

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

June 10, 2025

Eric Adams
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
Commissioner
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 Rodriguez-Rosa,

Last year at this time, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) wrote a letter expressing our concerns with the pilot program allowing e-bikes and e-scooters to operate in NYC public parks, park drives and greenways, including Central Park.¹ Unfortunately, our letter received no response.

With a Full Board vote of 43 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 1 present not eligible, MCB4 again requests the data collected during the pilot program study period.

Throughout this pilot program, the City Department of Transportation has referred to data collection as an intricate part on how or if this program moves forward. We are interested in the data, as well, including the amount of data collected, the timeframes of collection, locations of collection and data points studied.

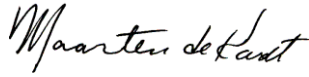
For a great chunk of this pilot program, there was no official reporting available for e-bike crashes since it was not currently collected which made it impossible to track related collision data. This will make your pilot program findings all the more important and useful.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2024/08/40-WPE-Letter-to-DPR-re-Pilot-Program-for-E-bikes-in-Parks.pdf>



Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee



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

Enclosure

CC: Hon. Gale Brewer, New York City Council Member
Hon. Erik Bottcher, New York City Council Member
Jennifer Sta. Ines, Deputy Borough Commissioner, NYC DOT
Robin Forst, Manhattan Borough Director, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs
Tricia Shimamura, Commissioner, NYC Parks
Betsy Smith, CEO, Central Park Conservancy



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JESSICA CHAIT
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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 24th 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 sanctuaries 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.¹

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.

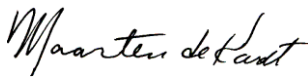
MCB4 also recognizes how the lack of e-micromobility infrastructure contributes to this problem. If there was adequate street space dedicated to e-bike, e-scooters and other forms of green micromobility and there were available travel lanes through park traverses and around parks, this would help eliminate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

¹ [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.](#)