



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

February 8, 2007

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

Re: Traffic Calming Measures – 8th to 9th Avenue, 30th Street to 24th Street.

We would like to request that NYC DOT take several steps to alleviate the dangerous conditions reported to us from the neighborhood residents from the residential community between 8th and 9th Avenue, 24th to 30th street.

The Mutual Redevelopment Houses Inc (Penn South), located between 8th and 9th Avenue, 23rd to 29th Street is home to more than 5000 residents. New Jersey commuters entering New York by the 30th Street ramp often choose to avoid the eastbound back ups on 30th Street by using 28th, 26th or 24th Streets all of which affect this residential community.

These drivers regularly turn at high speed from 9th Avenue onto the residential streets. The same happens on the reverse trip, from 8th Avenue onto 29th Street, thus putting the lives of pedestrians at risk. Of particular concern are the approximately 70% of Penn South's 5000 residents which are elderly, since they often require more time to cross the street.

In recent months the accidents have increased in frequency: a truck killed a bicycle messenger at 29th Street, a couple was hit on 9th Avenue resulting in a fatality , a car turning from 9th Avenue onto 28th Street jumped the curb and crashed into the fence of Holy Apostle Church. The Penn South security department reported a number of near hits of pedestrians crossing 24th, 26th and 28th Streets.

In its December 7, 2006 letter to Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiione, the Board of Directors of the Mutual Development Houses requested that the DOT implement measures to improve pedestrian safety in the short term. Community Board 4 supports this request and additionally requests the following measures:

- Install a lead pedestrian interval for the crossing of 24th, 26th and 28th Streets East of 9th Avenue.
• Install " Yield to Pedestrians" signage visible from the corner near these intersections
• Adjust the timing of traffic lights for older adults.
• Study the installation of neck downs and buffer zones for pedestrians

We also request that DOT undertake speed and car counts along these Streets and report back to the Board of Directors of the Mutual Development Houses and the Community Board to better guide what additional measures may be warranted.

As we have discussed previously, we look forward to working with DOT in preparing the Scope of Work for the federally funded study of "Lincoln Tunnel entrances and their impact on pedestrian safety on 9th avenue" which should include this corridor. Thank you in advance for your concern for pedestrian safety in the Penn South area.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board
No. 4

Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

Cc: City Council Speaker Christine Quinn