



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

June 16, 2017

Luis Sanchez
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10037

Re: Street Improvements at West 37th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues

Manhattan Community Board 4 strongly supports the proposal by the Hudson Yard Hell's kitchen Alliance Business Improvement district (HYHKA BID) to make the block of 37th street between 9th and 10th Avenues safer for pedestrians and more pleasant to walk through.

Specifically their proposal entails:

- Installing two neck downs on 37th street on the east side of the intersection with 10th Avenue to reduce the length of the pedestrian crossing and slow down turning cars
- Installing planters with greenery in the parking lanes on the eastern section of the street to calm the traffic, widening the walking lane and adding shade to the sidewalks

HYHKA has been working with a team of consultants to improve the safety of the neighborhood and the pedestrian experience on the ground with traffic calming, like neck downs, signals and bike lanes, lighting, greening and way finding interventions.

We encourage the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study the feasibility of these improvements over time and to come back with the BID to the Community board with specific proposals.

This streetscape study identifies 37th Street as one of the key east – west connections for residents and shoppers. Today with 352 pedestrians per hour, it is by far the busiest minor street of the BID district. Large residential buildings on the west, new and old buildings in the middle, the Baryshnikov Ballet Company and a supermarket are major trip generators.

Because it has been recently converted from industrial uses to residential, the infrastructure is not well adapted to bicyclists or pedestrians which make this area quite dangerous.

At 10th Avenue there are two major residential buildings on each side of the avenue and many residents have complained that the turning vehicles are a menace to their safety. Over the last 5 years, 53 people were injured on this block including the intersections.

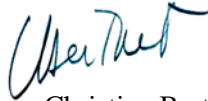
The street has also a large number of buses parking along the Port Authority bridges. By relocating some of this parking, as CB4 requested and the Department of Transportation (DOT) already approved, HYHKA will free up valuable space to install planters, calm the traffic and expand the walking lane as was done successfully on 36th Street.

CB4 supports these changes for 37th Street and encourages the DOT to implement them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Yoni Bokser
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

cc: Colleen Chattergoon, NYC DOT
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council
HY/HKA Alliance