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March 17, 2009

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

I am an advising member of the Harlem River Park Task Force (HRPTF), formed by the Harlem Community Development Corporation (Harlem CDC), to design park space on the Harlem River waterfront from 125th to 145th Streets.

A survey conducted by Transportation Alternatives in 2008: *Connecting Parks, Health, and Pedestrian Safety: Improving Pedestrian and Cyclist Access to Harlem River Park*, indicates that many neighborhood residents surrounding Harlem River Park are deterred from using the park because of a lack of safe pedestrian access.

According to Transportation Alternatives:

- 65% of park visitors feel that the access at 135th Street and Madison Avenue is not safe for pedestrians and bicyclists;
- 58% would visit the park more if safety improvements to the access points are made;
- 56% of people who had not visited the park believed the access ways were unsafe.

Transportation Alternatives has suggested that the DOT implement the following short-term and inexpensive changes around the access-ramps leading to Harlem River Park to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety:

- Implement Leading Pedestrian Intervals at the 135th Street and Madison Avenue park entrance
- Install protective bollards at park entrance ramp and sidewalk corners at all intersections
- Cut ADA compliant curbs and paint crosswalk at 142nd Street and 5th Avenue
- Implement "daylighting" in front of 142nd Street pedestrian bridge access-way

· Install a speed bump between 142nd and 143rd Streets on 5th Avenue at the Harlem River Drive off-ramp

Transportation Alternatives recently presented *Connecting Parks, Health, and Pedestrian Safety: Improving Pedestrian and Cyclist Access to Harlem River Park* and their suggestions to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety to the Transportation Committees of Manhattan Community Boards 10 and 11.

These and other pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements suggested in the report must be made to the intersections before May 2009 when the 139th to 145th Street section of the park opens so that community members can safely access their neighborhood park and engage in physical activity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to call Erma Pfeffer at my District Office to discuss this issue in further detail.

Sincerely,



Inez E. Dickens
Majority Whip

Cc: Thomas Lunke, Harlem Community Development Corporation
Julia De Martini Day, Transportation Alternatives