



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**Jesse Bodine**  
District Manager

June 10, 2015

Ms. Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Request to Study Bike Lane on 8th Avenue Between 33rd and 30th Streets**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests that the Department of Transportation (DOT) study the use of the bike lane on 8th Avenue between 33rd and 30th streets for a solution to the problem of cyclists riding in the wrong direction in the bike lane on this segment. CB4 has observed that cyclists particularly those initiating their trip from the CitiBike Station located on 8th Avenue between 33rd and 31st Streets ride in the wrong direction to reach the east-west bike lane on 30th Street. According to the CitiBike ridership data for September 2014 1,8460 rides initiated from this stations for the month which is approximately 615 trips a day initiated at this station, making it one of the most used CitiBike stations in the City. Furthermore, this area is very congested with bike, automobile, and pedestrian traffic and the use of the bike lane in the wrong direction is a serious safety concern for all involved.

CB4 believes cyclists are riding in the wrong direction because there is no east side access from this bike station when traveling north until 36th Street where there is no bike lane, or 40th Street where the next eastbound bike lane is located. On account of the limited options, cyclists choose to travel the one and half blocks in the wrong direction to access the eastbound bike lane on 30th Street. Furthermore, it has been observed that the CitiBike employees who constantly bring a new supply of bikes to this busy station also use the bike lane in the wrong direction because it is the easiest way for them to access the CitiBike storage located on 31st Street near 9th Avenue.

CB4 discussed the following suggestions and would like the DOT to study the situation and report back to the CB4 Transportation Committee with their findings.

- Move the Citibike station one block south between 31st and 30th street. This would shorten the distance cyclists would travel to access the eastbound bike lane on 30th street.

- Install an eastbound bike lane on 36th street. An eastbound bike lane on 36th Street would allow cyclists to travel north on 8th Avenue in the right direction and more easily access the eastside.
- Make this segment of the bike lane two ways. While we are concerned about legitimizing illegal cyclist behavior, by travelling the wrong way on the bike lane, we acknowledge the challenges of this particular location and believe this option would improve overall safety by making all involved aware of the two way bike traffic. With this solution it is imperative that it be made clear to cyclist, pedestrians, and cars that the bike lane segment is two ways. Additionally, clear signage should be installed at the start of the bike lane on 30th street indicating “Wrong Way” and directing cyclists to travel east on the bike lane. We cite locations such as the two-way bike lane section of First Avenue between 59th and 60th Streets and First Avenue between 38th and 37th Streets as examples of where this has been successfully implemented.

CB4 appreciates the assistance of the DOT on correcting this problem and we look forward to hearing the DOT findings on this problem and their response to our recommended solutions.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Ernest Modarelli  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee