



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

March 8, 2012

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10041

RE: Request for Bicycle Corrals in front of 536, 518, and 460-462 9th Avenue

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board #4 (CB4) has seen significant growth in bike deliveries from stores and restaurants especially on 8th and 9th Avenues. Thus we request the installation of three “bicycle corrals” in conjunction with the upcoming installation of the bike lane on 9th Avenue as part of a new program which proved successful in other neighborhoods.

- 536 9th Avenue on the floating parking lane in front of Casa Issaco (current parking regulations “No Standing Except Commercial Vehicles 7am to 7pm, 3 hour (Metered) Time Limit” and “No Parking 2am to 6am Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday” changed to “No Parking Anytime, Bicycle Corral”);
- 518 9th Avenue on the floating parking lane in front of Pomodoro Italian Restaurant (current parking regulations “No Parking 7am to 7pm” and “No Parking 2am to 6am Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday” changed to “No Parking Anytime, Bicycle Corral”); and
- 460-42 9th Avenue on the floating parking lane in front of Aura Thai (current parking regulations “No Standing Except Commercial Vehicles 7am to 7pm, 3 hour (Metered) Time Limit” changed to “No Parking Anytime, Bicycle Corral”)

CB4 is also requesting that the bike racks currently installed on these sidewalks be removed. One year after their installation, CB4 will review the usage and benefits of the above corrals and reserve the option to ask DOT to remove or relocate them as needed.

Manhattan Community Board #4 is pleased that the NYC Department of Transportation is willing to install bicycle corrals (bicycle racks located in parking lane in lieu of parking space with signage and a protected area around it) if there is a business willing to maintain this public space.

On 9th Avenue, sometimes as many as 16 bikes are congregated in one spot on the sidewalk, obstructing the walkway on narrow sidewalks already very congested. We feel that this is a concept that is consistent with the city's efforts to increase bicycle usage and will discourage bicycle parking that obstructs pedestrian passageway on sidewalk. We also expect it will reduce occurrence of riding on the sidewalk, by further separating bicycles from pedestrians.

The parking spaces at the proposed locations are often occupied throughout the day by private cars using police placards.

In proposing these locations, we were mindful of the following considerations:

- The proposed Bicycle Corral is located adjacent to a bicycle lane;
- The locations were chosen because they are in the middle of the block or closest to the highest concentration of bike users.
- The business at the address fronting the bicycle corral agrees to maintain the space and signed a maintenance agreement with DOT or a local organization as required by the DOT.
- Notification of the location of a proposed Bicycle Corral was posted at least one week in advance of the public hearing on that location;
- A follow up notification of loss of parking will be sent to all businesses on those blocks.
- The current use and regulations on the parking lane
- The Bicycle Corral space does not exceed the length of the lesser of the sponsoring businesses street frontage or 9' (the equivalent of one parking space);
- Residents and/or Community Board members have noted crowded and problematic bicycle parking along the sidewalk.
- The DOT will install signage and protection from traffic for the corral
- The DOT will remove the Bicycle Corral upon the request of the Community Board or if the business fails to maintain it adequately.

As always, we appreciate your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,



Corey
Johnson
Chair



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
NYS Senator Thomas Duane
NYS Senator Liz Kruger
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
NYS Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal
NYC Council Member Gale Brewer
NYC Council Member James Vacca
Veronica Bailey Simmons – DOT