



March 13, 2017

The Honorable Helen Rosenthal
New York City Council Member
563 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024

Dear Council Member Rosenthal:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 8, 2016 regarding safety improvements at the intersection of West End Avenue and West 96th Street.

We evaluated the possibility of signal timing changes and the other geometric changes requested below. This location currently has a four phase operation. Signal timing changes are not feasible at West End Avenue and West 96th Street because the intersection already have dedicated left turn phases and a Leading Pedestrian Interval within a 90 second cycle.

We also examined several proposed geometric changes.

1. An island in the west crosswalk is not feasible due to the turns from West End Avenue. It would also not fit on West 96th Street without a lane reduction.
2. A curb extension on the south west corner of West 96th Street may be feasible but would necessitate parking loss next to the school.
3. We also examined the possibility of extending the hours of the existing left turn ban on eastbound West 96th Street. However, based on current conditions this may create a traffic imbalance, since we have the same turn restriction with same hours at eastbound West 95th Street and West End Avenue.
4. Also note that, if we ban left turns with more hours, eastbound West 96th Street motorists would make the next available left at Broadway. The movements here are a shared left and straight movement and the intersection may not be able to accommodate for increased storage.

Please note that this intersection is on our list of locations to be evaluated in 2017 for improvements related to the left turn traffic calming program. The feasibility review is currently underway with results expected in a few months.

Feel free to give me a call if you would like to discuss any of these issues in more detail.

Thank you for your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luis Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Luis Sanchez, P.E.
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

L/S:ap
cc: A. Posner, C. Chattergoon, E. Pincar, File
DOT-304022-D9R2