

Community Construction Task Force – 2/27/2025 Q&A Discussion

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Regarding the red zone on the north—are all the trees being removed?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): We need to set up work zones, but we understand the benefits of trees. We'll follow up internally and get back to you on that issue. **(POST-MEETING UPDATE: Trees will need to be removed on West 38th Street, near 10th Avenue to create the construction zone for the Dyer Avenue Deck Overs. This will be closely coordinated with NYC DOT and other relevant stakeholders. Every effort will be made to replant the trees upon completion of the work.**

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Have you spoken to the fire station?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): Yes, we have open communication with them. They have expressed concerns about emergency vehicle access, and we are actively working with them and NYCDOT to address their questions. **(POST-MEETING UPDATE: We have developed an alternative plan which should address the FDNY's concerns but may require the removal of certain trees on West 38th Street.)**

Brian Webber (*Midtown South Community Council President*): I'd like to understand the security plans for the construction trailer and staging areas. At 39th and 8th Avenue, previous chain-link fencing and netting obstructed sidewalks and led to narcotics activity. Are there preemptive measures to avoid similar issues?

Amanda (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): I'm not sure but will defer to Hersh or Glenn.

Brian Webber (*President, Midtown South Community Council*): This area is a hotspot, so preemptive planning is necessary. Ensure coordination with the 10th Precinct on the 9th Avenue side.

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): We will discuss internally with PAPD first and then with NYPD as necessary for their input.

Brian Webber (*President, Midtown South Community Council*): Much appreciated.

Benjamin Lowenstein (*Assemblyman Simone Office*): Will there be signage or crossing guards for 39th, 37th, and 38th Streets to notify pedestrians of sidewalk closures?

Amanda Rogers (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): Yes, there will be signage.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Is 39th Street fully closed?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): No, let's refer back to the slide. It's not a full street closure.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): There is existing construction on 38th and 37th Streets for a 9th Avenue project that won't be complete by March. How are you coordinating with that project?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): We are familiar with it. Amanda, can you pull up the slide? We've coordinated with DOT to ensure vehicular, pedestrian, and bike lane access while recognizing the ongoing project.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): There's also construction on the west side across from your zone at the corner of 37th Street. Have you coordinated?

Glenn (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): We've had several meetings with NYCDOT to align with adjacent projects. DOT has stress-tested our plans, considering surrounding properties and projects.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): We're concerned that since you're just starting, they may not have all necessary elements in place for 37th Street.

Glenn (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): We've met with the developer and conducted a walkthrough.

Jesse (*Community Board 4 District Manager*): What happens to pedestrians walking west on 39th Street when they reach the sidewalk and lane closures?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): We have detailed plans for each street. We can walk through them to answer your question.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): So, there will be signage?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): Yes, signage is critical. We aim to over-communicate.

Jesse (*Community Board 4 District Manager*): The green area is only for bikes, and the blue is for pedestrians—there won't be a shared path?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): Correct, it will not be a shared path.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): What are the construction hours?

Amanda (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): Contractors typically prefer not to work at night. We'll minimize nighttime lane closures.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): The community prefers work to end by 3 PM. If you can start at 8 AM and finish by 3 PM on weekdays, that would make a big difference.

Glenn (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): Before heavier construction starts, we will conduct property condition surveys in phases. Green-boxed properties have responded to our Right-of-Entry (ROE) letters. We'll follow up with others.

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): If anyone here has contacts with those receiving ROE letters, please encourage them to respond so we can complete inspections.

Glenn (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): Inspections will be visual assessments from the street, with

property owners receiving copies of the engineer's survey.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Can we get a copy of the ROE letter?

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): Yes, we'll include a blank template in the presentation follow-up.

Natasha (*City Hall*): What are the plans for setting up the temporary bike and pedestrian paths?

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): What's the timeline?

Amanda (*PA, Major Capital Projects*): Early March, with construction starting by March 17th. We'll provide advance notice. **(POST-MEETING UPDATE: Work will not begin by March 17. We will provide two weeks advance notice before work begins.)**

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Since you have terminated the lease with NJ bus parking lots, have you considered using NJ bus parking lots?

Kirsten (*PA, Tunnels Bridges and Terminals (TB&T) Division*): All available lots are in use. Some carriers have reached out about spaces and the PA is working to accommodate where feasible. There are some buses parking on city streets illegally in certain areas that are not permitted for bus parking. **(POST-MEETING Update: Bus carriers that currently use the Bus Terminal have been informed that they will not be allowed to park in these locations soon. Non-Bus Terminal buses will be informed via the signage to be installed at the outset of MOT work. We have coordinated with DOT on this as well.)**

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Since the NJ Transit lease was terminated, is there space that can be repurposed?

Kirsten (*PA, TB&T Division*): No, because there will be active work ongoing in those lots. **(POST-MEETING UPDATE: These lots will also be used for materials storage.)**

Jesse (*Community Board 4 District Manager*): Can we get updates beyond just the presentation slides?

Liz (*PA, Legal*): We could provide a fact sheet to summarize.

Hersh (*PA, Government Affairs*): We'll create short one-pagers summarizing key information.

Leilani (*PA, Government Affairs*): We plan to use QR codes on kiosks to direct people to project updates. This meeting will be held monthly, on the last Wednesday, with invitations sent weeks in advance.

Christine (*Community Board 4 member*): Can you send a recap with key dates so we can schedule accordingly?

Leilani (*PA, Government Affairs*): Yes, we'll provide meeting notes, minutes, the presentation,

and a generic ROE letter template in the coming days