



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

JESSE BODINE
District Manager

May 15, 2015

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Intercity Commuter Bus Drop Off at 300 West 40th Street

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) appreciates the opportunity to review the Intercity Bus Stop applications from Galaxy Towers, Inc., Fuji Express, Fuji Lines, and Three Aces Transportation, Inc. for a stop located at 300 West 40th Street, on the south side of the street between 8th and 9th Avenues. This is a drop off only: the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Bus companies are seeking approval from Manhattan Community Board 5 for pick up locations.

At its May 2015 full board meeting CB4 voted to recommend approval of this application for 78 drop-offs on each weekday and 59 on Sundays, subject to the following conditions to be included in their license:

- The bus operators will coordinate their schedules so that only two buses are dropping off at the same time.
- The bus operators will use the location exclusively for drop off location, and will not have their busses lay over at this location. All buses dropping passengers off at this location should layover only in designated layover bus parking west of 9th Avenue or in New Jersey
- The bus operators will reach their layover locations by turning north onto 8th Avenue and travel north to West 41st Street, where they will turn west and head west to bus layover locations or to the Lincoln Tunnel to go back to NJ.
- The operators will train their drivers on proper routes to take to and from the location and on best practices at the drop off location including no idling.
- The bus operators will not idle at anytime (even during drop off), and will install “no idling” signs in the cabin of the bus as a reminder for the driver.

CB4 also requests that DOT install a bus stop pole at this location and remove the current poles from 42nd Street.

CB4 appreciates the cooperation of the DOT and the bus companies in relocating their operation from West 42nd Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues to a DOT approved stop.

The pick up and drop off stops on 42nd Street have become incompatible with the adjacent street and commercial uses. The pedestrian traffic has grown significantly in the vicinity of the Port Authority Bus Terminal over the last 10 years and the stops are now conflicting with the commuters and local residents. The sidewalks have become impassable for most pedestrians (particularly around commuting and after-theater hours). During the evening commute and after theater shows, the lines for commuting passengers waiting to load on the North Side of the 42nd Street, where the sidewalk narrows, typically extends from mid-block to around the corner to mid block on Ninth Avenue between West 42nd and West 43rd Streets. The bus operations currently block designated bus lanes and cause significant delays for the MTA M42 bus which has repeatedly been the winner of the Straphanger Campaign's "Slow Poke Award.". The current bus stops are located right below the windows of a Pre-K school, where the young students inhale the fumes of very old buses that idle constantly.

Furthermore, the buses are a safety concern for pedestrians. The buses are frequently double-parked causing greater congestion on an already heavily congested roadway and creating unnecessary pollution. The location of their current stops causes them to use routes that add to existing congestion on 42nd Street and 9th Avenue, or to detour through residential streets with schools. It also makes them cross the two most dangerous intersections in New York City: 42nd Street and 8th and 9th Avenues.

CB4 is well aware of the service these buses provide to commuters from New Jersey, but would like their operation to be better integrated with the current traffic and safety constraints of the Port Authority and the Lincoln Tunnel. CB4 recognizes the improvements the companies have made over the past few years in regards to the safety of their buses and the practices of their drivers. Some of them indicated that they were compliant with all state and federal regulations and that they had no safety violations on record in the last 2 years.

CB4 believes the proposed drop off location will be better suited for the operation of the buses. CB4 does not support the use of this stretch of 42nd Street for any bus stops at any time, except the MTA and will continue to advocate for pick up locations that minimize congestion and dangerous turns.

Our community has been the home of bus operations for a very long time . We hope that with the cooperation of the DOT, and the bus operators, this new drop off location will improve the situation for all involved. We recommend approval of this application with the above stipulations. As always we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

Cc: Council Member Corey Johnson
Senator Brad Hoylman
Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Schedule A

Details of the application as outlined in a letter received from the Department of Transportation (DOT):

- The Stop will be in front of 300 West 40th Street, South side of the street between 8th and 9th Avenues, right at the subway entrance. The proposed location has an existing “No Standing” regulation. The approval from DOT will be for 68 feet which will accommodate two commuter buses at a time.
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- The bus operators are Galaxy Towers, Inc., Fuji Express, Fuji Lines, and Three Aces Transportation, Inc. commuter buses
- Drop Off Schedule from 6:12am to 11:40pm
 - Galaxy Towers, Inc.
 - Monday through Friday 38 drop offs per day
 - Saturday and Sunday 24 drop offs per day
 - Fuji Express Inc.
 - Monday Through Saturday 18 drop offs per day
 - Sunday 16 drop offs
 - Fuji Lines
 - Monday through Saturday 8 drop offs per day
 - Sunday 7 drop offs per day
 - Three Aces Transportation, Inc.
 - Monday through Saturday 14 drop offs per day
 - Sunday 12 drop offs per day
- The buses will travel from New jersey to New York City
- Contact information:
 - Galaxy Towers, Inc. Mr. Madhy Abdallah, 1089 Edgewater Avenue Ridgefield, NJ 07657, Phone: 201 945 0556, Email: magdy1usa@yahoo.com
 - Fuji Express Inc., Fuji Lines, and Three Aces Transportation, Inc. Mr. Adel Saadalla, 781 Fairview Avenue / 161 Anderson Ave, Fairview NJ 07022, Phone: 201 945 0222, Email: fujiexpressinc@aol.com