



MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

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Kyle Merker, *Chair*

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December 12, 2003

Hon. George E. Pataki
Governor
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: Proposal by Vision 42 for an auto free light rail on 42nd Street

Dear Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg:

At the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Community Board Five on Thursday, December 11, 2003, the Board passed the following resolution with a vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention:

WHEREAS, the walking environment on 42nd Street is becoming increasingly more congested and uninviting with the completion of each new development along this famous artery; and

WHEREAS, more development projects will be inevitably planned or will be under construction in the vicinity of 42nd Street; and

WHEREAS, the M42 cross-town bus is among the slowest in the city, averaging only 3.6 mph according to a recent Straphangers Campaign survey (as compared to a city-wide average bus speed of 7.5 mph); and

WHEREAS, other major cities in the U.S. (such as San Diego, Dallas, Memphis, Portland, Houston and Los Angeles) and throughout the world have introduced modern, low-floor light rail or bus rapid transit lines in dedicated rights of way and increased pedestrian space and even created auto-free streets in their cores; and

WHEREAS, three discreet environmental impact studies along 42nd Street have been initiated by separate public agencies -- MTA/NYCEDC for Hudson Yards, the NYSPSC for the Con Ed site and the UN expansion and NYSESDC for One Bryant Park -- and each will include its own traffic and air quality analysis; and

WHEREAS, none of these studies include consideration of enhanced cross-town surface transit or increased space for pedestrians; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board Five requests that Mayor, the Governor and other appropriate officials authorize the coordination and integration of these segmented studies into a comprehensive review of a wide range of cross-town surface transit options along the full length of 42nd Street, river-to-river, including surface light rail and bus rapid transit coupled with a variety of pedestrian enhancements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kyle Merker
Chair

David Siesko
Chair, Transportation Committee

Cc : Hon. C. Virginia Fields
 Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler
 Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney
 Hon. Thomas Duane
 Hon. Liz Krueger
 Hon. Richard Gottfried
 Hon. Jonathan Bing
 Hon. Christine Quinn
 Hon. Eva Moskowitz
 Iris Weinshall, Commissioner, Department of Transportation