



JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

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District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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February 12, 2025

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

Thomas Foley
Commissioner
Department of Design & Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Pedestrian Security Measures 42nd Street (7/8)

Dear Commissioners Pincar and Foley,

At its February 5, 2025 meeting by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) voted in favor of the plan to improve pedestrian security measure on West 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues (the “Sidewalk Expansion Plan”), with certain reservations and suggestions as described in this letter.

MCB4 acknowledges and appreciates the stated goals of this project: easing sidewalk congestion, introducing new and permanent security infrastructure, replacing water mains and sewers, and addressing sustainability measures through envision. However, in its letter dated January 13, 2025 (the “Busway Letter”), MCB4, along with Community Board 5 and Community Board 6, requested that 42nd Street be converted into a busway closed to vehicular through traffic, similar to 14th Street. Per the Busway Letter, we also requested that all of the sidewalks on West 42nd Street would be expanded — akin to your proposal, which is currently limited to only between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

- Accordingly, MCB4 requests that the DOT and DDC consider our requests in the Busway Letter as the priority project for West 42nd Street, to run in addition to or parallel with the Sidewalk Expansion Plan you presented.
- In particular bus stops should be constructed as part of this project with bus boarding bulb outs, bus shelters and benches.

Moreover, MCB4 has the following suggestions/requests for the Sidewalk Expansion Plan:

- Adjust the proposed bollards so they take up less sidewalk space; (relocate closer to curb, or select slimmer bollards)
- Re-consider the current design for the planters, which are unappealing and too bulky
- Break up the long line of bollards with additional planters.
- Find ways to acknowledge the history of the theater district along with sidewalk; and
- Include benches and shelters at the bus stops.

Finally, MCB4 is concerned that the Sidewalk Expansion Plan is slated to take four years for construction in an area already saturated with construction projects over the next decade. Accordingly, MCB4 requests that the DOT and DDC take the following steps:

- Share a traffic mitigation plan with MCB4;
- Coordinate with the Port Authority construction;
- Extend construction work into the daytime; and
- Include Con Edison in the construction schedule, such that they are subject to the same deadlines and penalties for overruns.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Eric Adams, NYC Mayor
NYC Times Square Alliance
Bradley Sherburne, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 5