



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

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January 14, 2015

Patrick Foye
Executive Director
Port Authority New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10003

Re: PANYNJ Operational Improvements

Dear Mr. Foye:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like to submit the following suggestions for the operational improvements in Manhattan Community District four (MCD4) in the vicinity of the Lincoln Tunnel and the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT). The PANYNJ has a major impact on the traffic and quality of life in our community and we hope these recommendations will help improve some of the major transportation issues experienced by our community.

First we would like to thank the PANYNJ for their joint efforts with New Jersey Transit (NJT) to reduce bus congestion on 10th Avenue between West 41st Street and West 33rd Street in Manhattan, caused by the queuing NJT buses waiting to enter the (PABT). For many years residents of MCD4 have complained about the overwhelming bus congestion that occurs during peak hours in the West 30's on account of Lincoln Tunnel and PABT traffic; NJT buses cause a large portion of this congestion. While this new approach has only been in place for several weeks the impact is remarkable.

To continue incremental improvements for both commuters and our community we offer the following recommendations to be included in the PANYNJ operational plan, as part of the recent allocation of funds for operational improvements on the streets and in the terminal.

IMPROVING BUS TIMELINESS AND CONGESTION: TRAFFIC CONTROL AGENT AT 41 STREET AND NINTH AVENUE

CB4 urges the PANYNJ to staff the critical position for traffic control at West 41st Street and 9th Avenue at peak hours 7 days a week. The Port Authority committed to the Department of Transportation that they will post an agent at this location, as part of the change in traffic flows being implemented in the Hell's Kitchen Traffic Study. This is a dangerous intersection where last year a pedestrian was killed. Without an agent to enforce the "no left turn except buses at peak hours", West 41st Street between 9th and Dyer Avenues get

backed up with other traffic, delaying Tunnel bound buses. As a result buses gridlock this intersection and cause congestion all the way up 9th Avenue. A traffic control agent will help improve safety, improve bus timeliness and relieve congestion at this intersection.

RELIEVING CONGESTION: WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

The Lincoln Tunnel causes a great deal of the congestion on our streets. To improve the traffic conditions and alleviate congestion on residential streets CB4 recommends PANYNJ install way-finding signage on 9th Avenue, Dyer Avenue, and 10th Avenue at 34th street, 37th Street, 39th Street, and 42nd street to direct more crosstown traffic to the 11th avenue entrances of the Tunnel. PANYNJ should also make sure that the new routes are incorporated as preferred routes in commercial GPS path finding applications and hardware. This change, which we have advocated for several years, has become timely as NYC DOT expects to implement making 11th Avenue one way going south above West 44th Street in the near future.

BALANCING TRAFFIC: TRAFFIC CAMERAS

Despite the incredible amount of congestion that occurs on New York City streets on account of the Lincoln Tunnel, the PANYNJ there is less visibility of the traffic through traffic cameras than in New Jersey. To remedy this problem we recommend the installation of 64 additional traffic cameras at the following locations for enhanced traffic monitoring:

- 36th Street and Ninth Avenue (looking North)
- 41st Street and Ninth Avenue (looking North)
- 37th Street and Ninth Avenue (looking East)
- 39th Street and Ninth Avenue (looking East)
- 34th and Dyer Avenue (looking East)
- 31st Street at 9th Avenue (looking East)
- 35th and Ninth Avenue (looking East)
- 30th Street at 10th Avenue (looking West and South)
- 41st Street and 11th Avenue (looking North)

Additionally, CB4 recommends that PANYNJ utilize the already installed traffic cameras for enforcement of traffic violations. The lack of enforcement for vehicles breaking traffic regulations causes serious safety issues for the residents our community. We believe enforcement through traffic cameras can help improve these safety concerns.

We hope the PANYNJ will seriously consider including the above recommendations in your operational plan. We believe these suggestions will help improve the timeliness of buses, the conditions of our streets and the everyday lives of the residents of CD4.

Finally CB4 continues to be a firm proponent of building the Galvin plaza bus garage and would like to request the opportunity to review and comment on the master plan before it is finalized. We also would like to request increased coordination of efforts to expedite the funding for the Gavin Plaza Garage, between the Port Authority, MCB4, Local Elected officials and other interested parties.

CB4 is grateful for the efforts that have been made to improve the safety of our streets and we appreciate your cooperation on these matters.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

cc:

Port Authority New York & New Jersey, Mark Schaff
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New Jersey Transit, Veronika Hakim
Department of Transportation, Commissioner Polly Trottenberg,
Department of Transportation, Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione
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NYC Councilmember Corey Johnson
NYS Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal
NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer