



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

February 6, 2013

Mr. Carter Strickland  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, New York 11373

**Re: W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street Water main distribution (MED617)**

Dear Mr. Strickland:

Manhattan Community board 4 (CB4) thanks the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) for presenting their plans to install water main connections to the water tunnel on W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues. We appreciate the value and the complexity of the work you are performing.

W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues is a commercial street with – to the best of our knowledge, no residential buildings. There is at least one large commercial tenant with active loading bays on the north side of the street. We appreciate that DDC and DEP have indicated that building driveway/loading bays will be usable during all hours and that that they are in discussion with this owner to ensure the owner and their tenants are fully informed and efforts are made to minimize disruption.

The work is slated to start in the spring of 2013. We understand that the work will take place only during nighttime (10pm to 6am). During that time only one traveling lane will be open. Both lanes of traffic will be available during business hours, with portion of the parking lane used for storage. A community liaison has been named and contact information will be provided to the CB 4 office and to all area (the affected and adjacent blocks) owners and tenants.

Before the work commence we request to receive the following information

- What will be the start and end dates for the work on this specific block?
- What are the specific dates and the portion of the block that will be used for storage during non-work hours?
- We understand from the presentation that the steel plates used to cover the work areas will be treated to be skid resistant and that the plates will be wrapped every night so that they present a sloped connection with the road to the incoming traffic. Please confirm that it is the case.
- We appreciate your willingness to locate the new catch basins at least 10 ft. away from the intersections of the building lines, outside of the pedestrian crossings. This will allow future neck downs to be installed at lower cost. Please confirm that is the case.

DEP assured us that an extensive door-to-door outreach would be performed using multiple forms of communication. Based on past experience on a similar project on West 48th street we ask that the following protocols be implemented:

- As staff indicated would be the case, DEP should coordinate with commercial tenants to avoid blocking their loading bays during days and nights.
- The surrounding five blocks should be notified in addition to the block itself in case of water interruptions affect the adjacent blocks.
- The outreach for water interruptions should be performed a few days in advance and confirmed the day before by postings flyers in each building/e-mail notifications/website postings and phone and/or door-to-door, as necessary. We heard of one occasion on W. 48th Street where the neighbors were without water for three consecutive days. They had been warned only later in the day on the day previous to the disruption. More specifically we request DDC/DEP protocols require minimum 48 hours notification to area owner/tenants and 24 hour reminder notices in all cases.

We appreciate the high level of collaboration between DEP and the community. Please be kind enough to confirm our understanding and what additional measures will be adopted well in advance of starting the project.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Margaret Forgione, NYC Department of Transportation