



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

March 11, 2005

Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: Traffic Control and Enforcement on Ninth Avenue, between West 57th Street and Lincoln Tunnel entrances.

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 appreciates the assistance of local police precincts and the NYPD Traffic Control Division in improving traffic flow on Ninth Avenue between West 57th Street and the Lincoln Tunnel access routes. However, congestion has worsened in recent months - particularly between West 48th Street and West 37th Street. This congestion has resulted in difficulty for pedestrians when crossing the street and increased noise from car horns honking. It severely diminishes Ninth Avenue as the major commercial district for the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood.

We would request your assistance in four areas:

- *Improved enforcement of the "No Standing 4pm to 7pm" parking restriction on Ninth Avenue:* Community members have noticed that enforcement has decreased during the last several months;
- *The placement of a traffic officer at West 37th Street and Ninth Avenue:* In November, at the request of the Community Board and with the assistance of the 10th Precinct, a traffic officer was placed at West 37th Street and Ninth Avenue. This assisted in improving the traffic flow and pedestrian safety in this pedestrian-unfriendly intersection. The situation has worsened during the last few weeks since the traffic officer is no longer present. In a letter dated January 12, 2005, Community Board No. 4 requested of DOT that signage be installed which prohibits the use of West 37th Street for access to the Lincoln Tunnel's Ramp C entrance. If approved, this measure will greatly improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, but will require enforcement in order to be effective;
- *Enforcement of the "No-bus traffic" regulations on West 45th and 47th Streets between Eighth and Ninth Avenues:* Community residents have noticed increased bus parking and bus traffic on these streets, despite the no-bus policy. The turning and/or crossing of buses at Ninth Avenue and West 45th and 47th Streets disrupts both Ninth Avenue and West 45th and 47th Street traffic and full enforcement of this policy is needed;

- *Placement of “No Honking” signs and increased enforcement of that policy on Ninth Avenue between West 47th and West 46th and between West 43rd and West 42nd Streets, and on West 47th, 46th, 43rd and 42nd Streets at Ninth Avenue intersections. Constant noise from car horns has become the norm on Ninth Avenue during rush hours. The placement of “No Honking” signs and their enforcement would likely improve that situation.*

Again, Community Board No. 4 feels fortunate to have the Department of Transportation and the Police Department as allies in seeking to improve traffic congestion on Ninth Avenue between West 57th Street and the Lincoln Tunnel entrances. However, we have noticed recent decreases of traffic regulation enforcement in that area and feel that additional steps, such as the “No Honking” signs and enforcement would be useful. We believe that long-term measures must be taken to balance the requirements of Lincoln Tunnel traffic with those of other users of the streets, especially pedestrians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Signed originals also sent to:

Steven M. Anger, Commanding Officer, NYPD, Midtown North Precinct
Edward T. Cannon, Commanding Officer, NYPD, Traffic Control Division
Peter Tuffey, Commanding Officer, NYPD, Midtown South Precinct
Dennis DeQuattro, Commanding Officer, NYPD, 10th Precinct

cc: Port Authority NY, NJ