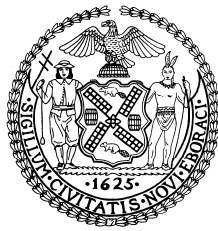


Nicholas Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

January 16, 2014

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Flr.
New York, NY 10038

Ted Berntsen
Inspector
19th Precinct
153 East 67th Street
New York, NY 10065

Re: Continued discussion of the East 60th Street and Third Avenue intersection

Dear Commissioner Forgione and Inspector Berntsen:

At the January 15, 2014 Full Board meeting, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS Community Board 8M is concerned about pedestrian safety along the corridor of East 60th Street from the Queensboro Bridge exit ramp at Second Avenue through the intersection of Third Avenue; and

WHEREAS both Third Avenue and East 60th Street are designated as truck routes; and

WHEREAS 16-year-old Renee Thompson died on July 31, 2013, after being struck by a tractor trailer while crossing Third Avenue at East 60th Street; and

WHEREAS a 67-year-old man died on May 24, 2010, after being hit by a taxi cab while crossing 60th Street at Third Avenue; and

WHEREAS in the five-year period from 2007 to 2011 there have been 28 injuries, including 12 pedestrian injuries, resulting from crashes at the intersections of East 60th Street & Third Avenue; and

WHEREAS vehicles exiting the Queensboro Bridge onto East 60th Street often travel at excessive speed as they approach Third Avenue; and

WHEREAS the intersection of East 60th Street & Third Avenue has very high pedestrian traffic, with entrances to a major subway station at all four corners and several tourist and shopping destinations located nearby; and

WHEREAS there is inadequate sidewalk space at several locations on 60th Street east of Third Avenue, due to enclosed and unenclosed sidewalk cafes, tree pits, high pedestrian volumes, and other factors; and

WHEREAS neckdowns reduce crossing distances, increase pedestrian visibility, slow turning vehicles, and decrease sidewalk overcrowding; and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation is proposing to designate the left lane of Third Avenue as a left-turn only lane approaching East 60th Street; and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation proposes to install painted neckdowns at the north-west and south-west corners of East 60th Street & Third Avenue; and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation proposes to extend by 140 feet the right-turn only lane on East 60th Street approaching Third Avenue, to reduce congestion and to prevent right turns from the middle lane; and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation proposes to upgrade the pedestrian crosswalk striping and to clarify lane assignments with additional markings and with “peg-a-track” markings through the intersection; and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation has agreed to continue to look at safety issues along East 60th Street and at its intersections with both Second and Third Avenues, as well as the Queensboro Bridge exit at Second Avenue near 60th Street, and to seek further measures to calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety through this corridor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Department of Transportation proposal for the following pedestrian improvements at East 60th Street & Third Avenue:

1. Install two painted neckdowns with flexible delineators at this intersection, to reduce the pedestrian crossing distance and to calm turning vehicles:
 - a. A neckdown at the NW corner that will reduce the distance to cross Third Avenue on the north side of the intersection from 65’ to 53’ (nearly 20%), and
 - b. A neckdown at the SW corner that will reduce the distance to cross East 60th Street on the west side of the intersection from 35’ to 25’ (nearly 30%);
2. Add a new left-turn only lane on Third Avenue approaching East 60th Street, to clarify vehicular movements and to allow for the neckdown on the NW corner;
3. Extend the right-turn only lane on East 60th Street by 140’, reducing congestion and “double turning”; and
4. Upgrade the pedestrian crosswalk striping and clarify lane assignments with additional markings and “peg-a-track” markings through the intersection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8M requests dedicated traffic enforcement for this intersection for the first six weeks after installation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8M asks the Department of Transportation to return within six months with proposals for additional pedestrian safety improvements and traffic-calming measures for the following locations:

- the Queensboro Bridge exit at Second Avenue near 60th Street;
- the intersection of East 60th Street and Second Avenue;
- the block of East 60th Street between Second & Third Avenues;
- and the intersection of East 60th Street and Third Avenue.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Viest
Chair

A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York

Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Honorable Micah Kellner, NYS Assembly Member, 65th Assembly District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District