

1 **Transportation Planning Committee**

Item #: 16A-C

2
3 October 3, 2012

4
5 Ms. Margaret Forgione
6 Manhattan Borough Commissioner
7 55 Water Street
8 New York, New York 10041
9 New York City Department of Transportation

10
11 **Re: Unsafe pedestrian crossing at W. 37th and W. 38th Streets, and 10th Avenue**

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13 Dear Commissioner Forgione:

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15 Manhattan community Board 4 (CB4) requests the installation of “do not block the box”
16 signs and high visibility markings at the intersections of 10th Avenue with 37th and 38th
17 Streets to provide for safer pedestrian crossings.

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19 CB4 continues to receive formal complaints from some of the 2,000 residents of the large
20 residential buildings newly built on both sides of 10th Avenue between W. 37th and W.
21 38th Streets.

22 **NJT bus drivers block pedestrian crossings at both W. 37th and W. 38th streets on**
23 **10th Avenue:** With the buses’ large footprint, a blocked crossing often means that the
24 pedestrian cannot cross at all. As you know it is illegal to gridlock the intersection in
25 New York City. What is less understood is that (1) it is illegal to engage in the
26 intersection if there is not enough space to clear it and (2) both pedestrian crossings must
27 be cleared as well as they are part of the intersection as defined by the law.

28 **NJT bus drivers do not yield to pedestrians** who have the right of way while the buses
29 turn right onto 10th Avenue. A recent pedestrian safety report published by New York
30 City Department of Transportation (DOT) identified that most New York City pedestrian
31 fatalities occur at intersections, but also notes that truck and bus drivers who hit
32 pedestrians do so mostly while turning right as their visibility is limited. NJT buses
33 should be equipped with special mirrors on the right side as recommended by the DOT.

34 **NJT bus drivers prohibit access to local bus stops:** Other residents have complained
35 that the MTA bus drivers cannot discharge or pick up passengers on 10th Avenue
36 between W. 37th and W. 38th Streets between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., because of the
37 continuous flow of NJT buses blocks access to the bus stops. Local transit users are left
38 stranded with no alternative transportation options at peak hours.

39 We appreciate your office’s help in addressing this intractable problem.

40 **[Item 16B is same letter to NYPD, Chief Tully and Item 16C is same letter to NJT,**
41 **James Weinstein , Executive Director]**