



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

December 11, 2006

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

Re: Direction Signage for West 19th and 21st Streets between 10th Avenue and Route 9A

Dear Commission Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 hereby requests the following changes and additions to both the intersections of West 19th Street and 10th Avenue, and West 21st Street and 10th Avenue i) that clear and visible signage be posted, ii) that traffic signaling indicate that all traffic must proceed northbound when at both the Eastbound (coming from Route 9A) and the westbound crossing of West 19th Street and 10th Avenue, and iii) that left hand turns are prohibited from 10th Avenue onto 19th Street.

Currently, both West 19th Street and West 21st Street from 10th Avenue to Route 9A run eastbound, opposite to the direction of these same streets further east. A study done earlier this year by Philip Habib, the consultant for Georgetown West 19th Street, the developer of the Interactive Corporation building on Route 9A between 18th and 19th Street, found that approximately 41 cars each day (or 2% of the daily volume) go a wrong direction, primarily those illegally going west on West 19th Street across 10th Avenue to Route 9A. The same configuration at 21st Street causes a number of cars to go the wrong direction as well.

The expected increased traffic, automotive and pedestrian, resulting from the opening of the IAC building, the changes due to the Chelsea rezoning and Chelsea Piers' intention to change their exit from West 24th Street to West 17th Street increase the potential for accidents.

More specifically, we propose the following for both the 19th and 21st Streets intersections at 10th Avenue:

- Large, visible signage both mid-block and at the corner of West 19th Street and 10th Avenue facing east. The same should be installed on 21st street.
- Traffic light signaling right turn at 10th Avenue when approaching from the east and one signaling left turn when approaching from the West;
- No Left Turn signs when approaching from the south on 10th Avenue
- No Right Turn signs when approaching from the west (eastbound from Route 9A)

We thank the Department of Transportation for considering this proposal. We expect that these changes will reduce the number of illegal car movements at this intersection and decrease the potential for accidents.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President

Local Elected Officials
Applicant