



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND

Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.

District Manager

October 11, 2007

Department of Transportation
Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

New York City Transit
Executive Director Elliot G. Sanders
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Department of Environmental Protection
Commissioner Emily Lloyd
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

Re: West 15th Street between 5th and 9th Avenue

Dear Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Sanders and Ms. Sadik-Kahn,

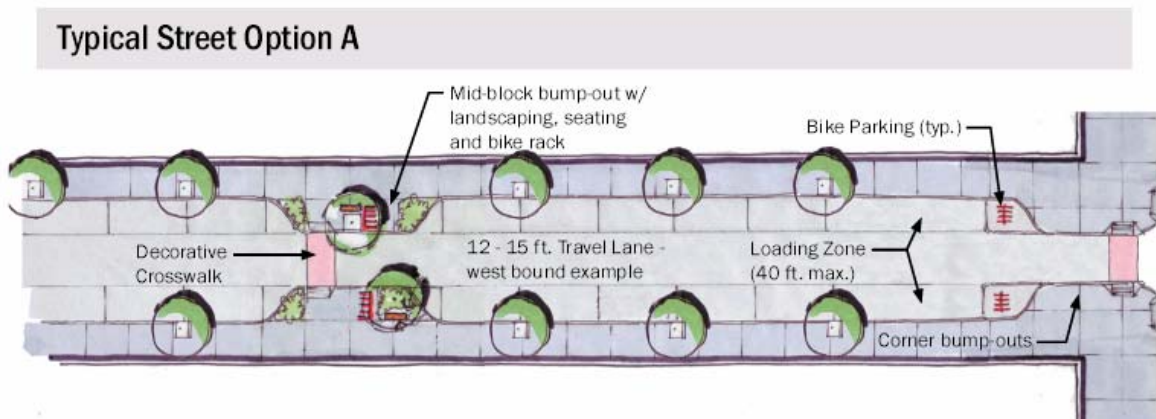
Community Board 4 is on record for raising concerns about the truck traffic that improperly uses West 15th Street – a residential street from 5th to 9th Avenue - instead of the proper truck route along the major cross-town street, West 14th Street. Over the past quarter century the block associations have repeatedly sought enforcement, and urged various other controls not only to lessen the heavy weight traffic, but also to slow down the speed of those vehicles that ignore the regulations.

On December 17, 2006 the block associations and representatives from CB#4's Transportation Planning Committee "walked" almost the entirety of West 15th Street. On December 25, 2006 right after the first inspection, another major water main ruptured at 7th Avenue and 15th Street. On September 13, 2007, Colleen Chattergoon of the Department of Transportation and Humberto Galarza of the Department of Environmental Protection joined the block associations and representatives from CB#4's Transportation Planning Committee to survey West 15th Street. although invited, and despite the many, many complaints over the past nine months, Con Ed did not join the latest walk through to inspect some of the reconstruction issues.

Community Board requests that the New York City Department of Transportation take the following actions:

1. Undertake an “Engineering Resurfacing Study” to provide a clearer idea of what reconstruction, if any, is advisable. The street has been resurfaced twice in ten years and in many locations the curb had been reduced to two inches instead of the required six inches, causing flooding in the neighboring basements.
2. Improve and supplement truck route signage to (1) clarify to drivers of heavy weight vehicles that they are not legally permitted on West 15th Street except for local deliveries and (2) direct them to the closest permitted truck route. Signs are needed at 5th Avenue (which is within Community Board 5). Signs at 6th Avenue need to be repositioned. Better signage is needed at 7th and 8th Avenues.
3. Install traffic calming “Neck Downs” on 15th Street:
 - a. At the west corners of the intersections with each of 6th , 7th and 8th Avenues;
 - b. Mid block between 6th and 7th Avenues for the safety of the Puerto Rican Family Institute, 145 West 15th Street, which serves special students of grammar school age with regular programs throughout the day;
 - c. mid block between 7th and 8th Avenues, for the safety of the Nazareth Nursery School, 214 West 15th Street;
 - d. Mid block between 8th and 9th Avenues, for the safety of the Corlears School, 324 West 15th Street and St. Vincent's Clinic at 325 West 15th Street.

The Institute and the two schools are relatively busy locations at regular times of the day. People do not simply come and go swiftly at those locations, but present a significant congregating of parents/family members, children, and faculty/staff which is necessary, entirely appropriate, and whose safety should be enhanced. Due to the narrowness of the sidewalks, the congregating students often spill over on the street and the racing traffic puts them at risks. The Neck Downs will provide both expanded sidewalk space as well as calming traffic device to the racing traffic as it traffic approaches those locations on our three blocks.



4. Community board 4 is also requesting that whenever the need arises – mostly for street closures – the MTA reroute west bound 14th Street buses (the M14A and M14D) to a detour south onto 7th Avenue (which is within Community Board 2) using an existing bus route which misses none of its normal bus stops on West 14th Street (see map below). Such a detour was used for a decade until 2003.

We appreciate that DEP has committed to repair the damaged sewer opening on the West 15th Street side of the curb on the northeast corner of West 15th Street and Eighth Avenue.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

c.c.

Stanley Bulbach, Sandra Hathaway, Michelle Clayman, Jim Jasper, John David Young,
West 15th Street Block Associations
David Gmach, Director of Manhattan Public Affairs Con Edison
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer