

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Manhattan

March 31, 2015

Honorable Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Margaret:

As you know, an accident has occurred at the corner of West 77th Street and Columbus Avenue, at the end of a school day, when many students leave the complex of schools on 77th Street just west of Columbus Avenue. While we were all lucky this time, and the injury sustained was not serious, a disaster could have occurred, and without action by DOT, will likely occur. CB7, as well as parents of schoolchildren and Councilmember Helen Rosenthal's office have visited the site, and make the following recommendations, which we feel will make the intersection much safer:

1. Install "School Zone" signage from 79th Street south to 77th Street along Columbus Avenue.
2. Install "Speed Bump ahead - slow down" signage along 77th Street west of Columbus Avenue.
3. Program the traffic signal at the corner of 77th and Columbus - if possible, only from 2:30-3:30 P.M. to allow pedestrians to cross the intersection of 77th and Columbus unimpeded by any vehicles. As you know, traffic from 77th Street east of Columbus swings south onto Columbus, with visibility sometimes impeded by delivery trucks or other vehicles.
4. Re-paint all pedestrian crosswalks at 77th and Columbus Avenue.
5. Install a speed camera at the corner of 77th and Columbus Avenue.

We believe these measures will go a long way to preventing a tragedy for the hundreds of children & pedestrians who use this intersection.

We thank you for having Marjorie Marciano, NYCDOT Safety Education and Outreach, contact the schools about DOT's programs for schools and for asking DOT's School Safety Division to inspect the signage and markings in the area. If you would like to survey the area, we are ready to join you to point out the many problems at this intersection.

As always, thanks Margaret!

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Caputo
Chair

Andrew Albert, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee

250 West 87th Street New York, NY 10024-2706
Phone: (212) 362-4008 Fax:(212) 595-9317
Web site: nyc.gov/mcb7 e-mail address: office@cb7.org