



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

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

November 15, 2007

Ms. Emma Berenblit
New York City Department of Transportation
Division of Franchises, Concessions and Consents
40 Worth Street, 9th Floor south
New York, NY 10013

Re: Rehabilitation of 11th Avenue Viaduct – Consent

Dear Ms. Berenblit,

Manhattan Community Board 4 wishes to thank the Department of Transportation, Bridges and Tunnel Division for seeking community input in the rehabilitation of the 11th Avenue viaduct between 30th and 33rd Streets.

The viaduct, built in 1982, is being rehabilitated ahead of normal schedule, in anticipation of the development over the MTA's West Side Yard. Once Hudson Yards is rebuilt, it would be extremely difficult and costly to rehabilitate the viaduct to current norms, including seismic retrofits.

The construction is anticipated to last from August 2008 to February 2010. The full budget amounts to \$ 21 million and the construction phasing will keep all lanes open except one.

Manhattan Community Board 4 expresses the following concerns:

- We are pleased that the phasing will maintain all lanes opened except one. However, 11th Avenue acts as a major travel and parking area for truck traffic, particularly around the times of conventions and trade show at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. It is crucial that DOT closely coordinate with the Convention Center to ensure that lane closures are avoided during peak times and that there are sufficient truck parking areas. Boat shows and auto shows come to mind as examples of truck and traffic peak activity that risk overtaking the whole west side if any capacity is taken off the grid.
- If trucks anticipate back ups, they will seek alternate routes and it is imperative they be directed away from a residential and already overburdened Ninth Avenue. For the duration of the project, advance signage must be installed at 57th, 42nd, and 34th Streets and 11th Avenue to identify 12th Avenue as the alternate truck route.

- We applaud the use of traffic agents and recommend that they be carefully briefed in preferred alternate routes. Their numbers should be significantly increased depending on the activity of the Convention Center and they should be deployed at advanced locations as well as locally.
- The Access to the Region Core Project (New Jersey Transit's new rail tunnel to the soon to be 34th Street Station) intends to use 11th Avenue as a truck route to move excavation debris to New Jersey while minimizing the impact to residents. A tight coordination between these two projects must insure that the route remains accessible for this purpose.
- We note that you will install pedestrian meshing and light poles. Please ensure that all materials and light poles are compliant with the most recent ADA guidelines.
- When possible, lane closures should be avoided during Convention Center peak activity periods.

Manhattan Community Board 4 looks forward to receiving a written plan including assurances that our concerns will be addressed.

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.

NYC DOT Bridges and Tunnel Division
NJT, Thomas J. Schulze
Javits Center, Manager of Operations
NYPD Traffic Enforcement Division, Inspector Pilecki
NYPD Traffic Enforcement Division, Chief Scagnelli