



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

**SCOTT M. STRINGER**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

August 19, 2010

Ms. Janette Sadik-Khan  
Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

I am writing regarding the Department of Transportation's (DOT) 34<sup>th</sup> Street Transitway proposal. My office has been advised of the Department's plans to conduct block-by-block outreach along 34<sup>th</sup> Street beginning this October. I appreciate this effort and believe it is a critical step towards understanding and addressing the needs of the community impacted by this project.

Since the announcement of the project, my office has heard from numerous residents and business owners in the area who are concerned about the proposed traffic reconfiguration along 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Some of the main concerns I have heard include:

- Curbside access to the main entrances of buildings for uses including pick up and drop off, deliveries, city services such as garbage removal, Access-a-Ride, and emergency building repairs.
- Economic impact on small businesses resulting from delivery difficulties and the limited ability for commercial vehicles coming from the outer boroughs or New Jersey to traverse the corridor.
- Impact on the streetscape resulting from construction of new infrastructure for BRT, especially the removal of trees and the imposition of signage.
- Increased vehicular traffic on adjacent streets and to and from the Lincoln and Queens Midtown Tunnels.
- Restricted access to the East Side Medical Corridor and the potential for delays in emergency vehicle response time.
- Insufficient quantitative analysis on the above concerns.

To fully respond to the community's concerns, I request that DOT provide a written report with empirical evidence addressing the issues raised through the block-by-block outreach. This report should include proposed solutions to address each issue and be made publicly available. I am confident that a report of this kind will be a valuable tool to share information from the block-by-block outreach and foster dialogue between DOT and the community.

As a co-convenor of the 34<sup>th</sup> Street Transitway Community Advisory Committee (CAC), I propose that this forum be used to both prepare for the block-by-block outreach and to share its results. A September meeting of the CAC should be scheduled in order for DOT to gather feedback and guidance on the outreach process. After the block-by-block consultations have concluded, a follow-up CAC meeting should be scheduled to report back on its findings. Similarly, CAC meetings should be convened to address the content of the traffic analysis/environmental review that DOT will conduct, and report back on its findings. A member of my staff will be reaching out to you shortly to discuss dates for these meetings.

The community outreach process will only be meaningful if every resident and business owner affected by the proposal has the opportunity to participate. My office is ready to provide assistance with this endeavor and we look forward to working with you to achieve this goal. Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Stringer" clearly distinguishable.

Scott M. Stringer  
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Community Board 4  
Community Board 5  
Community Board 6  
34<sup>th</sup> Street Transitway Action Committee  
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association