



Department of Transportation

JANETTE SADIK-KHAN, Commissioner

July 25, 2011

Mel Wymore
Chair
Community Board #7
250 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024

Dear Mr. Wymore,

Thank you for your resolution dated June 7, 2011 concerning the establishment of a car-free summer on Central Park's Drives.

The City has a longstanding commitment to making Central Park more accessible to New Yorkers and visitors. No administration has done more to expand the park's use for recreational purposes. The Park Drives in Central Park are currently open to vehicle traffic just 11% of time. This includes full weekend closures and a significant reduction in the number of entrances from the street system. DOT is also working with the Central Park Conservancy on a proposal to add the park's first-ever cross-park bike paths.

A detailed timeline of automobile and bicycle use in Central Park is available on the DOT web site at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bicyclists/bikes-centralpark.shtml>.

We recently received and reviewed your resolution to implement a pilot program to establish a car-free summer on Central Park's Drives. While there are no changes planned at this time, we will be collecting data this summer on the volume and speeds of vehicles using both the Park Drives and the surrounding streets. This data can inform any future plans for reducing the amount of time that the Park Drives are open to vehicular traffic.

Thank you for writing concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Forgiione".

Margaret Forgiione
Borough Commissioner

MF:ks
Man Log # 14132
CCU # 11-6906
cc: A. Bovell, J. Orzeck