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

October 21, 2022

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

RE: Third Avenue Complete Street Design and Safety Improvements

Dear Commissioner Pincar,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on October 19, 2022, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 26 in favor, 13 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS; Third Avenue traverses Community District 8 between 59th and 96th Streets; and

WHEREAS; Third Avenue is 70' wide, accommodating 5 moving lanes of general traffic and 2 parking lanes; and

WHEREAS; there is excess capacity on Third Avenue that promotes vehicular speeding; and

WHEREAS; Third Avenue has a very high incidence rate of pedestrians killed and injured;

WHEREAS; Third Avenue doesn't feature a bike lane, yet still is a busy bike corridor that is unsafe for cyclists; and

WHEREAS; Third Avenue is a heavily utilized bus corridor, with over 150 buses operating during each peak period; and

WHEREAS; Bus speeds on Third Avenue bus routes are among the slowest in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS; Third Avenue's design is a relic of now outdated best practices and in need of a redesign that prioritizes safety for all users; and

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 has called for an expanded network of protected bike lanes following a series of recent cyclist fatalities; and

WHEREAS; NYCDOT has committed to transforming Manhattan's entire Third Avenue Corridor to prioritize safety of pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS; the poor safety record of Third Avenue in Community District 8 has resulted in NYCDOT proposing its segment to be the first to be improved; and

WHEREAS; NYCDOT data indicates that there are far fewer severe injuries to pedestrians when protected bike lanes are present, with seniors seeing the largest amount of benefits;

WHEREAS; NYCDOT's proposal for a complete street design would include a protected bike lane; and

WHEREAS; the proposed Third Avenue redesign would create a dedicated bus lane that would provide faster and more reliable service throughout Community District 8; and

WHEREAS; the presence of sidewalk islands and the reduction of general traffic lanes would significantly shorten the crossing length for pedestrians; and

WHEREAS; NYCDOT traffic analysis indicates that there will still be sufficient vehicular capacity even after 2 lanes of traffic are converted to bus and bike lanes; and

WHEREAS; enforcing double parking, especially commercial vehicle unloading in moving lanes is critical to preventing congestion, regardless of the number of moving lanes available to general traffic; and

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 considers the safety of users of its transportation network to be paramount; and

WHEREAS; prioritizing enforcement of all traffic modes will be essential to attaining the safety benefits that a complete street design is intended to achieve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the plan presented by NYCDOT to implement a Third Avenue complete street design with bus, bike and pedestrian improvements between East 59th and East 96th Streets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that enforcement of all traffic laws be prioritized on Third Avenue for all modes, including enforcement activities related to but not limited to illegal double parking, warehousing activities by commercial vehicles, moving violations of general traffic and bikes including speeding, running red lights and failure to yield, and illegal parking or standing in bus lanes.

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