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

September 22, 2022

Edward F. Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

RE: Potential Upgrades of Painted Crosstown Bike Lanes to Protected Bike Lanes

Dear Commissioner Pincar,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on September 21, 2022, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 prioritizes safety for everyone who travels within our community, including those on bikes, on foot, using public transportation and in cars and trucks; and

WHEREAS; biking has seen a large increase in popularity in recent years throughout New York City, including within Community District 8; and

WHEREAS; the presence of bike lanes provides benefits for those on foot and in cars, as interactions with cyclists are more predictable where bike lanes exist; and

WHEREAS; protected bike lanes provide significantly more safety for cyclists than the painted bike lanes; and

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 Manhattan has expressed past support for implementation of a network of crosstown bicycle routes using the safest appropriate design on the Upper East Side; and

WHEREAS; the current bike network within Community District 8 includes painted bike lanes on 70th, 71st, 77th, 78th, 90th and 91st Streets that provide a minimal level of protection to cyclists; and

WHEREAS; protected crosstown bike lanes are located on East 61st and 62nd Streets, but are very inconvenient to persons traveling east/west further north in Community District 8;

WHEREAS; there is a gap in crosstown bike lanes in the East 80s, forcing cyclists to bike without the benefit of a bike lane; and

WHEREAS; there is also a major gap in northbound/southbound bike lanes within Community District 8, as no bike lanes are present between Central Park and 2nd Avenue; and

WHEREAS; there are major gaps in the bike network within Central Park, impacting many cyclists wishing to travel directly between the East and West Sides; and

WHEREAS; as a result of the lack of direct and protected bike routes to and through Central Park, cycling on streets with minimal or no bike infrastructure and on the Central Park Transverses is dangerous and crashes are an all too common occurrence; and

WHEREAS; the deaths of cyclists Carling Mott on East 85th Street in July 2022 and Dr. Daniel Cammerman on the 96th Street Transverse in December 2019 may have been preventable had protected bike lanes been in place;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that NYCDOT provide fully protected crosstown bike lanes approximately every 10 blocks between 60th and 110th Streets (the whole length of Central Park) on both sides of the park, and a 2-way protected bikeway around Central Park, and present such plans to Community Board 8 as soon as possible.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren

Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District