



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

December 8, 2008

Ms. Janet Sadik Kahn  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street,  
New York, NY 10013

**Re: Request to Improve Pedestrian Safety at Ninth Avenue and West 38<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Sadik Khan:

On Saturday November 22, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. a 23 year old woman was crossing West 38<sup>th</sup> Street on the eastside of Ninth Avenue. A truck traveling south on Ninth Avenue made a left turn and crashed into the young woman. She died at the scene, she was seven months pregnant.

This is yet another tragedy on Ninth Avenue, which according to DOT records has experienced over 500 pedestrian injuries in recent years between West 34<sup>th</sup> and West 57<sup>th</sup> Streets. All too common in this area, are cars turning at high speed and not yielding to pedestrians. This hazardous condition must be rectified. Parents should be able to choose their children's schools on other criteria than how dangerous it is to walk to school. Pedestrian safety is a high priority, our community deserves safe streets.

While a DOT Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Traffic Study is underway, we cannot continue to risk human lives and safety by waiting any longer before we address the dangers posed by some of our intersections. We request that representatives of DOT and NYPD and NYNJPA meet with the community as soon as possible to discuss immediate remedial action at this and other locations.

We further request that the following measures be explored and if feasible installed at this location:

- A Lead Pedestrian Interval (LPI) on the crossing of West 38<sup>th</sup> Street on the eastside of Ninth Avenue;
- A painted neckdown with plastic bollards on the northeast corner on West 38<sup>th</sup> Street;
- A red light arrow – protected turn;
- A stop before turning sign.

We also urge you to assist us in getting police officers to give out tickets to drivers who do not stop for pedestrians in this area.

The proximity to seven Lincoln Tunnel entrances and exits in a residential and heavily pedestrian area is a large contributor to this issue. A greater Port Authority Police presence is needed to enforce traffic laws for commuters on Ninth Avenue.

Given the seriousness of this matter the board office will be contacting you shortly on setting up a meeting.

We are copying NYPD and NYNJPA on this letter, because we expect them part of this communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jd', written in a cursive style.

Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair Manhattan Community Board 4

c.c.

Christopher Ward, Port Authority of NY/NJ  
Police Commissioner Ray Kelly  
Speaker Christine Quinn  
Senator Thomas Duane  
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer  
Assembly member Richard Gottfried  
Congressman Jerrold Nadler  
Sam Schwartz, Sam Schwartz LLC  
DOT Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione