



DANIEL SQUADRON  
SENATOR, 26TH DISTRICT

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

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October 17, 2014

Polly Trottenberg  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
9th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

I write regarding pedestrian safety and accessibility in Chinatown. This July, my office surveyed over 90 intersections in Chinatown and the Lower East Side to determine their accessibility for both the elderly and the disabled. We focus this letter on this area because DOT studied the same area in its November 17, 2010 report "Safe Streets for Seniors: Chinatown, Manhattan."

We looked at the following items: whether the pedestrian ramp existed, whether the ramp was easily accessible and the presence of obstructions at the corner. Of the intersections surveyed, we found that 28% of intersections had at least one corner missing a pedestrian ramp, and 38% of intersections had at least one inaccessible pedestrian ramp.

The following seven surveyed intersections were determined to be in the greatest need of repair. In DOT's 2010 report, recommendations were made to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety at these intersections. While some improvements were made, I am concerned that certain recommendations were not acted upon or have since become damaged:

- At the intersection of Howard and Centre Street, there are no pedestrian ramps on the east side of Centre Street
- At the intersection of Hester and Centre Street, there are no pedestrian ramps on the west side of Centre Street.
- At the intersection of Walker and Centre Street, pedestrian ramps are missing on the northwest corner as well as the southeast corner to cross Centre Street. In addition, there is a signal pole obstructing the northwest corner.
- At the intersection of Howard and Lafayette Street, the pedestrian ramps on the northeast corner are inaccessible due to cracked concrete.
- At the intersection of Canal and Lafayette Street, the pedestrian ramp at the northwest corner has been partially paved over with cement and needs to be replaced.
- At the intersection of Walker and Lafayette Street, there are no pedestrian ramps at the northwest corner.

In addition, I would like to note several other improvements that could be made.

- At the intersection of Hester and Centre Street, the crosswalk markings are not visible on the north side.
- At the intersection of Canal and Centre Street, there are large potholes in the crosswalk crossing over the west side of Canal Street and over the north side of Centre Street.
- At the intersection of Walker and Lafayette, the crosswalk markings are not visible.

I understand that resources are limited, but I have no doubt that correcting these problems will help prevent future tragedies, ensure better safety measures for all of our constituents, and further the goals of Vision Zero.

Our office requests a status update and a timetable for repairs. Should you have any questions, you may contact my office directly at 212-298-5565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Squadron", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Squadron  
State Senator  
26<sup>th</sup> Senate District

