



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

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

October 16, 2009

Hudson River Park Trust
Connie Fishman
President
353 West Street
Pier 40
New York, New York 10014

Re: Dangerous intersections on Hudson River Park bike path

Dear Ms. Fishman:

There are two dangerous intersections along the Hudson River Park bike path, which Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) urgently requests you to address. The first is located at the entrance to the Circle Line parking lot at the West Side Highway and 43rd Street, the second at the NY Waterway parking lot at the West Side Highway and 40th Street.

Given that the West Side Highway and the Hudson River Park bike path have green lights at the same time, vehicles heading south on the West Side Highway need to cross moving traffic in the bike path when turning right into either parking lot. Many vehicles either speed into the parking lot from the highway, or do not pay attention, risking accidents or near misses with people on the bike path. In addition, for pedestrians heading south on the bike path, it is challenging to see the incoming traffic because of bushes separating the bike path from the highway.

CB4 recommends the addition of a speed table at each of these intersections to ensure that turning vehicles slow down where they have poor visibility of approaching bicycle and pedestrians traveling south on the greenway. The speed table would encompass the full width of the bike path, thereby causing both cars and bicyclists to slow down, and reducing the possibility of an accident.

We suggest also that "speed bump" signs be placed ahead of the turn on the West Side Highway and on the greenway as well.

This solution conforms with New York City Department of Transportation Street Design Manual ¹ and could be implemented at all intersections where accidents have happened, like 15th Street. The traffic consultant of Pier 92-94 has agreed to implement it and to address the same safety issue at 54th Street and the West side Highway.

¹ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/streetdesignmanual.shtml>

Sincerely,



John Weis
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Hudson River Park Safety Committee
Marc Ameruso, CB1
District Managers CB2 , CB7
Elected officials
Transportation alternatives
New York City Department of Transportation

Illustration of a Speed Table:

