



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

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

November 2, 2006

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Pedestrian Interval, Ninth Avenue at 34<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 requests a lengthening of the "WALK" interval at the South Crossing of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

Currently pedestrians are allowed 30 seconds intervals to cross 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 15 seconds full WALK signal, 15 seconds WALK flashing signal. However, the volume of cars turning right from 34<sup>th</sup> onto 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue makes this crossing difficult. In comparison, for example, the full "WALK" interval is 30% shorter than the full "Walk" interval of the shorter distance crossing 34<sup>th</sup> Street at the same intersection. Cars are given a 58 to 60 second interval on both the avenue and the street.

Senior citizens have complained that they are unable to complete the avenue crossing in the allotted time. As you know this intersection is one of the most dangerous on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue with 28 pedestrian and bicycle injuries in 5 years. Senior citizens and children from a nearby school (half block away) are frequent users of this intersection.

We propose that the Department of Transportation increase the pedestrian full WALK interval on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at this intersection to be at least comparable to the Street crossing time. We also propose that the left turn arrow cycle on East 34<sup>th</sup> Street onto 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue be changed from the start to the end of the green cycle when it would be safer for pedestrians.

We thank the Department of Transportation for considering this proposal. We expect these changes will make this intersection much safer for all pedestrians and particularly for seniors and children.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus  
Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: NYPD 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct