

March 4, 2004

Iris Weinshall
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: Miller Highway, 72nd Street off-ramp.

Dear Commissioner Weinshall:

On February 18, the Transportation Planning Committee of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 met to discuss the proposed closing of the 72nd Street off-ramp from the Miller Highway.

The committee reviewed the February 3, 2004, resolution from Manhattan Community Board No. 7 opposing NYC DOT's grant of approval of the closure, focusing on these areas of concern:

Lack of Community Consultation: The committee was disturbed that an action of this magnitude was taken without prior meeting with the affected community. According to CB7's resolution, NYC DOT "failed to appear before, or otherwise meet with, the community until January 13, 2004, four (4) days *after* such approval was granted...."

Concern for Traffic in Community Board No. 4 area: Closing the 72nd Street off-ramp will increase automotive traffic on the exits to the south. Several residents of the Hell's Kitchen/Clinton neighborhood spoke passionately at the February 18, 2004, committee meeting about the negative conditions this would create for their community, which is already seriously affected by some of the city's worst congestion.

For these reasons, the committee voted to recommend that Community Board No. 4 support the resolution of Board No. 7 opposing DOT's grant of approval of the closure.

On March 3, 2004, the full Board voted in favor of the committee's recommendation to support Board No. 7's resolution.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Joshua David
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



John Rust
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee