



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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

December 6, 2013

Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Hispanic Transportation Services**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) has learned that Hispanic Transportation Services' drop off stop at 330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street is renewed. We are surprised and disappointed that this stop was grandfathered and not brought to the board for review. We request that all permits to be located on or in the vicinity of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenue be brought to the community board for review.

On August 6, 2013 CB4 sent to the Department of Transportation a letter (attached) specifically indicating that certain stops warrant fuller discussion and, likely, replacement stops. We appreciated that DOT already brought stops on West 34<sup>th</sup> Street to the Community Board for review and that a mutually agreeable location was found.

The letter also focused on the area along West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, and listed all the companies that have a stop on that stretch. It requested that their stops not be renewed without a review by the CB4.

We have many concerns with a drop off stop for Hispanic Transportation Services at 330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street:

First this company has not had an official drop off stop indicated on this stretch of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. How could have it been permitted but have no signs? Is it operating under a different name? Is it really a renewal or a new stop? This calls in question the reliability of the permitting process if permitted stops have no signs and cannot be identified by the community.

CB4 indicated in its letter its concerns and the desire to relocate stops currently located along this stretch of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street where they are in a bus lane and impede the progress and reliability of the M42, a vital transportation link for our residents of the far west side. In view of the

board's notification, it is surprising that DOT proceeded with this approval at the expense of Bus transportation.

Hispanic Transportation Services has horrendous safety ratings in the areas of Hours of Service compliance (worse than 62% of comparable companies) and in Driver Fitness - meaning lack of training, experience or medical qualification- worse than 96% of comparable companies. Is it reasonable to direct this operator to the densest areas in New York City in terms of pedestrians? This company advertises that it uses Gate 56 at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. If this is verified, why grant them a drop off area at curbside? Should not it be DOT's goal to direct as much traffic to the terminal instead of increasing the congestion on the streets?

We look forward to receiving answers to our questions and a copy of the permit granted with the schedule, the number of buses for each drop off, the number of passengers in each bus. We also request that all permits to be located on or in the vicinity of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues be brought to the community board for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Berthet", on a light grey rectangular background.

Christine Berthet  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Marcus", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay Marcus  
Chair, Transportation Planning Committee