



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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District Manager

November 17, 2015

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

**Re: Request for a study of West 26th Street between 12th and 11th Avenues**

Dear Commissioner Forgione,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests the assistance of the Department of Transportation (DOT) in rectifying a dangerous situation for pedestrians occurring in front of the loading docks at 601 West 26th Street between 12th and 11th Avenues. Currently trucks using the loading docks block the sidewalk forcing pedestrians into the street. CB4 requests that DOT study West 26th street to determine an appropriate solution to the conflict between trucks in these loading docks and pedestrians using West 26th street to access the Hudson River Park. CB4 anticipates that the frequency of conflicts such as this will grow as this area of Community District 4 (CD4) becomes more residential and a destination for tourists. A study by DOT of this dangerous situation will help determine the best solution to this growing problem.

The Starrett-Lehigh Building located at 601 West 26th Street is one of Manhattan's largest landmark properties. For 80 years, the Starrett-Lehigh Building has served as a commercial and industrial destination in CD4. Over the years as our district has changed, the mixing of increased pedestrian activity on our streets and the industrial nature of many blocks has created conflict. We believe it is important to preserve the industrial use of parts of our community while embracing these changes and ensuring our streets are safe and useable for all.

The increased pedestrian use of the street in front of the Starrett-Lehigh Building has created a dangerous conflict between pedestrians and trucks using their loading docks. To determine the appropriate solution to this conflict CB4 requests that DOT conduct a study of West 26th street, to find a solution that allows for the tenants of the Starrett-Lehigh Building to continue to use their loading docks without creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians. In addition to other possible solutions identified by DOT, CB4 requests that DOT study the possibility of extending

the sidewalk around the loading dock to allow for a walking path large enough for pedestrians to safely pass in front of trucks using the loading docks. We believe this can be done by removing parking on the south side of the street and creating a bulb-out around the loading docks. This would create a pedestrian safe solution that accommodates the loading docks and is safe for pedestrians without obstructing the flow of traffic.

While the study is being conducted CB4 requests that the management of 601 West 26th Street hire a crossing guard to safely guide pedestrians to the south side of the street when trucks using the loading docks are obstructing the sidewalk, as is done when construction projects obstruct sidewalks. We also request that DOT work with NYPD to limit the number of tickets being issued to trucks using the loading docks after the crossing guard has been hired.

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