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Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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November 14, 2025

Eduardo del Valle
Acting Commissioner
NYC Department of Design and Construction
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: MED669 / Water Main Replacement Project – Seventh Avenue (14th-34th Streets)

Dear Commissioner del Valle,

At its November 5, 2025 meeting by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote, Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) writes to make the following comments regarding “Project MED669: Replacement of Distribution Water Main in Manhattan” (“MED669”).

We understand that this is a project that will *significantly* impact the Chelsea community, beginning in November 2025 and lasting all the way through 2029. The project will lead to road and sidewalk construction disruption – bringing noise, dust, rodents, and traffic impacts – on blocks stretching from 15th to 34th Streets, between Seventh and Ninth Avenues.

Although MCB4 recognizes the necessity of replacing aging water infrastructure, it is imperative that DDC:

- Maintain constant communication with MCB4, the relevant block associations, and schools, including explaining on any flyers or communications why nighttime work is required at certain locations; the overall plan for the project and specific information about lead removal.

- Refrain from nighttime work unless required by the DOT;
- Provide sufficient notice for water turn-offs and turn-ons and their duration.
- Install a protected bike lane detour on Seventh Avenue whenever the existing bike lane is blocked by construction; including making a protected bike detour between 30th and 34th Streets where there is currently no bike lane;
- Refrain from removing any trees, and work far enough from the curb not to disturb tree roots, or otherwise mitigate the impact to trees;
- Comply with and build upon the city's regulations to mitigate rodents in and around construction sites.
- Follow all accessibility rules; and
- Use skid-resistant colored plates, and explore whether putting rubber on the edges of the plates is feasible.

Finally, we expect DDC to work with DOT to return our streets not to their present condition, but to an *improved* condition. For example, DOT should explore how to redesign Seventh Avenue to incorporate an upgraded bike lane, which would include the blocks between 30th and 34th Streets; those blocks are currently the only blocks without a protected bike lane on the entire length of Seventh Avenue from Central Park to Houston. Sidewalk widening should also be explored where appropriate – especially on West 21st Street – as was done on Ninth Avenue with the “Super Sidewalks” after the water main project was completed on that corridor.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jesse Greenwald
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

CC: Danielle Zuckerman, Commissioner, DOT