



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

February 6, 2013

Joan McDonald  
Commissioner  
NYS Department of Transportation  
Albany, NY 12222

**Re: Safety Measures – Rte. 9A**

Dear Commissioner McDonald:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) further improves traffic safety on the northbound lanes of Route 9A between W. 21<sup>st</sup> and W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. This section remains dangerous for motorists: late last year a neighborhood resident was seriously injured when his leg and motorcycle were pinned against one of the steel guardrails on Route 9A between the Eleventh Avenue merger and W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

These improvements would include increased signage warning drivers of the upcoming curve in the road, an additional larger sign, potentially with an evening flashing light, between W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street and W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and enlarging the existing smaller yellow arrow sign below the “North Route 9A” sign at the north corner of the Eleventh Avenue merger with Route 9A.

We also request that, since there is no sidewalk-based illumination along the east side of Route 9A between the Eleventh Avenue merger and W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, NYS DOT studies whether increased illumination or reflectors along the guardrail would be beneficial.

CB4 appreciates the improvements that NYS DOT has already made along Route 9A between W. 22<sup>nd</sup> and W. 24<sup>th</sup> Streets during the last few years. This includes landscaping along the median, a metal rail guard along the Route 9A border of the Eleventh Avenue park area and the improved pedestrian crossing to the W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street entrances to that park. NYS DOT also installed smaller yellow left pointing arrow signs along the curved area north of the Eleventh Avenue merger.

However, we remain concerned about the safety of this area. The improvements have substantially reduced pedestrian and bicycle accidents in the area (recorded at an average of one a year between 2008 and 2010). However vehicular accidents have remained at about a dozen a year. As mentioned above, late last year a neighborhood resident was seriously injured at this location.

We appreciate the responsiveness of NYS DOT to this community as this part of Route 9A has evolved and ask for your continued partnership and cooperation in this request.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Friends of Hudson River Park  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Eric Botcher - Liaison to Governor Cuomo