



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione  
NYC Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Viaduct – DOT update**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan community board 4 (CB\$4) is pleased that the Department of Transportation (DOT) OT updated the community on the progress of the viaduct project.

We note that the presentation has not changed since 2007. WE never received the plan requested as part of the consent and we reiterate our request.

As the project is moving to the operational phase, we ask for the following measures to be implemented in order to minimize neighbors' complaints and address them expeditiously:

- Please provide us a 24 by 7 cell phone contact number for the community liaison officer. We will post it on CB4's web site.
- All police precincts affected, the manhattan traffic task force and the Port authority police should receive that number as well.
- Lane closures will affect many New Jersey and trucks drivers. Any announcement of lanes closures or detour should be announced on the Port Authority web site in addition to the DOT web site.

CB4 is drafting its comments to the Western Rail Yards' EIS. In this context, we suggest that this project be consistent with the requested rezoning, and the final layout of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue as described in the EIS:

- The plan indicates that many sidewalks and crossings will be overcrowded and calls for widening some of those elements. The rebuilt sidewalks should be consistent with the anticipated needs and the new grid.
- Both the eastern and western rail yards plan to remap 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets on both sides of the avenue. The underlying infrastructure should include properly spaced catch basins, electrical signals and both car and pedestrian scale lighting.
- The surface infrastructure should also reflect the new grid, with car and pedestrian scale lighting and traffic signals.

- The plan asserts that all elements will be fully accessible: proper curb cuts and all pedestrian signals equipped with ADA compliant audible signals as required by the Federal Highway Administration.
- The DOT just published new street design guidelines including bike lanes, bus lanes and narrower and safer crossings for pedestrians. DOT should select which of those elements apply and include them in the final build of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Thank you for the update

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair  
Manhattan  
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
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