



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

April 14, 2008

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

Re: Dangerous Intersection at West 23rd Street and Ninth Avenue, Manhattan

Dear Commissioner Forgione,

Pedestrian safety is a major concern for Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) as it is for the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and the intersection at West 23rd Street and Ninth Avenue is unacceptably dangerous, with too many vehicular-pedestrian conflicts occurring every day. We understand and appreciate that NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently studying potential traffic changes in this area as a result of it being a "Naturally Occurring Retirement Community" and expects to make recommendations within a few months. However, given the neighborhood concerns that have resulted from the installation of the bicycle lane, and that pedestrian and cyclist safety must have priority over vehicular flow, we would like to request immediate action.

Traffic speeds increase on Ninth Avenue south of West 34th Street once vehicles pass the Lincoln Tunnel congestion. When they approach West 23rd Street, they must either merge into one fewer lane south of West 23rd Street due to the bicycle lane, or make West or East turns onto West 23rd Street. This creates dangerous conditions prone to conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists because everyone is currently allowed to turn and cross simultaneously.

CB4 is thus requesting the following measures to protect pedestrians at this intersection, and the intersections to the north:

1. Install pedestrian-only crossing times on all sides of the intersection to eliminate cars turning through a cross-walk at the same time that pedestrians are crossing. The pedestrian-only crossing time should occur before the car-only turning time;
2. Re-synchronize the traffic lights on Ninth Avenue, from West 23rd to West 34th Streets, to reduce traffic speed.

We look forward to a more pedestrian-friendly neighborhood and appreciate your continued support in implementing these critical improvements.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

c.c.
Electeds
DOT commissioner Sadik-Khan
London Terrace Tenants' Association