



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

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**JESSICA CHAIT**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

August 6, 2024

Mayor Eric Adams  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Commissioner Sue Donoghue  
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation  
830 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

**Re: E-Bikes and E-Scooters in Parks**

Dear Mayor Adams and Commissioner Donoghue,

Currently, e-bikes and e-scooters are not allowed for usage in NYC parks. In the summer of 2023, NYC Parks launched a pilot program allowing e-bikes and e-scooters to operate in public parks' park drives and greenways which is slated through May 31, 2025.

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is very troubled by this pilot program and its seeming invitation for conflict between e-vehicle users and parkgoers. At its July 24<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting by a vote of 34 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstention, and 1 present but not eligible, MCB4 provides the following comments.

Our public parks are unique, universal locations where NYC residents and visitors can escape the busy streets and enjoy the tranquility and peace our green spaces provide. As highlighted on the NYC Parks website, our parks "improve New Yorkers' health and quality of life, providing oases of beauty, recreation, and relaxation." We are concerned allowing high-speed e-vehicles in spaces designated as urban sanctums is counterproductive to the mission and objective of NYC public green spaces and invites potentially harmful situations.

After much advocacy by members of our district and other dedicated constituents, Mayor Bill de Blasio permanently closed Central Park to cars in 2018 returning the park's loop road to walkers, joggers and cyclists, improving safety. To reintroduce fast-moving e-vehicles to our parks and greenways revokes the previous efforts to keep these spaces safer and free from conflict.

MCB4 is also concerned about the potential conflict between bicyclists and e-bike/moped users now expected to share the same space. At our June 13 Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee meeting, several bike users voiced their fear and concern over clashes with e-bike users now speeding amongst them. We also heard from parkgoers with children, pets and older New Yorkers who have been injured by e-bikes or do not feel safe using their green space anymore. Unfortunately, there is no official reporting available for e-bike crashes since it is not currently collected which makes it impossible to track related collision data.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, MCB4 is interested in any further data collection the city has or plans to have regarding this pilot program.

We also encourage enforcement of existing laws and rules which is seemingly nonexistent in our parks during this pilot program. It is not uncommon to encounter e-bikes and e-scooters disregarding traffic signals, driving on park walkways and going at alarmingly high rates of speed, all of which creates a hazardous environment and is antithetical to the Parks' mission.

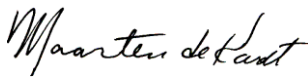
MCB4 also recognizes how the lack of e-micromobility infrastructure contributes to this problem. If there was adequate street space dedicated to e-bike, e-scooters and other forms of green micromobility and there were available travel lanes through park traverses and around parks, this would help eliminate the allurements for e-bikes and e-scooters to live within our green spaces.

We hope NYC Parks recognizes the inherent conflict and safety hazards created by allowing e-bikes and e-scooters in our public park spaces and the importance of preserving our green, city oases and look forward to receiving more information as the pilot program continues.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten deKadt  
Co-chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy  
Co-chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

CC: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member  
Ed Pincar, NYC Department of Transportation

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<sup>1</sup> [Governor Hochul recently signed legislation S.9419/A.7628-A requiring officers investigating an accident with an e-bike or e-scooter that results in death or injury to make a report to the Department of Motor Vehicles, consistent with current requirements for motor vehicles and motorcycles.](#)