



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

January 5, 2007

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

Re: Traffic Study for West Chelsea

Dear Commission Forgione:

The traffic situation in west Chelsea is rapidly changing. This past month, Chelsea Piers indicated that the closing of their West 24th Street exit will likely lead to increased traffic exiting on West 17th Street. Last month the Transportation Committee heard a report summarizing a traffic study completed for the new IAC building on Route 9A and West 19th Street, which indicated there will cause major changes to pedestrian and vehicular volume in the area. That study also pointed out that the new buildings planned for that immediate vicinity will likely lead to a doubling of traffic in the area. In addition, the proposed development of Pier 57 is likely to lead to substantial volume changes on Route 9A along West 15th and 16th Street and surrounding areas. The Community Board also heard from the Chelsea Council of Block Associations and the West 15th Street Block Association on the rapidly growing traffic problems in their area.

The Community Board would like to propose that, with the active involvement of the Department of Transportation and the Community Board, a traffic study be conducted of the area between West 15th Street to West 20th Street from Route 9A to 9th Avenue, which can provide the community board with a fuller picture of anticipated traffic and pedestrian changes over the next few years and help us to create a vision for the area to enable us to react more proactively to these proposed changes.

The Community Board anticipates enlisting the involvement of the local owners and developers, several of whom have already expressed interest in participating. We anticipate that much of the data required for such a study will be available from other studies including the in-progress Greater Gansevoort Urban Improvement Project, the above mentioned transportation study for the IAC building and a study currently being completed for the Chelsea Piers exit change.

We thank the Department of Transportation for considering this proposal and look forward to working with you to address the traffic changes in Chelsea.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee