



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND

Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.

District Manager

December 19, 2007

Janet Sadik-Kahn
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
45 Worth Street
New York, NY 10038

Re: Traffic Calming Measures – Eighth to Ninth Avenue, 24th Street to 29th Street

Dear Commissioner:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is thankful for the signage improvements the Department of Transportation (DOT) installed between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, from 24th to 30th Streets. We also appreciate DOT's participation in the working group that Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer convened to address the pedestrian safety issues of Penn South residential community.

However, the solutions your staff proposed seem to address a different problem than the one we experience, namely vehicles turning at high speed and conflicting with elderly pedestrians. As stated in our February 8, 2007 letter, "these drivers regularly turn at high speed from Ninth Avenue onto the residential streets. The same happens on the reverse trip, from Eighth Avenue onto 29th Street, thus putting the lives of pedestrians at risk. Of particular concern is that approximately 70% of Penn South's 5000 residents are elderly and often require more time to cross the street."

We reiterate our February 8th request for pedestrian safety measures that protect senior pedestrians from fast turning cars on very wide crossings:

- Install neck downs at 24th, 26th and 28th Streets east of Ninth Avenue, and at 25th and 29th Streets west of Eighth Avenue; and
- Install dedicated turn phase signals at the above locations modeled after the "through street" signaling in midtown.

Such temporary neck downs and turn phase signals are successful at other locations in the city. Both techniques appear to be relatively low cost. Why the reluctance to apply them here?

As you know, the Ninth Avenue corridor experienced three more deaths this year, all due to turning vehicles. Another such tragedy is both foreseeable and preventable. Thank you in advance for your help in addressing pedestrian safety in the Penn South area.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
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Cc: Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiione, NYC Department of Transportation
Electeds