



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

September 2, 2011

Ms. Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013

Re: Proposed Tour Bus Layover Locations

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) supports the installation of 47 additional bus layover curbside spaces listed below. We understand the Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to install the layover signs within the next six months. We encourage the DOT to proceed expeditiously as the holiday season is approaching, with its high concentration of tour buses bringing visitors to our City.

- 40th Street is noted below as having 420' of layover already, however there are no signs indicating such on that street. Signs should be installed on that street to identify legal layover locations.
- The report suggested that the layover locations be painted so that the spaces are more effectively utilized. We encourage DOT to paint the spaces.
- As new residential development takes place, we expect the DOT to be flexible and move layover locations that do conflict with these developments

Earlier this year, CB4 supported the short-term recommendations of a report published by the Mayor's Midtown Citizens Committee (MMCC). It identified a shortage of 173 parking spaces for buses during seven months of the year. This shortage causes many buses to idle as they stand in illegal locations to avoid summonses or to cruise around in our street adding congestion to the street and emissions to the air.

The report called for increasing the number of curbside layover locations, provided a list of potential sites. It also called for the installation of an intelligent parking system to reduce buses cruising in our neighborhood while they are looking for space. We are pleased that the DOT responded positively.

We understand that next year, in a second phase, DOT will install meters at all the layover locations. The rate will be established taking into account the experience gained in lower Manhattan. CB4 urges the city to proceed with the meter

installations as soon as possible and apply these revenues to enforcement against illegal parking and idling by buses in our area.

However this is an interim solution. A permanent bus garage must be built to absorb both New Jersey commuter buses and Tour and Charter Buses, as the City committed in the Hudson Yards FEIS. If anything the situation in both Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen has grown worse with the afflux of long distance buses and it will continue to worsen with the cancellation of the ARC project.

Now is the time to plan and we urge the City to identify and acquire locations for such garages.

CB4 is grateful to the DOT for its fast turnaround on this issue and to MMCC for taking the initiative to study an issue that is crucial to the sustainable future of Broadway and to the quality of life and the health of our residents.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee