus loading zone at this location¹. DOT granted the stop, because the stop had been in use previously before it was relocated during the construction of Moynihan Station. After the completion of Moynihan Station, a 400-ft taxi zone had been created at the curb and the bus stop is located in the middle of it.

We restate our concerns about the congestion and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists at this location, near the intersection with Eighth Ave. As you can see in the attached photos, because of the bus stop location, taxis, for hire and private vehicles congregate at this entrance on a shortened stretch of curb. Four cars are double-parked there blocking the traffic flow and creating back up on West 31st Street and on the turn lane on Eighth Avenue. This is not an isolated occurrence.

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/03/17-TPC-Letter-to-DOT-PANYNJ-re-Intercity-Bus-Permit-Application-Eastern-Coach-Inc.pdf>

This makes this intersection treacherous to cross on foot or bicycle when the vehicles block up the crosswalk and bicycle lane, and this area by a Moynihan Station entrance is obviously a very busy location. The vehicles park either on the pedestrian expansion or in front of it .

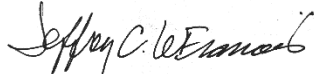
We request that the bus stop be relocated to one of the alternate locations we had proposed in the vicinity.

- North side of Dyer Avenue, close to Ninth Avenue, currently on a Port Authority property occupied by free parking.
- North side of West 33rd Street, close to Ninth Avenue (east side), where MCB4 had already approved a stop which was previously installed.
- West 36th Street and 11th Avenue where FLIX Bus has access to a large bus stop as the result of their merger with Greyhound – former owner of Bolt Bus.

The whole curb should be fully dedicated to service pick up and drop off of station’s passengers. Vehicle drop off and pick up for the train station should be officially moved further west by extending the neck down, clear signage posted and enforced appropriately.

We also request that the neck down, currently painted brown, include elements that effectively restrict vehicle encroachment such as with bollards, large stone blocks, or a built up curb extension to the sidewalk. At present, vehicles are regularly using the brown painted area as a rider drop-off location or as a regular vehicle lane.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet

Co-Chair

Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald

Co-Chair

Transportation Planning Committee

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Mark Levin, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
34th Street Partnership