



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

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

February 11, 2008

Margaret Forgione
Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
45 Worth Street
NY, NY 10038

Re: Parking for businesses on Ninth Avenue along the bike lane

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like to make some recommendations regarding parking for businesses along the Ninth Avenue bike lane. The creation of the Ninth Avenue bike lane between West 14th and 23rd Streets included the removal of 50 parking spaces. Several spaces were required to create the left-turn lanes at West 22nd, West 20th, West 18th Streets, and West 16th Street. The remaining area on the east side of the avenue along the raised bike lane buffer was changed to Municipal Meters (muni-meters) only 8 am to 10 pm and with commercial vehicle only muni-meter subsequently added for 8 am to 6 pm.

Several area businesses complained about the loss of parking spaces for their customers. As a result representatives from area block associations and the CB4 Transportation Planning Committee surveyed those businesses, including a written survey sent to those affected. As a result of those surveys, as well as discussion with area businesses and residents and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives at the January Transportation Planning Committee meeting, CB4 makes the following recommendations:

1. Install muni-meters, 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday, for commercial vehicles for approximately 25' on each block along the east side of Ninth Avenue between West 23rd Street and West 16th Street (and then from 5 pm to 10 pm muni-meters for all vehicles). The exact location along each block should be done in consultation with local businesses.
2. The remaining spots along the east side of Ninth Avenue should be muni-meters 8 am to 10 pm for all vehicles.
3. Extend muni-meter, short-term parking onto the side streets from West 18th to West 22nd Streets, so that there are three muni-meter spaces on one side of the street, either east or west of Ninth Avenue depending how the traffic turns off Ninth Avenue (with the exception of West 22nd Street, where it could be both east and west of Ninth Avenue).

In other words, the spaces would be to the east of Ninth Avenue for eastbound streets (West 18th, 20th, and 22nd Streets), and to the west of Ninth Avenue for westbound streets (West 19th and 21st Streets). This way, vehicles coming down Ninth Avenue in

search of parking would be able to spot the empty spaces from Ninth Avenue and make the necessary turn. This measure should allow plenty of places for customers of businesses along Ninth Avenue.

4. Create regular, alternate-side parking on the 300 blocks of West 17th, West 18th, and West 19th Streets. This will more than restore the number of parking places lost in the neighborhood to the bike lane.
5. Create one taxi relief station on Ninth Avenue, in the block between West 19th and West 20th Streets, with three spaces. A nearby delicatessen provides two rest rooms for drivers, a public amenity that should be supported.

CB4 appreciates the cooperation of the area block associations and local businesses in reaching the above compromise. We realize that several neighbors may not fully agree – and that many remain concerned about the bike lane, and especially in light of the lack of community consultation before its installation. We appreciate their concerns and urge their patience – and their continued voice – as we work through the various issues raised by the enclosed bike lane.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
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Committee

c.c.

Hon. Christine Quinn, Speaker NY City Council
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President