

**Alida Camp**  
Chair

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District Manager



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**

November 21, 2019

Polly Trottenberg  
Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
42 Broadway  
New York, New York 10041

**RE: DOT Studying Vehicular Access to 59<sup>th</sup> Street between First and Second Avenues**

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on November 20, 2019, the board **approved** the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS**, the left turn from southbound 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue onto East 59<sup>th</sup> Street was eliminated in the Summer of 2019 due to the intersection being identified as a Vision Zero priority intersection where many crashes have occurred and resulted in many injuries, and in conjunction with the construction of new bike infrastructure on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue by the 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street (Also known as "the Landmark") have reported that they have been disproportionately affected by the elimination of the left turn and now must traverse longer and more circuitous routes to access their 59<sup>th</sup> Street building entrance; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street have indicated they now face longer response times from first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street have reported fewer taxis and for hire vehicles now serving their building; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street have reported that loading and unloading of vehicles and deliveries at the 59<sup>th</sup> Street building entrance have been impacted by the reduced access resulting from the elimination of the left turn; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street have claimed that property values and garage revenues for cooperative stakeholders have been affected by the reduced access; and

**WHEREAS**, direct access to the 59<sup>th</sup> Street entrance of 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street is paramount to addressing the needs of building residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York City Department of Transportation conducts assessments of all projects post-implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York City Department of Transportation has the experience and expertise to determine solutions to complex multimodal transportation engineering issues;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that NYCDOT assess all potential opportunities for direct access from either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues to the 59<sup>th</sup> Street building and garage entrances to 300 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYCDOT perform the assessment in a very expeditious manner and return to Community Board 8 with recommendations that would provide the direct access requested.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

 (2013)

Alida Camp  
Chair

 (2013)

Craig Lader and Charles Warren  
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District