

Subcommittee A: Traffic Recommended Improvements

NYPD

Following up on our 1/6/03 CATS Subcommittee "A" Meeting the following are specific Traffic Operations and Circulation short term issues that need to be addressed by the NYC Police Department in the Canal Street Corridor:

The 9/11 traffic restrictions need to be eased:

Reopen Park Row to vehicular traffic

Access restrictions adjacent to Federal, State and City Office Buildings to the south, act as a barrier to Chinatown access and need to be rescinded

Reduce blocked curbside ADA ramps by parked vehicles

Improve the traffic flow in the vicinity of the Holland Tunnel, in order to reduce present gridlock and blocking of local streets.

Contain traffic on Canal Street between West and Hudson Streets that "Sneaks" into the Holland Tunnel ahead of other vehicles.

Expand the use of crossing guards at intersections for youth and elderly

Contain noise pollution from vehicles and pedestrians in the area

Short Term/Long Term Lead Agency

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

Short Term NYPD

NYCDEP/NYCDOS

Remove non-functional fire hydrants

Following up on our 1/6/03 CATS Subcommittee "A" Meeting the following are specific Traffic Operations and Circulation short term issues that need to be addressed by the NYC Department of Sanitation in the Canal Street Corridor:

There is an overall lack of cleanliness of streets and sidewalks

Businesses should wash their storefront sidewalks more frequently, enforce the rule directing them to keep their front sidewalks clean

More frequent street cleaning

Garbage disposal:

Garbage left on sidewalks for days, increase the frequency of garbage collection

Garbage problem at Broome and Mott Streets

Lack of garbage cans

Proposed waste carrying on Canal would increase congestion

Short Term NYCDEP/NYCDOS

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Short Term NYCDEP/NYCDOS

NYC Department of Transportation

The City needs to fine tune the synchronization of all traffic signals at intersections along Canal Street in both directions.

Short Term NYCDOT

The traffic signal at the intersection of Hudson and Vestry Streets should be at a constant Red/Green phase and not switched to flashing yellow at certain times, as is the present case.	Short Term	NYCDOT
The city needs to install flashing yellow Slow Down! signals and/or rumble strips on the Manhattan Bridge's westbound exit lanes approaching the intersection of The Bowery and Canal Street. At present, vehicles exiting the bridge run the red lights causing unnecessary pedestrian fatalities and vehicular accidents.	Short Term	NYCDOT
Traffic signals need to be installed at the two intersections of The Bowery at Hester, and The Bowery at Delancey.	Short Term	NYCDOT
A traffic signal is required at the intersection of Division and Market Streets.	Short Term	NYCDOT
The signals need to be better synchronized along Catherine Street, from Division Street to East Broadway.	Short Term	NYCDOT
Crosswalk signal timing need to be increased for pedestrians at the following intersections:		
Greenwich and Canal Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT
Canal Street and Sixth Avenue	Short Term	NYCDOT
Canal Street and the six intersections of Centre, Elizabeth, Mulberry, Baxter, Mott and The Bowery	Short Term	NYCDOT
Canal and Broadway	Short Term	NYCDOT
The northbound approach to the Manhattan Bridge at the intersection of The Bowery requires a traffic signal. At present there is only a stop sign.	Short Term	NYCDOT
The following are signage and marking improvements that need to be addressed by the NYC Department of Transportation:		
The City needs to install high visibility pedestrian crosswalk markings at all intersections along Canal Street during the resurfacing program to take place in the spring of 2003.	Short Term	NYCDOT
High visibility crosswalk markings are needed at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and MacDougal Street.	Short Term	NYCDOT
The City DOT needs to revisit the prohibition of right turns at The Bowery and permit right turns. At present, the prohibition causes congestion and back ups on Worth.	Short Term	NYCDOT
Improved direction signage needs to be installed along Morton Street from West Street to 7 th Avenue	Short Term	NYCDOT
Eastbound traffic along Canal from Washington to Hudson Streets needs to be separated between tunnel and non-tunnel lanes with lollipops and other visual markings	Short Term	NYCDOT
Install no left turn signage for all southbound streets turning into eastbound Canal Street		
Install direction signage at the two intersections of Canal and Sullivan/Thompson Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT

Post signage at bridge and tunnel exits in Manhattan noting parking facilities	Short Term	NYCDOT
The following are street maintenance improvements that need to be addressed by the NYC Department of Transportation:		
Potholes need to be repaired at the following locations:		
Franklin Street from Greenwich to Varick Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT
Clarkson Street from Varick to Vestry Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT
Vestry Street from West to Greenwich Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT
Along East Broadway	Short Term	NYCDOT
Along Mulberry Street	Short Term	NYCDOT
Grand Street from Christie Street to The Bowery	Short Term	NYCDOT
The streets within the parameters of Division, Market, Monroe and Catherine	Short Term	NYCDOT
Hester Street from Christie to Eldridge Streets	Short Term	NYCDOT
The Bowery at Hester Street	Short Term	NYCDOT
Market at East Broadway	Short Term	NYCDOT
The following are street lighting improvements that need to be addressed by the NYC Department of Transportation:		
There is poor illumination due to insufficient street lighting and it is requested that the NYCDOT carry out a Photometric Study at these locations:		
The entire length of Canal Street	Short Term	NYCDOT
The streets within the parameters of Division, Market, Monroe and Catherine	Short Term	NYCDOT
NYCDCA		
Eliminate illegal street vendors	Short Term	NYCDCA
No consistent NYC Policy on locating street vendors since 9/11	Short Term	NYCDCA
Heavy vendor congestion on Canal around Broadway	Short Term	NYCDCA
Enforce the rule disallowing street vendors from operating out of support vehicles	Short Term	NYCDCA
Vendors are located in crosswalks and islands in streets	Short Term	NYCDCA
Canal Street from Broadway to Elizabeth is very narrow, street vendors should be relocated to less crowded areas	Short Term	NYCDCA
Illegal wholesalers, dollar vans and express buses operate in and around the vicinity where Bowery, Elizabeth and Mulberry meet Grand and Broome	Short Term	NYCDCA
Street vendors cause loss of business for local merchants and pose health and cleanliness issues	Short Term	NYCDCA
Limit the number and location of street vendors	Short Term	NYCDCA
Too many street vendors south on Canal along Bayard, Elizabeth and Mulberry Streets	Short Term	NYCDCA
Vendors along Canal from Mercer to Chrystie compete with other structures and pedestrians	Short Term	NYCDCA
Control misuse of curb space and intrusive sidewalk displays from merchants	Short Term	NYCDCA

Miscellaneous Issues

Street closings are too long and occur too often, blocking traffic flow and creating congestion. *This issue is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit usually at the request of the local merchants in the area.*

Street lights are broken for long periods of time. *This is the responsibility of the NYCDOT and should be reported via their telephone number 212-CALLDOT*

Tunnel traffic exiting in New Jersey should be examined in the spring and fall since traffic slows at the evening rush hour due to the sun set.

The DEP may repair potholes to reduce standing water if the public calls DEP-HELP

There is a lack of sidewalks on the Westside of the triangle at the junction of Varick, 6th Avenue and Canal creating an unsafe pedestrian condition. The NYNJPA will create a public park in this area estimated construction to begin in the spring, 2003.

Increase signage needed regarding no through truck route along Bowery. *The NYCDOT's current policy prohibits negative signage.*

Install pedestrian signals with pictures instead of words/There should be signage in English and Chinese. The NYCDOT is currently undergoing a program to install international symbol signage within lower Manhattan.

Tax incentives for alternative fuels, do noise and air quality measurements. *These are currently in place.*

Organize focus groups with street users, including local businesses and commerce/freight interests (i.e. UPS) *Ongoing*

Following up on our 1/6/03 CATS Subcommittee "A" Meeting the following are Traffic Operations and Circulation issues that are too vague and require further clarification:

Improve traffic signalization at Mott Street

Improve the signage directing traffic to the East River Bridges

Poor and inadequate signage for all vehicular traffic including truck length and weigh limits

Extend left turn lane from Houston onto Broadway, with direction arrows painted on the pavement

Improve vehicular signage at Mott and Canal

Poor signage resulting in circulation problem from Laight right onto Washington to Canal, must turn right again

Long Term Issues

Traffic Operations and Circulation

Establish turning light system at all major Canal Street intersections

Long Term

Place speed bumps on smaller feeder streets leading to Canal Street	Long Term
Widen the sidewalks to improve pedestrian flow due to shopper congestion, misuse of curb space and intrusive sidewalk displays from merchants	Long Term
Too much local street CONGESTION which must be addressed:	
Traffic backs up on and near Varick	Long Term
Rush hour congestion	Long Term
Congestion/backups onto side streets can be over one mile	Long Term
Recognize that LOADING DOCKS needed to support existing businesses are grandfathered in:	
Loading docks along Canal between West and Washington Streets are legal	Long Term
Collect DATA for Vehicular and Pedestrian movement:	Long Term
Measure traffic volume and class for bridge and tunnel, turning movements, speed and delay, and parallel streets	Long Term

Air Quality

Reduce air pollution	Long Term
Area needs clean air	Long Term
Impacts: noise, poor air quality, people versus people, poor aesthetics	Long Term
Local residents ignored about noise, pollution, give feedback to community, potential increases from 9/11	Long Term
Air quality is poor and there are bad odors from some of the fish markets	Long Term

Greenery

Plant more trees	Long Term
There is a general lack of greenery	Long Term
Poor streetscape aesthetics, no trees	Long Term

Safety

Data needed on auto accidents	Long Term
Disorganized traffic movements cause accidents	Long Term
Gather existing measurements of roadway elements, gather pedestrian counts and traffic counts, investigate vendor licensing and street usage	Long Term
Better emissions data	Long Term