

October 20, 2009

Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street – 9th Floor
New York, New York 10041

Re: Two-Way Barricaded Bike Lane

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

I once again respectfully request that your plans to install a two-way bike lane down the length of Prospect Park West in Park Slope come to a halt; and that there be a more extensive scrutiny and review of the traffic patterns – particularly during the warmer months of the year. I am joined in this request by former DOT Commissioner, Iris Weinshall – who absolutely agrees that the installation of a two-way, barricaded bike lane would cause incredible congestion.

As I told you on many occasions, I reside directly across the street on Prospect Park West; and I know first-hand the kind of traffic gridlock that this ill-advised proposal would result in, especially during the warmer months. Between picnics, barbequing, the Celebrate Brooklyn Concerts, and the many “walk/runs” – including some major ones like the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer – the result would almost certainly be far greater problems in terms of traffic congestion and pollution. Further, as I’m sure you know, parking is at a premium as Park Slope is one of the most difficult communities in which to find a place to park; and this proposal would definitely reduce the number of parking spaces – further exacerbating this already-intolerable situation.

I’m absolutely flabbergasted that I’ve repeated to you on a number of occasions that anyone using their bike has a greater ability to do so *without* using Prospect Park West. All they have to do is use the traffic-free drive in Prospect Park from Grand Army Plaza to 15th Street – thereby ensuring that the bike flow is safe, secure, and convenient – which is allegedly what you are concerned about.

October 20, 2009

Page 2

When I discussed this with you, you mentioned to me your plan to install this after the summer.....and it's already October 20th and the work has not yet begun – which leads me to believe that you may be waiting until after November 3rd, Election Day. If this is the case, it would show complete disrespect for this community.

As Borough President of Brooklyn, I urge you to shelve this project indefinitely; and I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Marty Markowitz

MM/dlr

bc: H. Mihaltses
I. Weinshall
R. Bashner
J. Folk
L. DePalma

Haeda Mihaltses, Director Intergovernmental Affairs
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