



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

October 10, 2024

Nicole Garcia
Queens Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 285
Kew Gardens, New York 11484

RE: **Request for a feasibility study for Safety Improvements at the Intersection of 54th Street and 39th Avenue**

Dear Commissioner Garcia:

Community Board 2 received a request from Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee, concerning the intersection of 54th Street and 39th Avenue in Woodside.

Mr. Owens has on multiple occasions witnessed vehicle crashes at the intersection of 39th Avenue and 54th Street in Woodside. They have typically been minor crashes, so they may not be recorded in city data. There are numerous close calls as well, with requisite honking and screeching tires.

On the night of September 20, 2024, Mr. Owens witnessed a crash in which a car driving south on 54th Street pulled out into the path of an electric scooter heading west on 39th Avenue, which is typically how these crashes occur. The scooter rider could not stop and smashed into the front end of the car, and the rider's knee was shattered. He left in an ambulance.

This intersection sees many speeding drivers because it is on a long stretch of uninterrupted blocks from 57th Street to Woodside Avenue and drivers heading west are often trying to reach the green light on Woodside Ave. It is a 20-mph zone, yet drivers are often going twice that speed. Although there is daylighting on 39th Avenue here, the inclines of both streets make the corner so blind that drivers on 54th Street must pull out into the intersection to see if the way is clear.

Community Board 2 is requesting an all-way stop sign be installed at this intersection and that crosswalks be added across 39th Avenue. We are also requesting daylighting on the corners on

"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"

54th Street. This intersection serves many pedestrians: children and families walking to the elementary schools; commuters from the LIRR station; and people walking to and from the Northern Blvd. M/R stop. This is the most direct route to the Northern Boulevard stop, as well as a new high school, yet it is completely unsafe to cross 39th Avenue here.

Many neighbors attest to the historical danger of this intersection. Some have suffered terrible injuries here.

Community Board 2 is respectfully requesting the Department of Transportation to study the area and build the community a safer corner.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

DMK/mag

Cc: Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee
Jason Banrey, Department of Transportation
Joseph Patti, NYC Department of Transportation

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