



**New York City
Department of Transportation**

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Iris Weinshall, Commissioner

October 27, 2005

Transportation Alternatives
127 West 26th Street
New York, New York 10001

Dear Bicycle Advocate:

Thank you for your August 12th letter regarding your Bike Safety Action Plan. I am responding on behalf of Commissioner Weinshall. We certainly share your concerns regarding safety on our streets – for all users. While we believe we have made important strides over the past few years to promote cycling and better protect cyclists – from miles of new bike lanes to the Manhattan greenway to safety improvements around the East River crossings – there is certainly more we can do. Accordingly, we plan to move forward with the following actions:

- As discussed at our July 19th meeting, we will conduct a study of bike fatalities – and are reaching out to the Department of Health and the Police Department to determine how best to undertake it.
- We will be doing more to ensure that drivers of heavy duty vehicles within government fleets are better trained regarding bike safety. To that end, DOT and Bike New York recently held a workshop to introduce a curriculum for motorists sharing the road safely with bicyclists. Driver improvement/employee driving program instructors from DOT, NYPD, the Fire Department and the departments of Sanitation, Parks and Recreation, and Environmental Protection were in attendance.
- DOT will work with the Public Advocates office, Transportation Alternatives, the Automobile Club of New York, DOH, and NYPD to develop a bike safety outreach campaign geared towards both motorists and cyclists. We will be scheduling a meeting shortly for next month.
- We are beginning to work more closely with the Department of Health on issues related to bike safety and fitness through cycling. In fact, Commissioner Weinshall recently met with Commissioner Frieden on these topics. Recognizing that helmet use is a critical component of bike safety, we are interested in working with you to take steps to encourage cyclists to wear helmets at all times.
- DOT will be taking steps to improve existing bike safety infrastructure. We are designing a new share the road sign and developing a plan to increase the frequency of this signage. We are also continuing our efforts to add more bike lanes to the City's network and in particular completing missing links – including, for example, the recently approved bike lane on Manhattan's 8th Avenue. In addition, DOT has received approval from the

Federal Highway Administration to test the installation of green bike lanes. DOT will start installing these in the spring of 2006 on bike lanes located immediately adjacent to the curb. DOT is also evaluating the use of bicycle logos with chevrons as trailblazers -- which will both guide cyclists on class 3 routes and will help encourage cyclists to ride a safe distance from parked vehicles and promote acceptance by motorists of cyclist placement in the road.

- We will continue our push for passage of the cross over mirror bill in Albany (A4322-C and S2210-B) -- and urge you to voice your support as well. In addition, we will look into whether to pursue legislative initiatives for other truck safety related steps, including side barriers and wheel covers to prevent bicyclists and pedestrians from being caught under rear wheels of vehicles.

We hope we can partner with you on as much of this agenda as possible and are certainly open to talking about these action items in further detail. Thank you again for sharing your concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,



David Woloch
Deputy Commissioner

C: Commissioner Weinshall
Michael Scagnelli, NYPD