



March 4, 2015

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane
37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione,

We are writing to you regarding Chrystie Street on the Lower East Side and Chinatown. Our offices have been contacted regarding safety concerns on this street and in its immediate area.

This corridor is surrounded by a park and open spaces, schools, senior and health centers, and several community organizations. Community Board 3 has unanimously passed a resolution, attached, asking the Department of Transportation (DOT) to evaluate the street's safety. As you may know, we believe it is important to take into account the concerns of the local community board when it speaks so strongly. We appreciate your consideration of its position.

We ask DOT to study this area quickly, work closely with the community on any next steps, and keep our offices informed. Should you have any questions, you may contact any of us, or Senator Squadron directly at 212-298-5565.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Nydia Velazquez
Congress Member

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

Sheldon Silver
Assembly Member

Margaret Chin
Council Member



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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Gigi Li, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

March 2, 2015

Hon. Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041-0004

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

At its February 2015 monthly meeting, Community Board 3 passed the following resolution:

VOTE: Community Board 3 Resolution Requesting Safety Improvements for Chrystie Street

WHEREAS, Chrystie Street's road design has not been adjusted for 7 years, since the 2008 Manhattan Bridge Bicycle Access Network installation that brought traffic calming and bike lanes to the area. Cycling ridership has grown tremendously in the years following DOT's upgrades to the Manhattan Bridge, in particular along Chrystie Street for the northbound AM and southbound PM rush hours; and

WHEREAS, Second Avenue has seen a surge of bicycling usage since the introduction of its protected bike lane, which feeds directly into southbound Chrystie Street. The Second Avenue bike lanes were installed during the 2010 First Avenue/Second Avenue Select Bus Service installation; and

WHEREAS, current conditions on Chrystie Street all but guarantee hazards for cyclists and drivers alike with severely faded bike lanes in the southbound direction, and with uneven and hummock-filled surfaces because of heavy truck and bus traffic; and

WHEREAS, southbound cyclists must regularly contend with double parked vehicles and garage driveways blanketing the west side of the street; and

WHEREAS, southbound cyclists must regularly make a confusing and dangerous transition at East 2nd Street (just before Houston Street) from the protected bike lane on the east side of Second Avenue to get over to the unprotected, faded bike lane on the west side of Chrystie Street; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero's first year of record has seen marked reductions in crashes and fatalities for all categories, except cyclists killed; and

WHEREAS, the Sara D Roosevelt Park Coalition and Transportation Alternatives support safety enhancements brought to cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers alike traveling in, to, and beside Sara D Roosevelt Park. Significant numbers of pedestrians, especially seniors and children, must make unsafe crossings of Chrystie St and Delancey St along this corridor. Groups of pedestrians must be taken into consideration include:

- Sara D Roosevelt Park has three playgrounds and many sports fields used by many programs for children: Pre-K/Day Care/Head Start Programs University Settlement (184 Eldridge St, at Rivington St); Lighthouse Preschool (82 Bowery, near Hester St); Preschool of America (39 Eldridge St, near Canal St); Garment Industry Day Care Center (between Grand St and Broome St); PS 42 Elementary School (71 Hester St, between Orchard and Ludlow St, but they do come to the Park); Asian Family Services - Chinese-American Planning Council run several programs for children and youth (165 Eldridge St, between Delancey and Rivington St); the Chinatown YMCA has afterschool programming (273 Bowery, at Houston St); Junior Soccer Leagues/Clubs.
- Several schools are located along Sara D Roosevelt Park: 198 Forsyth St (at Stanton St) is the location of several GED/High Schools (Cascades, Tenzer, Satellite Academy, Lyfe Center) and has an active daycare on site for the students who have young children; 100 Hester St (at Forsyth St) is the location of several Middle and High Schools (MS 131, Emma Lazarus and Pace HS) and has a Beacon Program; 38 Delancey St (at Forsyth St) is the Innovate Manhattan Charter School for 6-8th grades.
- Many seniors make use of facilities in or near the Park: the BRC Senior Center (30 Delancey St, in the park); the Indochina Sino-American Community Center - Senior Center (170 Forsyth St near Rivington St); the CenterLight Healthcare runs a day health center providing health-related services to the elderly, chronically ill and disabled (183 Chrystie St, near Rivington St); Rivington House is reopening as a nursing home (45 Rivington St, at Forsyth St).
- Men from homeless shelters, often seniors, use the Park: Bowery Mission (227 Bowery, between Rivington and Stanton St); Common Ground Andrews (297 Bowery, at Houston St).
- There are several community gardens in the Park: the M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden and the Elizabeth Hubbard Memorial Garden (between Delancey and Rivington St); and the Hua Mei Bird Sanctuary (between Delancey and Broome St);
now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 3 Manhattan recommends that the Department of Transportation investigate Chrystie Street for potential safety enhancements to benefit all road users, including possible two way protected bike lane facilities on the east side of Chrystie Street adjacent to Sara D Roosevelt Park, additional pedestrian refuge islands along the entire corridor, and a smoother surface for all vehicles via a freshly milled and repaved street surface; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 3 Manhattan requests that DOT work with local stakeholders, including the Sara D Roosevelt Park Coalition, and

conduct visioning sessions to get community input, before DOT develops a proposal for a redesign of Chrystie St bike/traffic lanes. DOT should come to Community Board 3 for input on a final design.

If you have any questions, please contact the community board office.

Sincerely,



Gigi Li, Chair
Community Board 3



Karen Blatt, Chair
Transportation & Public Safety Committee

Cc: Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, DOT
Colleen Chattergoon, Manhattan DOT
Mauricio Pazmino, Office of New York State Senator Daniel Squadron
Zachary Bommer, Office of New York State Assembly Member Sheldon Silver
Xiaomin Zhao, Office of New York City Council Member Margaret Chin
Dave "Paco" Abraham, Volunteer, Transportation Alternatives