

March 7, 2003

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

RE: Eighth Avenue Bicycle Lane

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

It has come to the attention of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 that the New York City Department of Transit will be re-stripping roadways to accommodate new bicycle lanes in Manhattan in Fall 2003. We urge you and your colleagues to conduct the study and data collection necessary to facilitate the re-stripping of Eighth Avenue to accommodate the bicycle lane recommended in the New York City Bicycle Master Plan.

Ever since 1997, the Bicycle Master Plan has included recommendations for a bicycle lane leading from Hudson Street, in Greenwich Village, up through Chelsea on Eighth Avenue, into Clinton. A well-designed lane with a striped buffer was installed on Hudson Street and is now a valuable amenity to that traffic corridor, but it never was brought north of 14th Street. Studies were done in 1997 indicating that motor vehicle volume and Level of Service would accommodate a lane from 14th Street at least as far north as 30th Street. We hope that you will review those numbers and update them as necessary in order to facilitate a northward extension of a lane of a similar quality as the Hudson Street lane as far north as possible.

The fact that some cyclists break traffic regulations and thus endanger pedestrians is a serious concern of the Board. We will always call upon the appropriate authorities to request vigorous enforcement of all traffic regulations, including those for cyclists. But at the same time, the creation of designated bicycle lanes will better enable cyclists to operate in a safe and law-abiding manner. In addition, it will help the Board reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality within its district, which is now part of a congestion and air-quality non-attainment area. For these reasons and others, the Board included the extension of the bike lane in its fiscal year 2004 District Needs statement. We respectfully urge you to work with

Commissioner Forgione

March 7, 2003

Page 2 of 2

your colleagues, other relevant agencies, and the Board to move plans for the Eighth Avenue bicycle forward in an efficient manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4

cc: Dan Orlando, Chief of Alternative Modes Traffic Planning, NYC DOT
Andrew Hallerman, DOT
Scott Wise, DCP
Noah Budnick, Transportation Alternatives
Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials