



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West 33rd Street, Suite 580 New York, NY 10001

tel: 212-736-4536
www.mcb4.nyc

JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

April 22, 2024

Evan Sweet
Director of Neighborhood Planning & Operations
Meatpacking District Management Association
32 Gansevoort Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10014

Re: Update on Western Gateway Vision Project

Thank you for presenting your initiative to improve the pedestrian experience in the Meatpacking District, and for taking the community's suggestions into account towards this shared goal. As we wrote to you in May 2022, we applaud this much-needed initiative to connect the greenway and the waterfront, including Little Island and the rooftop park and food court at Pier 57, to the "pedestrian fabric of the Meatpacking District."

Per your presentation, you intend to implement a design project using temporary materials to place onto the existing cobblestone on 14th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. You intend to extend the curb space with decking, while maintaining two driving lanes and parking for delivery vehicles, comprising over 16,000sf of new pedestrian space. The design includes options for street seating, plantings and tree canopies, commercial kiosks, and sundecks.

We itemized the following suggestions from the committee, which were voted on during Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) April 3rd Full Board meeting, with 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present not eligible:

- One iteration of your proposal included a removable protected two-way bike lane down the center of West 14th Street. We ask that, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, you study this option further, because there are currently very few protected lanes in our district traversing east-west all the way to the Greenway and soon to be installed Tenth Avenue bike lane. Safe connectivity should be provided with Ninth Avenue, Tenth Avenue, and the Greenway.

- Place signage or markings to dissuade private vehicles from parking in the delivery and bus boarding zones.
- Consider how to incorporate public bathrooms and/or kiosks for delivery workers into the design.
- Find additional ways to expand the sidewalk to improve the pedestrian flow.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide guidance on this effort and look forward to working together to implement improvements.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee