



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

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

January 16, 2008

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35 Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Improved Response time for Engine 34 Ladder 21 Fire Station

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione,

Manhattan Community Board 4 supports The Fire Department of New York's (FDNY) request to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement measures to reduce the impact of gridlock on this station's response time.

This station is located on 38th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues. The 38th Street and 9th Avenue intersection is one of the ten most gridlocked in Manhattan, per a 2006 Manhattan Borough President's study. The 37th Street and 9th Avenue intersection is chronically gridlocked, except when a police officer is posted there (some days during peak hours).

When responding to an emergency occurring south of the Station, the fire trucks of Engine 34 Ladder 21 get caught in the gridlocked traffic going east on 38th Street at the crossing of 9th Avenue, and then on 9th Avenue going south at 37th Street. When responding to an emergency occurring north of the station, the vehicles have to follow this same route to circle back to Tenth Avenue.

Manhattan Community Board 4 requests that the DOT apply techniques already proven at other fire stations to mitigate this fire safety issue in the short term:

- 1) A contra lane on 38th Street, between the station and 10th Avenue, so that northbound fire trucks can avoid a long roundabout through congested intersections. There is such a contra lane for Rescue Company 1, on 43rd Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues.
- 2) A remote traffic light controller that the station or Headquarters can activate at departure time, to turn the lights green on (1)38th Street, where it intersects with 9th Avenue and (2)on 9th Avenue where it intersects with 37th Street. Other fire stations in New York City are equipped with such a remote control.

These changes will improve this station's response time, the safety of the community and the quality of life of the residents around these intersections.

We appreciate your help in addressing this serious safety concern.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
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Cc:

Borough Commander Weinlein, NYCFD
Chief Tarkenton, NYCFD
Keith Bray, NYC DOT
Seth Berman , NYC DOT

Elected