



November 30, 2015

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

We are writing to thank you for the recent announcement that New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will be redesigning part of Sixth Avenue, and to request that DOT continue in that productive direction and move toward making both Fifth and Sixth Avenues full Complete Streets.

DOT's plan to add a protected bike lane on Sixth Avenue between 14th and 33rd Streets, and a second phase in 2017 from Canal Street to 14th Street, is a welcome relief from a congested and dangerous street. However, the city cannot leave adjacent streets and neighborhoods behind as it begins this work. There is currently no protected bike infrastructure on Fifth or Sixth Avenues to keep riders safe. Vehicles frequently double park in painted bike lanes and pose major safety hazards. Redesigning the entire Fifth and Sixth Avenue corridors—south of Central Park down to the Village—as Complete Streets will improve safety for all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorized vehicles. Such Complete Streets have been shown to reduce injuries by over 30 percent.

A recent report by Transportation Alternatives called "Fifth and Sixth Avenue Bicycle and Traffic Study" sheds new light on road usage on these streets, finding that one out of every ten vehicles on Fifth and Sixth Avenues are bicycles. A full 25% of bicyclists recorded were using the city's bike share program, Citi Bike, and as this program expands to the Upper West and Upper East Side, bike usage along those corridors will likely increase. In addition to saving lives, safe streets infrastructure is an equity issue. In a gender count comparing bicycle traffic along protected First and Ninth Avenues with unprotected Fifth and Sixth Avenues, twice as many women were using First and Ninth Avenues. Better infrastructure ensures better access to our streets for all New Yorkers.

Safer infrastructure on Fifth and Sixth Avenues has enormous support: over 16,000 New Yorkers have signed a petition calling for full redesigns, and 150 local small businesses, block associations, Business Improvement Districts, and civic institutions have pledged


their support. Complete Streets on these corridors are also a natural component of the mayor's Vision Zero initiative.

We urge DOT to take the necessary steps to study and implement Complete Streets infrastructure on Fifth and Sixth Avenues as swiftly as possible. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or to follow up, please contact Tara Klein in Senator Hoylman's office at 212-633-8052 or tara@bradhoylman.com.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member



Richard N. Gottfried
Assembly Member



Daniel R. Garodnick
City Council Member



Corey Johnson
City Council Member