



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
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ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 1, 2013

Peter Mullen
Vice President for Planning and Design
Friends of the High Line
529 West 20th Street, Suite 8W
New York, NY 10011

RE: Proposed Tree Planting and bench installations on the south side of West 34th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues.

Dear Peter:

Manhattan Community Board #4 appreciates the Friends of the High Line presentation to the Transportation Planning Committee on its proposal for planting trees and installing benches on the sidewalk surrounding the planned summer/fall 2014 opening of the High Line entrance approximately mid-block on the south side of West 34th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues. We support most of the proposed improvements, but request that Friends of the High Line delay final design until we can resolve potential issues with the surrounding Mega-Bus bus stops and loading zones.

Friends of the Highline proposes to install 9 trees at various distances from the curb and 3 wood benches that are 15 inch deep by 24 feet wide wood along the fenced area on either side of the 16' Highline entryway. The area surrounding the entryway on the other side of the fence (within the High Line area) will have similar features, as well as movable chairs. The 17 1/2' feet width of the West 34th Street sidewalk makes it conducive for such improvement. CB4 requests one modification – that the placements of the trees provide a minimum 6' wide straight path to enable those who are visually disabled to more comfortably walk along the street.

The proposed installation requires two changes on the sidewalk:

- The removal of an SBS ticket machine and bus stop that is within 10 feet of the proposed entryway for the High Line: Manhattan CB 4 supports the removal of this machine, since there is a machine and bus stop further down the block near the corner with 11th Avenue;
- Moving Megabus loading to another space: Friends of the High Line requests moving the 4 Megabus bus stops and loading areas on the south side of West 34th Street to either 11th Avenue or West 33rd Street. Given the construction expected in this area within the next couple of years, we don't believe either option is ideal. However, to accommodate The Friends of the Highline proposed improvements we reiterate our previous request to

move the Megabus bus stop and loading zones to the North Side of West 34th Street. We had never received an explanation on why our original request to move Megabus to the North Side of West 34th Street (from West 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenue) was changed to the south side and will thus again make the request.

While we hope to be successful at this request, we ask that Friends of the Highline hold off on seeking final approval for the sidewalk change until this is resolved. If the Megabus bus stop/loading cannot be moved to the North Side of the street, we may need to ask Megabus to move the two bus stops/loading areas that overlap the proposed sidewalk improvements further west and request the M34 SBS move its layover on to the north side of West 34th near 12th Avenue (where it currently also stops). This might require a reduction in the length of the Friends of the High Line improvements from 100' to the west of their entrance to 80' or 70' (the sidewalk area for trees and benches to the east of their entryway would remain unchanged at 100').

Again, we appreciate Friends of the Highline presentation and look forward to continuing to work with you on the proposed West 34th Street sidewalk improvements.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair



Chistine Berthet, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee