



Office of City Council Member  
**Benjamin J. Kallos**



**Livable Streets**  
*Street Improvements*

244 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10028 | [benkallos.com](http://benkallos.com) | [www.facebook.com/benkallos](https://www.facebook.com/benkallos)

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### Introduction

New Yorkers move quickly. We walk, bike, drive and take public transportation. We are constantly in motion. Because of this, the quality of our streets and transportation infrastructure is of paramount importance.

In the spring, Council Member Ben Kallos solicited responses from more than 60,000 households on the East Side of Manhattan on how to improve streets so they could be safer and more livable (see form on the right, or fill out in the back). With those results, we created this report, to serve as a resource for City agencies striving for safer streets to achieve Vision Zero.

This first part of the Livable Streets Report contains resident feedback on better, more convenient streets. The community-based model of identifying problems and achieving traffic changes allows city planners and officials to extend eyes and ears across neighborhoods in great detail.

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF & WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Join or lead a policy committee       Volunteer in office

**ISSUE(S) I CARE ABOUT:**

Affordable Housing       Education  
 Environment / Parks       Good Government  
 Health       Jobs / Economy  
 Marine Transfer Station       Public Safety  
 Second Ave Subway       Transportation  
 Other

**LIVABLE STREETS - HELP US MAKE YOUR STREETS SAFER**  
**SUGGEST LOCATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

Dangerous Intersections: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus stop shelters: \_\_\_\_\_

City racks for bikes: \_\_\_\_\_

CityBench: \_\_\_\_\_

Potholes: \_\_\_\_\_

Corners that should be wheelchair/walker accessible: \_\_\_\_\_

Share your solutions for a better city: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL BACK TO: Council Member Kallos  
244 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128 or email back to [bkalllos@cityofnyc.gov](mailto:bkalllos@cityofnyc.gov)

C o u n c i l M e m b e r K a l l o s o f t h e r e p o r t ' s s u g g e s t i o n s  
appropriate agency. For example, requests for city furniture—including benches and bus  
shelters—have been submitted to the Department of Transportation. Potholes and street issues  
have been solved through 311. The Council Member's office  
issues are investigated—and then resolved.

The report consolidates ideas and suggestions for improvement from residents, but there is still more to be done. All of us must pay close attention to safe streets issues and keep alert when we have our commute or enjoy a stroll. As we move towards a better city, New York City relies on you to build safer streets.

This report dedicated to *Street Improvements* is organized into the following sections:

- < **Streetscape and Sidewalk Improvements**
- < **CityBench**
- < **Bus Service**
- < **Bus Stop Benches & Shelters**
- < **Bus Time Countdown Clocks**
- < **Bike Lanes**
- < **CityRack**



**Streetscape and Sidewalk Improvements**



Particularly for seniors and disabled New Yorkers, sidewalk quality can be the difference between safety and injury. Safe, navigable streets have one of the highest effects on quality of life. In their feedback, residents noted dangerous cracks and corners that were not accessible.

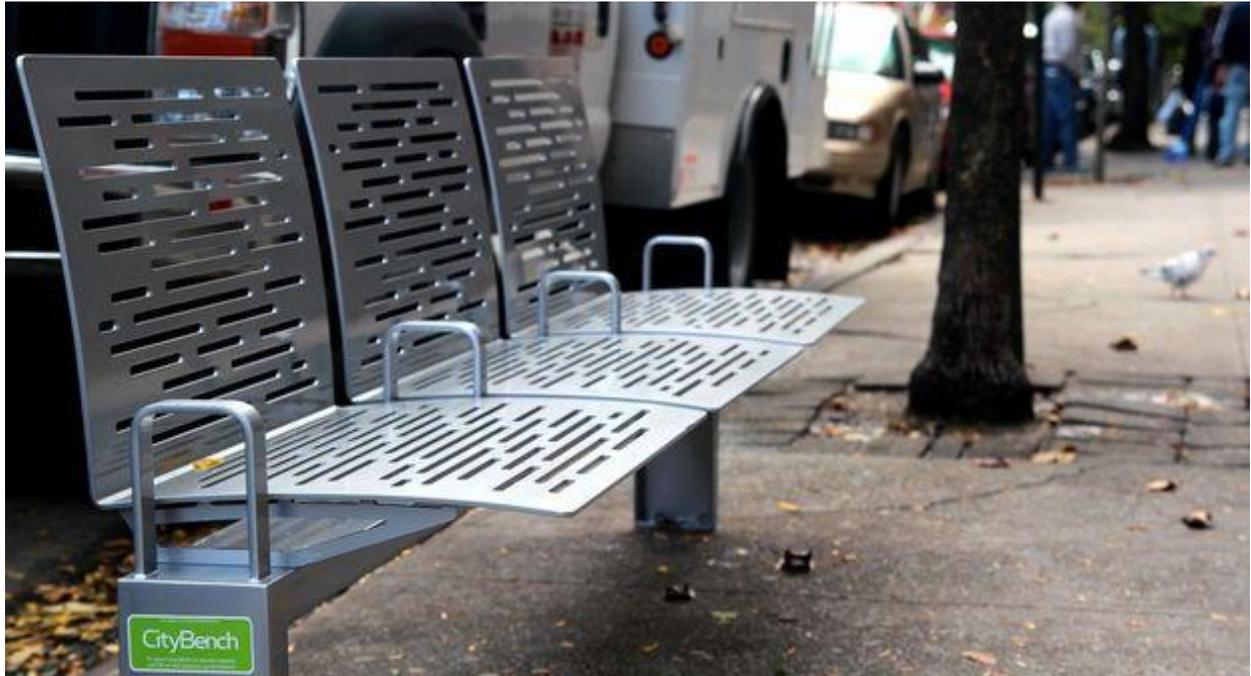
Requested improvements:

- < **86th St. and East End Avenue** ⚡ ♿  
 Cracks and holes getting progressively larger, causing particular problem for wheelchair or walker users.
- < **84th Street and First Avenue on of 84<sup>th</sup> (West corner)** 🚗  
 Potholes
- < **79th Street and York Avenue** ⚡ 🚗  
 Potholes and damage from winter.
- < **57th Street and 58th Street on First Avenue (South East corner)** 💧  
 Poor drainage on corner causes rainwater to flow into bus stop area.
- < **50th Street and Second Ave** ⚡  
 Requires pavement smoothing
- < **Roosevelt Island Helix** 🚗  
 Potholes

	Potholes
	Poorly Maintained Street
	Poor Drainage
	ADA Accessibility

To suggest more street improvements, please contact the Council Member at [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)

**CityBench: Benches for Sidewalks in the Neighborhood**



The scarcity of public benches throughout the East Side, including seating locations at bus stops, makes it difficult for seniors and disabled New Yorkers to navigate. Council Member Kallos' office submitted the furniture requests from the community to the City and will follow up for results.

**Requested Locations:**

- < East 79th Street between Second and Third Avenue
- < East 77th Street and 1st Avenue (change direction to face traffic instead of stores)
- < Carl Schurz Park, 80th Street to 84th Street

To suggest more CityBench locations, please ~~office~~ visit the ~~City~~ Council Member Kallos' office at [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)



## Bus Service



Many East Siders rely on buses for their daily commutes. One of the densest neighborhoods in the city, the Upper East Side is also underserved by subway transit because streets closer to the East River are many avenues away from the subway. Indeed, the Lexington Avenue Subway line is the busiest in the system, while Second Avenue Subway construction is still years away from completion in December of 2016. Without disabled accessible stations in the district seniors and the disabled are more reliant on buses, making them especially important in the aging neighborhoods on the East Side.

Residents report excessive waiting time between buses, rush-hour overcrowding and an uneven proportion of Select buses to local buses. Though these problems are not new, the Council Member is committed to working with the MTA to communicate concerns, explore improvements and encourage transparency. Residents particularly noted:

- < **M15 First/Second Avenue SBS:** First Avenue Select Bus Service desired at 72nd St. stop. Long wait times between local buses. Overcrowded during rush hour.
- < **M31:** Out of service buses. Issues with service quality and ongoing service cuts.
- < **M72:** Buses wait at 72nd and First until departure time during cold months instead of allowing riders to board early at 72nd and York.
- < **M98:** Service all the way to 50th St. requested.

To offer more comments on bus service, please contact the Council Member at [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)

## **Bus Stop Benches & Shelters**



Bus shelters provide passengers a place to rest while waiting for their bus as well as a sanctuary from rain, wind, and inclement weather. With a large and growing population of seniors, it is important that bus stops meet space requirements and that those that need them have a bus shelter for the convenience and safety of riders.

Requested locations:

- < **M15**, First Avenue and 63rd Street
- < **M15**, 57th Street and Second Avenue
- < **M31**, 86th Street and York Avenue
- < **M66, M101, M102, M103**, 68th Street and Lexington Avenue
- < **M66, M101, M102, M103**, 67th Street and Third Avenue
- < **M101, M102, M103**, 86th Street and Lexington Avenue

To suggest more Bus Stop Benches and Bus Shelter locations, please contact the Council Member's office or visit [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)



**Bus Time Countdown Clocks**



In 2014, residents voted through participatory budgeting to fund bus clocks to indicate the time of the next bus' arrival of the subway system, and this transit improvement has been a improvement is now being extended to buses across the city. Bus clocks allow residents to plan their commutes have provide them with peace of mind. Particularly for residents without access to the smartphone app, the bus clocks will make their commute easier and more convenient.

The following two projects will be funded through Council Member Kallos' discretionary funding:

< **West Bound Crosstown Bus Stops** (\$300,000)

Fifteen electronic signs will be installed along the M96, M86, M79, M72 and M66 crosstown routes to tell riders when the next bus will arrive in real-time.

< **Downtown Timers** (\$340,000)

Seventeen electronic signs will be installed along the M31 downtown routes to tell riders when the next bus will arrive in real-time.

To suggest more locations for Bus Time Countdown Clocks or other improvements to the district's streets, please contact the Council Member through the Participatory Budgeting process. Please contact the Council Member at [BenKallos.com/PB](http://BenKallos.com/PB)

## Bike Lanes



Bike lanes have passionate support and opposition in the community, which is why the issue requires continuous conversation and communication between small businesses, residents and city government. In this spirit, the **Department of Transportation** held a **Bike Lane Forum** with members of the **Department of Transportation** on June 25 to allow residents to share their views on bike lanes and learn more.

Many community members believe bike lanes provide necessary protections for bikers, walkers and drivers. Others have concerns about unsafe usage: Residents highlight the misuse of bike lanes by delivery trucks that use them to drop off deliveries at businesses, often against traffic, and illegal parking on the lanes.

Both of these perspectives were similarly expressed in the “Livable Streets” have served as the basis for a series of community forums on the issue:

- < **Bike Lane Forum**: June 25th, 2014, 6:30PM, *Lenox Hill Neighborhood House*
- < **Commercial Bike Forum**: July 23rd, 3:00PM, *The Carter Burden Center for the Aging*
- < **Forum with the NYPD**: October 22, 6:00PM, *Stanley Isaacs Senior Center*

For updates on upcoming forums **visit** [a site](http://BenKallos.com) **contact** **BenKallos.com** to subscribe to the monthly newsletter.



### **CityRack: Bicycle Racks**



In 2008, Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner, Paul Warwick Thompson, Director of the National Design Museum, and Paul White of Transportation Alternatives, announced the winners of the CityRacks Design Competition. The above design was submitted by Ian Mahaffy and Maarten De Greeve (Bettlelab), based in Copenhagen, Denmark and earned the duo \$10,000 from Transportation Alternatives. Their modern, simple design is now the official bike rack of New York City. When there are insufficient bike racks, residents often use trees to chain their bikes, which damage New York City's greenery, an often remedied through this solution.

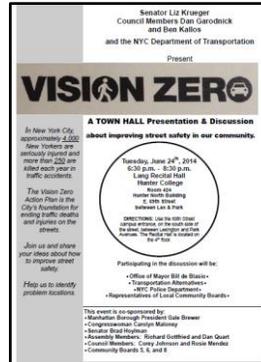
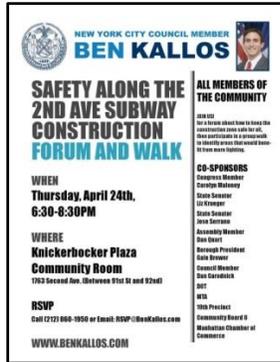
#### Requested Locations:

- < South East of East 86th Street and York Avenue
- < 1140 and 1170 First Avenue
- < North East Corner of 62nd and First

To suggest more CityRacks locations, please visit or contact [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets) the

## Conclusion

In addition to the information gathering, five forums were held to increase engagement across our neighborhoods, with more to follow:



### 1. Safety Along Second Avenue Subway Construction Forum

*April 24th, 2014, Knickerbocker Community Room*

More than fifty residents asked questions of the Department of Transportation and NYPD, and then joined us in a safety walk to identify areas for improvement along the construction.

### 2. Adopt-A-Planter Forum

*May 15th, 2014, MSK Auditorium at Rockefeller Research University Laboratories Building*

Residents from all over the East Side signed up to beautify planters along First Avenue.

### 3. Vision Zero Town Hall Forum

*June 24th, 2014, Lang Recital Hall of Hunter College*

Council Member Kallos joined State Senator Liz Krueger, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and fellow Council Member Dan Garodnick in hosting a discussion about implementation of Vision Zero across the Upper East Side. A presentation by the Department of Transportation's Margaret Forgione detailed p  
a c c o m m o d a t e s a l l t y p e s o f v e h i c l e s o f t h e c i t y ' s

### 4. Bike Lane Forum

*June 25th, 2014, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House*

Many residents turned out for a discussion on the need for bike lane safety. We anticipate continued engagement that will lead to solutions that benefit all travelers.

### 5. Commercial Bike Safety Forum

*Wednesday July 23rd, The Carter Burden Center for the Aging*

A new plan to promote commercial bike safety throughout the Upper East Side and beyond included a bike safety forum.

### Upcoming: Bike Enforcement Forum with the NYPD

*October 22, 6:00PM, Stanley Isaacs Senior Center, 415 E 93<sup>rd</sup> Street*



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 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
 DISTRICT 5, MANHATTAN

The Commercial Bike Safety plan is as follows:

**STEP 1: MORE SAFETY VESTS**

If you see or receive a bike delivery with NO safety vest displaying business name and identification number, report it to the business, 311 and Ben Kallos.

**STEP 2: REPORT UNSAFE BIKING**

If you see unsafe biking, remember the business name and identification number from the safety vest then report it to the store, 311 and Ben Kallos. Tell the store that you can wait longer for deliveries so bikes can be slower and safer for everyone.

**STEP 3: ENFORCEMENT**

When you call 311, DOT and NYPD will be notified and will take the appropriate steps to resolve the issue.



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
**BEN KALLOS**




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**COMMERCIAL BIKE SAFETY**

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**1 EDUCATIONAL FORUM**  
 Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 3:00PM, TBD  
**FREE Safety Vests, bells and lights**  
 for stores that RSVP and attend.

**2 MORE SAFETY VESTS**  
 If you see or receive a bike delivery with **NO safety vest** displaying business name and identification number, **report it to the business, 311 and Ben Kallos.**

**3 REPORT UNSAFE BIKING**  
 If you see unsafe biking, remember the business name and identification number from the safety vest then **report it to the store, 311 and Ben Kallos.** Tell the store that you can wait longer for deliveries so **bikes** can be **slower** and **safer** for everyone.

**4 ENFORCEMENT**  
 When you call 311, DOT and NYPD will be notified and will take the appropriate steps to resolve the issue.

[Learn more at BenKallos.com/BikeSafe](http://BenKallos.com/BikeSafe) or call 212-860-1950

These community programs and forums serve to increase engagement and continue our conversation on better, more livable streets. If you would like to suggest a forum or find out what is upcoming, please contact Council Member Kallos' office.

To report more dangerous intersections or streetscape improvements go to **BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets**, or fill out and mail this form or contact our office.

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF & WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Volunteer in office

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Education

Environment / Parks

Good Government

Health

Jobs / Economy

Marine Transfer Station

Public Safety

Second Ave Subway

Transportation

Other

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CityBench: \_\_\_\_\_

Potholes: \_\_\_\_\_

Corners that should be wheelchair/walker accessible: \_\_\_\_\_

Share your solutions for a better city: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Benjamin J. Kallos**

# Livable Streets

*Street Improvements*

## **Special Thanks**

Tirso Tavarez, Community Liaison

Erin Annett, Senior Fellow

Eric Guardiola, Intern