



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

July 28, 2014

Polly Trottenberg  
Transportation Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Bus congestion and pedestrian safety along Tenth Avenue in Hell's Kitchen**

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests the assistance of the Department of Transportation (DOT) on improving the safety of intersections on Tenth Avenue within Community District 4. This request is made more urgent after the tragic collision which took place on Monday July 14, 2014, during which two pedestrians were struck by a Trans-Bridge Line bus at the intersection West 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue. This collision is only the most recent occurrence of pedestrians being struck by vehicles on this corridor. CB4 has made several requests to the DOT for safety improvements prior to this incident. It is our hope that now DOT will finally implement our recommendations:

- Installation of a left hand split phase turn signal from Tenth Avenue to West 47<sup>th</sup> Street;
- CB4 also reiterates its request from April 4, 2008 and May 1, 2013 that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) install right hand split phase turn signal for turns from Tenth Avenue onto West 46th Street;
- Install a sign along the east side of Tenth Avenue south of West 46th Street warning drivers "Caution on Right Turn, Street Bulb-out."

Large numbers of new residents are settling in this area subsequent to the Eleventh Avenue rezoning, including 1,600 residences at West 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue and two new or enlarged schools on 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

Not only the bus driver refused to yield to Pedestrians, but also it should never have been travelling on this street. There has been a substantial increase in the number of commuter buses using the Lincoln Tunnel in the last several years. Many empty buses, typically entering from either the Lincoln Tunnel or parking spaces further south or west, enter the Port Authority between 4pm and 6pm each weekday to load passengers and then depart. Traffic regulations require empty buses to use "Through" or "Local Truck Routes" to arrive at the Port Authority.

These routes include Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Avenues; West 40th Street between the Tunnel Entrance and Eleventh Avenue; and the entire length of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Unfortunately, drivers of empty buses are illegally using other residential streets within Community District 4.

**CB4 recommends that the following steps be taken to direct the buses to the proper routes**

- Install a sign on Tenth Avenue south of West 40th Street directing buses to West 40<sup>th</sup> or West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to enter the Port Authority.
- Install signs on Tenth Avenue just south of West 43<sup>rd</sup> and West 45<sup>th</sup> barring buses and commercial traffic from turning onto West 44<sup>th</sup> or West 46<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Distribute to bus companies maps of existing parking spaces and permitted routes to access them and the Bus Terminal

We hope that the recent collision that took place at the intersection of West 47th Street and Tenth Avenue will motivate the DOT to install the safety recommendations we have made in the past and the new ones this letter spells out before another tragedy occurs in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

CC: Manhattan Borough President, Gale A. Brewer  
Councilmember Corey Johnson  
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman  
Assembly Member Richard Gottfried  
Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal