



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

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

April 4, 2007

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

Re: Truck Route Study- Community Input

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 is pleased that NYC DOT released the final version of its long-awaited Truck Route Study. The study offers a comprehensive look at a complicated issue and offers several creative and timely solutions that will be beneficial. Some of these recommendations relating to signage, improved driver education and 16th street, and 43rd street will bring a welcome relief to our residents.

Community Board 4 is however concerned that the written comments sent by the board and the extensive input community members have given to the DOT are neither registered in the public comments section nor addressed in the study.

Clinton - Hell's Kitchen is host to one of only three through truck routes in Manhattan. In fact, since the closure of Holland tunnel to truck traffic in 2001, the Lincoln Tunnel complex is arguably the single most important truck access into the Central Business District from New Jersey. The truck study notes that Ninth Avenue between 47th and 37th Street has the second highest rate of truck accident per mile in New York City. In spite of such evidence, the final report recommendations address neither the Lincoln Tunnel area nor the Ninth Avenue corridor.

This is not for lack of community input: the community participated actively in all outreach sessions and gave copious comments. Speaker Christine C. Quinn invited us to participate to the first community input meeting in November 2003. Chair of the City Council Transportation Committee John Liu called hearings in January 2006 to understand the delays afflicting this study: we testified at those hearings. In June 2006, one week after the release of its 1000 page draft study, DOT held a community input session, attended by both Manhattan DOT Borough Commissioners. Community members called to everyone's attention the fact that the Lincoln Tunnel area had been overlooked. In July 2006, Community Board 4 sent written comments (attached) and followed up with an additional request in January 2007.

Community Board 4 requests that the City Council continue its involvement in implementing the recommendations of the truck study and work in conjunction with the Community Board. We also wish to register our complaint that Community Board concerns and comments were not addressed in the final report, particularly given the presence of the Lincoln Tunnel and a major truck route in our area. We want to make sure that in the future we follow the proper procedures so that the agencies in general and the NYDOT in particular register the community's comments and - if feasible- addresses them.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of J. Lee Compton]

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

[Handwritten signature of Jay Marcus]

Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

[Handwritten signature of Christine Berthet]

Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee