



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

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

May 14, 2014

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

Re: CB5 Feasibility Study – Fifth and Sixth Avenues

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) supports Manhattan Community Board 5's (CB5) request for a study to define potential redesigns for Fifth and Sixth Avenues from West 14th Street to West 59th Streets to improve resident and tourist safety and street level experience.

We appreciate CB5's concerns on accident and injury rates, increased clutter, and diminished street ambiance experience on Fifth and Sixth Avenues. We also note that the MCB4 shares a Sixth Avenue border with CB5 between West 14th Street and West 26th Streets and we share their concern regarding both safety and pedestrian level experience in that area. This is particularly important given the substantial increase in both residential and local and regional retail on this shared corridor of Sixth Avenue during the last few years.

During the last five years DOT has made several improvements, based on studies and MCB4 recommendations that have improved safety and street ambiance, particularly along portions of Eighth and Ninth Avenues. These have included enclosed bicycle paths, improved street median and/or pedestrian island landscaping, increased use of Leading Pedestrian Intervals and/or turn signals, revised parking regulations, dedicated bus lanes, and community adopted standards on sidewalk cafés and newsstand locations (and we note additional improvements are requested and still needed). We encourage DOT to study their suitability, as requested by CB5, along Fifth and Sixth Avenue.

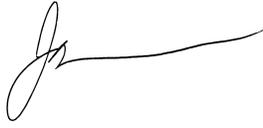
We appreciate that CB5's request includes requirement for DOT close consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders in CB5 during the study period. We also request that MCB4 be consulted during the study, particularly for the shared boundary area of Sixth Avenue and the potential change in traffic flow that vehicular/traffic light signals/timing changes can cause that may impact adjacent areas in MCB4.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Berthet', set against a light grey rectangular background.

Christine Berthet
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Marcus', consisting of a stylized initial 'J' followed by a long horizontal line.

Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Modarelli', featuring a large, sweeping initial 'E' followed by 'M' and 'D'.

Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee