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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

December 21, 2018

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

Resolution requesting East 37th Street and East River Greenway Safety Improvements

At the December 12, 2018 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, vehicles travel at high speeds as they exit the FDR Drive southbound and enter the FDR Drive northbound at East 37th Street;

WHEREAS, both of these FDR Drive exit and entrance roads include crosswalks that are heavily used by pedestrians, bicyclists, families with strollers, and older adults—foot traffic that has steadily increased as the 34th Street ferry landing has added new routes;

WHEREAS, pedestrian and bike traffic also continue to grow with the addition of new buildings in the area, greatly increasing the residential foot traffic;

WHEREAS, the space below the FDR Drive overpass on East 37th Street between the FDR Drive exit road and on-ramp is owned by NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and is maintained by DOT with the help of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), and the NYPD 17th Precinct;

WHEREAS, this area is dark, even during daylight hours, because the DOT flood lights in the underpass area are often broken due to vandalism;

WHEREAS, there is no crosswalk where East 36th Street intersects the FDR Drive exit road and entrance road;

WHEREAS, the narrow, paved greenway corridor alongside Glick Park between East 35th and East 37th Streets, owned by DOT, is not clearly marked as a pedestrian or bike path, and abuts fencing at Glick Park (also known as the East River Esplanade), which creates dangerous congestion mingling cyclists and pedestrians at peak commuter hours;

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) passed a resolution on October 17, 2014 to urge DOT to install additional specific safety measures along this section of the greenway from East 35th to East 37th Street and where the FDR Drive exit and entrance roads intersect with East 37th Street, most of which have not been implemented;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB6 requests the removal of the fencing along the western wall at East River Esplanade (also known as Glick Park) after the current capital rehabilitation project there is completed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB6 again requests activation of the space below the FDR Drive overpass on East 37th Street between the FDR Drive exit road and entrance through new paint, better lighting, and other improvements to create a safer, more accessible space;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB6 requests DOT review the area of East 36th Street at the FDR Drive exit road and entrance road to create a pedestrian crossing at this location to alleviate the increasingly heavy use of the FDR Drive pedestrian/bike underpass;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB6 urges DOT:

- to paint clear markings from East 37th Street at the FDR Drive southbound exit road, through the pedestrian/bicycle underpass, the FDR Drive northbound entrance, and along the greenway next to East River Esplanade to East 35th Street
- to include shared zone signage, upgrading of surface material, and bollards for safety
- to examine the possibility of a raised crosswalk at both the FDR Drive exit and entrance crossings to slow vehicular traffic.

VOTE: 38 in Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstention 0 Not Entitled

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member
Colleen Chattergoon, New York City Department of Transportation
Sandra McKee, Chair, CB6 Transportation Committee