



Chelsea Piers Working Group

Final Recommendation Regarding Chelsea Piers Lease

April 13, 2022

**The Hudson River Park Advisory Council recommends that the proposed Chelsea Piers lease should only be approved if a significant portion of the leasehold between the pier-sheds and the bikeway is reclaimed for public use.**

The Hudson River Greenway is the busiest bike path in the country but is reduced to a minimal 12-foot strip between the West Side Highway and a three-lane service roadway for Chelsea Piers. It is irresponsible to maintain this bottleneck when there is the opportunity to improve both public space and public safety.

While we recognize that Chelsea Piers has proposed improved pedestrian access conditions on the water side, the current allocation of space on the east side of the Piers to three lanes of vehicle traffic is excessive. We recommend a solution that repurposes at least one lane of that service road for bicycle and pedestrian use.

This design process must include not only meaningful participation by community stakeholders but must also require the cooperation of State and City agencies.

Given the length of the lease we also recommend the lease contain a mechanism to review conditions at this site at regular, reasonable intervals to accommodate transportation technology changes and to ensure maximal public use of the area between the West Street and Chelsea Piers.

**These lease provisions must be legally binding and enforceable.**

The letter was brought forth to the AC and passed unanimously with 27 votes cast. 8 abstentions. (Michael Wiggins, Michael Onysko, Allen Oster, Andrew Zelter, Doug Israel, Connie Fishman, Tevin Williams, JC Chmiel). 1 recusal (Erica Bates).

Respectfully from the Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Hudson River Park Advisory Council,

Daniel Miller, CB2

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Tammy Meltzer, CB1

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Jeffrey LeFrancois, CB4

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