



**DELORES RUBIN**  
Chair

**Jesse Bodine**  
District Manager

January 5, 2017

Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

**Re: Split Phase Signals at Priority Intersections**

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

Manhattan Community Board 4 once again<sup>i</sup> brings to your attention the extremely dangerous traffic conditions in our neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen. Just last week two people died in horrific vehicular crashes: a woman crossing the street with the walk sign was crushed to death by a turning truck in front of her family at 39<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and a cyclist was crossing the northbound leg of the west side highway with the walk sign as directed, when he was overrun by a turning vehicle coming from 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

These are not isolated incidents: in 2016, four pedestrians were killed in our district, double the 2014 number, when the Mayor initiated his Vision Zero initiative. We acknowledge that the increase in traffic crashes is a nationwide trend, however the numbers we experience – 6 deaths or a 300% increase in overall fatalities since 2013 - vastly exceeds the 10% increase reported for the rest of the country or the city.

While we are very grateful that the DOT has worked closely with us to install many new improvements in our district in recent years as a result of the 2007 Hell's Kitchen traffic study, in particular many Lead Pedestrian Intervals and a few split phases and split LPIs, the statistics make us wonder if the pace of change is adequate, considering the increased congestion and pedestrian traffic in all parts of our neighborhood.

In addition to fixing the two intersections mentioned above, where the crashes resulted in fatalities, we are asking you – again - to address with urgency and with proven solutions (like split phases, that reduce crashes by at least 50% and up to 77%) those priority intersections identified in the DOT 2014 Vision Zero Pedestrian Action report<sup>ii</sup>.

- West 57 Street & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

- West 57 Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 42 Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 34<sup>th</sup> Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 24<sup>th</sup> Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 14<sup>th</sup> Street & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- West 14<sup>th</sup> Street & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue

At each intersection, Accessible Pedestrian Signals should be installed along with the changes in signals to comply with federal regulations.

MCB4 knows that the DOT cares about safety and that resources are not infinite. We simply ask that you accelerate the rate of change by removing institutional and cultural obstacles to these installations, add urgency and put priority on those most dangerous intersections in our district in order reduce fatalities.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

Yoni Bokser  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

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- <sup>i</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/16-TRANS-Letter-to-DOT-re-11th-Avenue-Safety-Improvements.pdf>
  - [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/archives/july-august/30\\_trans\\_letter\\_to\\_dot\\_re\\_fatality\\_at\\_38th\\_st\\_and\\_8th\\_ave.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/archives/july-august/30_trans_letter_to_dot_re_fatality_at_38th_st_and_8th_ave.pdf)
  - [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/october2016/15\\_trans\\_letter\\_to\\_dot\\_re\\_split\\_lpi\\_signals.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/october2016/15_trans_letter_to_dot_re_split_lpi_signals.pdf)
  - [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/october2016/16\\_trans\\_letter\\_to\\_dot\\_re\\_11th\\_avenue\\_safety\\_improvements\\_with\\_attachment.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/october2016/16_trans_letter_to_dot_re_11th_avenue_safety_improvements_with_attachment.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/ped-safety-action-plan.shtml>