



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

March 3, 2011

Thomas F. Prendergrast  
President  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority New York City Transit  
2 Broadway  
New York, New York 10004

**Re: Transit Wireless LLC application for Revocable Consent**

Dear Mr. Prendergrast:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) has received a request to comment on a revocable Consent to roadwork to be undertaken by Transit Wireless LLC, who was awarded a contract by the MTA to install and operate a neutral (available for all carriers) wireless network in the NYC's 277 New York City subway stations by the end of 2016. The network starts with a pilot program at four subway stops that are in or adjacent to our district boundaries.

CB4 consents to such work subject to the provisions outlined below. We mention that we were concerned about the potential security and terrorism issues raised by cell phone use in subway stations and are pleased to hear this project is being coordinated with the NYPD. .

Transit Wireless LLC is comprised of three members - NAB Construction (or affiliate thereof), Broadcast Australia, and Dianet Communications – and was awarded an exclusive license contract from the MTA to design, install and operate wireless carrier services in subway stations. Transit Wireless LLC proposes to install a pilot wireless network in four subway stations during the spring or summer of 2011:

- *West 23rd Street and Eight Avenue (C and E Lines)*
- *West 14th Street and Eight Avenue (A, C, E and L Lines)*
- *West 14th Street and Seventh Avenue (1,2, and 3 lines)*
- *West 14th Street and Sixth Avenue (F, M, and L Lines)*

Including the walking tunnel between the Sixth and Seventh Avenue stations

In order to install the wireless system in these stations Transit Wireless requests a revocable consent from the Department of Transportation to install the fiber optic cable required for this project. They propose to install the cable over three nights (eight hour shift – 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. - each night). The first night's work would entail digging the trench, the second night work would include installing the cable and the third night work would be to refill the trench. Most of the work will be on the Street (rather than Avenue) portion of the corner. Transit Wireless commits to cover the trench with a steel plate during the non-work times between digging and refilling the trenched area. Three of the four locations are within Community Board 4:

- *Southwest Corner of West 16th Street and Eight Avenue.* This installation will likely require the removal of one parking space on the south side of West 16th Street just west of Eighth Avenue during the installation and the closing a portion

of the sidewalk during installation hours. We request the remainder of the sidewalk be reviewed for handicapped accessibility;

- *Northwest Corner of West 14th Street and Sixth Avenue.* This installation will likely require closing one lane of traffic during construction hours;
- *Southeast corner of West 24th Street and Eighth Avenue.* This will likely close one lane of traffic and a parking space during construction hours
- *The fourth location is on the south side of Seventh Avenue and West 14th Street* and thus in Community Board 2, whose review we encourage.

The applicant assured the Community Board that the process for all locations will take no more than three nights at each location and three weeks total.

As conditions to its consent, CB4 requests that Transit Wireless LLC

- Performs work during the day, rather than at nighttime, as each of these work zones is within earshot of residential zones, and the traffic impact seems minimal.

Ensures the installation occurs over three consecutive days at each location.

Post signs at least one day in advance at these intersections indicating the work will occur that describe the likely parking spot(s), street and traffic lane closures.

Use noise attenuation techniques such as covering the work area, to keep noise levels low. While we appreciate that Transit Wireless will not be using pneumatic equipment (e.g. jack hammers and drills) and will instead use less noisy road saws, community members have indicated that other projects that have used such equipment were still audible to surrounding buildings.

Ensures the road will be properly restored: Given previous experience in street digging related projects, we also propose that Transit Wireless' contract with the installer include provisions (such as withholding of final payment) that will ensure that any post-installation related issues (e.g. trench location sagging or bump) will be promptly addressed.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to learn about the proposed installation and comment on the construction related issues.

Sincerely yours,



John Weis  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Applicant