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**Council Member Helen Rosenthal Calls for
Amsterdam Avenue Safe Street Redesign**

Today Council Member Helen Rosenthal announced her support for a safe street redesign on Amsterdam Avenue on the Upper West Side.

"The Department of Transportation's street redesigns have already had a meaningful impact in our neighborhood, and now it's time to focus on Amsterdam Avenue," said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal**. "This street redesign would make Amsterdam Avenue safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, and it would bring us one step closer to Vision Zero on the Upper West Side."

According to **Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives, Paul Steely White**, "Amsterdam Avenue has been the site of at least seven deadly crashes and more than 800 injuries since 2011. For it to be a truly great street, it must be a safe street, with necessary infrastructure — including pedestrian islands and bike lanes — that invite neighborhood residents to vibrant street life without fear of death."

"I applaud Council Member Rosenthal's efforts to make Amsterdam Avenue a safe street. We have seen too many accidents happen on the Upper West Side with devastating consequences. We must do everything we can to make our streets safe for our children, our senior citizens, and all the residents and visitors in the area," said **Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, Co-President of The Computer School Parents' Association**.

The full letter is below:

April 6, 2015

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

I write to you to extend my support to convert Amsterdam Avenue within my district and beyond into a "safe street." The avenue is wide with heavy commercial traffic, lined with many public and private schools, senior centers and the consequent pedestrian use. It is badly in need of safety measures and it is incumbent on the city to act quickly to ensure its residents' safety. A protected bike lane, the shortening of the cross walk and clearly marked lanes create a street calming effect and go a long way towards ensuring safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

The safety corridor on the UWS is incomplete without an uptown protected bike lane. It is a much needed addition to compliment the Columbus Avenue bike lane and in anticipation of the coming Citibike program which will add many bikes to our neighborhood streets. Currently, the Columbus Avenue bike lane is being used by both uptown and downtown riders creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians. This can be mitigated once an uptown bike lane is added to this portion of the West Side corridor creating an alternative pathway and enabling better enforcement of roadway rules. I plan on working closely with the 20th and 24th precinct as well as local restaurants to ensure these bike rules are strictly enforced.

Vision Zero policies within my district have already had a significant and positive impact and I want to thank you for the work that DOT has already done to make the UWS a safer place to walk, ride and drive. The safety benefits of street calming for Amsterdam Avenue would be an important step in achieving our mutual goal of Vision Zero.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you and the community on this issue.

Sincerely,

Helen Rosenthal

Cc: Elizabeth Caputo, Chair, Community Board 7

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