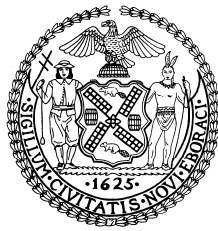


Nicholas Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

May 24, 2013

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Flr.
New York, NY 10038

Re: Continuing discussion of the Queensboro Bridge Bike Connections

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

At the May 22, 2013 Full Board meeting, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 23 in favor, 6 opposed, 4 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS NYC DOT proposes to close the gap in the First Avenue bicycle lanes and to improve bike network connections between the Queensboro Bridge and the Second Avenue bike route, and

WHEREAS DOT proposes to extend the northbound protected First Avenue bicycle path one block south from its current start at 61st Street, adding two pedestrian refuge islands (at 60th & 61st), and

WHEREAS DOT proposes to install a protected two-way bicycle path for the single block of First Avenue between 59th & 60th, underneath the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, and

WHEREAS DOT proposes to add shared bicycle lanes in both directions along East 59th Street between First & Second Avenues, and

WHEREAS DOT proposes to extend the existing enhanced shared bicycle lanes within Community Board 6 on both First & Second Avenues up to 59th Street, and

WHEREAS the proposal will allow bicyclists to more safely travel from the Queensboro Bridge to the Second Avenue bicycle route, and

WHEREAS the proposal causes no reduction in through traffic lanes on First Avenue, and

WHEREAS the proposal for the intersection of East 59th Street & First Avenue has been revised following community board input to involve three signal phases as follows:

1. Green for cars traveling north on First Ave., but Red for cars waiting to turn left onto 59th St. Pedestrians will have the Walk signal to cross 59th Street (north/south), and cyclists traveling south on First Avenue will have a bicycle traffic signal allowing them to turn right onto 59th while yielding to pedestrians.

2. Green for cars turning left on 59th Street & cars going north up First Ave. Pedestrians at the NW & SW corners will have a Don't Walk signal, and south-bound cyclists will have a red light. Pedestrians on the NE & SE corners will still have the Walk signal to cross 59th Street.
3. Green for cars on 59th Street, and Red for cars and cyclists on First Ave. Pedestrians will be able to cross First Avenue (east/west).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves the proposed Queensboro Bridge Bicycle Connections project with the following additional recommendations:

1. Accessible Pedestrian Signals should be installed at the intersection of East 59th Street and First Avenue, for pedestrians crossing in all directions, prior to the implementation of other changes at this location.
2. Dedicated bicycle signal-heads should be used on the traffic signals for south-bound cyclists at the intersection of 59th & First, with a yellow and/or blinking green signal during Phase 1 to indicate that the cyclist is permitted to turn carefully onto 59th Street, and with a steady red signal during Phases 2 and 3, when the cyclist must stop and wait.
3. Signage should be placed at the NW and SW corners to alert pedestrians to WATCH FOR TURNING BIKES, and a YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS sign should be added on 59th Street just before turning cyclists reach the pedestrian crosswalk.
4. Dedicated traffic safety enforcement should be added for the first three months after the changes are implemented.
5. DOT should examine the feasibility of a delayed green light in Signal Phase 3 for cars traveling west on East 59th St., with a leading green light for eastbound traffic, which might allow bicyclists turning left from 59th St. onto First Avenue to clear the intersection before the westbound cars begin to move.
6. DOT should propose a contextually appropriate design to be painted on the barriers beneath the Queensboro Bridge, and present the design to a joint meeting of CB8M's Landmarks and Transportation Committees for approval.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Viest
Chair

A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Dan Quart, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member