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THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**MARK D. LEVINE**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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July 29, 2015

Ms. Polly Trottenberg  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water St  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

I am reaching out to express my support for a northbound, protected bike lane on Amsterdam Avenue running parallel to the bike lane already installed on Columbus Avenue. On July 7, Manhattan Community Board 7 unanimously passed its third resolution in support of a protected bike lane on Amsterdam. The Board as well as local residents believe that the creation of the protected bike lane would ease transportation and improve safety along this critical corridor. I strongly agree with this analysis.

This bike lane is especially timely considering the upcoming expansion of the Citi Bike program. Thirty-nine Citi Bike docking stations are set to arrive in the area by the end of August. NYPD data also reveals that Amsterdam Avenue is one of the most dangerous streets in the neighborhood, second only to Broadway. This northbound street is frequently utilized by tourist buses and large trucks, in addition to the smaller vehicles that already use this vital artery. Many constituents who live in the area have reported feeling afraid when biking, citing the number of trucks, drivers, and people making deliveries. Unfortunately, the heavy vehicular traffic is causing many riders to ride against traffic, heading north on the southbound lane on Columbus Avenue, and further endangering riders and pedestrians.

I have been encouraged by the progress of the Department of Transportation (DOT) in implementing various Vision Zero safety measures. I now urge DOT to move expeditiously toward creating a northbound bike lane on Amsterdam Avenue, which is consistent with our shared commitment to making our streets safer for all.

We look forward to your response. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "L".

Mark Levine

Council Member, 7th District, Manhattan

CC

Elizabeth Caputo, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 7