



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: 43rd street (Holy Cross School) Bus Layover Areas and Lead Pedestrian Intervals

Dear Commission Forgione:

Community Board 4 wishes to thank NYC DOT for its study of Holy Cross School. The general report on School safety is very instructive and the recommendations for Holy Cross School in particular do address many long-standing issues with the school.

Community Board 4 is particularly grateful for the mid-block traffic light and pedestrian crossing, which will allow the children to access safely the playground across the street. We are delighted that two crossing guards will be requested for 43rd street at both Eighth and Ninth Avenue crossings. We are also pleased with the balance of the **short term** recommendations ("No standing 7 AM 4 PM, SCHOOL DAYS" parking regulations on both the north and south curbs of West 43rd Street directly in front of the school's entrances; new school crosswalks at Eighth Avenue and West 44th Street - west and south leg and Ninth Avenue and West 44th Street - east leg; stop bars ten feet in advance of all school crosswalks; a mirror and a STOP" sign for vehicles exiting the parking garage West of the school) and **long term capital improvements** (Replacement of Complex pedestrian ramps at West 43rd Street and Ninth Avenue-northeast corner and new sidewalk and curbs on the north side of West 43rd Street between Eighth Avenue and Ninth Avenue).

In a meeting between the Principal and the Borough Commissioner, few additional steps were identified. First the relocation of layover areas for Charter buses would further alleviate the traffic and parking pressure on the street where the school entrance and playgrounds are located. Second, Lead Pedestrian Intervals would improve the safety of walking to and from the school to the Special Clinton District across Ninth Avenue and to the subway on Eighth Avenue. The Community Board requests that the following measures be implemented along the short term recommendations of the report

- Relocate the layover areas for charter buses from both ends of the 43rd street block between Eighth and Ninth Avenue to 38th street between Ninth and 11th Avenues. (starting 30 feet west of Ninth Avenue on the south side of the street)
- Return those areas to residential parking consistent with the alternate parking rules in force on most of the south side of 43rd street.
- Install a lead pedestrian interval for the south crossing of Ninth Avenue at 43rd street
- Install a lead pedestrian interval for the west crossing of 43rd street at Eighth Avenue

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4
Cc: Sister Mary Theresa Dixon, Principal

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee