



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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

October 5, 2011

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10041

Re: 34th Street Transitway – Traffic Analysis

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 appreciates being consulted as a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on the 34th Street Transitway project. On September 25th, the Department of Transportation (DOT) shared with the CAC the design updates and traffic analysis results that will be presented at public meetings next month.

We ask the DOT to provide us with the detailed data from the traffic analysis and we reiterate our request to study the option of barring the northbound turn from westbound 34th Street traffic into Dyer Avenue. As you know CB4 is very supportive of the Transitway.

DOT did not include any data related to turning movements at Dyer Avenue either on the maps or in the presentation to the CAC on September 25th. This is a critical intersection with the Lincoln Tunnel access and the traffic is awful there (see PM pictures below). It is doubtful that reducing turning lanes from two to one will make it any better: we fear that the turning lane will overflow in the bus lanes and affect the performance of buses on the corridor.

CB4 sent to DOT a resolution dated May 6, 2011 with the following paragraph: "In addition, this Community Board is already on record as requesting that DOT consider removing the north turn lane from W. 34th Street onto Dyer (and converting the North bound lanes between W. 34th and W. 35th Streets into park land). We hope the EAS will examine this possibility, which would also enable additional space both for loading/unloading for 413 W. 34th Street and a bus stop."

We ask that such configuration be studied. The Port Authority has already tested the configuration in the filed and found it viable. The Port Authority is on record for supporting that option in various meetings with the Hell's Kitchen Transportation Study team. We also want to make sure the existing 17 seconds Lead Pedestrian Interval on the west crossing of 34th Street at Dyer will remain in place with the same duration.

CB4 is very supportive of the Transitway. However for this project to succeed, known problems must be addressed in advance. We ask that the DOT publish the detailed data behind the traffic analysis and study the option of barring the northbound turn into Dyer Avenue.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Christine C. Quinn
Cc: Thomas Duane
Cc: Richard Gottfried
Cc: Jerry Nadler
Cc: Scott Stringer