

34th Street Scheme Blasted

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer deserves plaudits for bringing attention to the DOT's [scheme](#) to turn much of 34th Street into a useless space, kill business, inconvenience residents and create further congestion on other Manhattan Streets (and perhaps impact routes outside Manhattan as well). The Borough President already called for a full [environmental review](#) of the [Transitway](#) scheme. Any thoughts on whether the DOT [scheme](#) currently scheduled to be revealed on March 14 will look any different than what's been begrudgingly revealed?

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/beep_blasts_th_st_plan_NF37FiAEIHUof1cbj5wvvN

NEW YORK POST

Beep blasts 34th St. plan

By AMBER SUTHERLAND and RICH CALDER
March 1, 2011

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer yesterday ripped the city's plan to restrict traffic on 34th Street, saying the roadway is already so congested that "when a human walks faster than a city bus, you know you've got a traffic problem."

Stringer said the project -- which would reduce car lanes and replace the heart of the roadway between Fifth and Sixth avenues with pedestrian plazas -- "could hurt local businesses and . . . block emergency-vehicle access to the East Side hospital corridor."

Residents and business owners in Murray Hill agreed, saying the plan would make hitting the lottery seem easier than finding a parking spot.

"Mayor Bloomberg is destroying small businesses," said John Ivanac, owner of the Villa Berulia restaurant.

Business owners said they've seen profits fall since the city recently dedicated one of two lanes on 34th Street as bus-only.

A city Department of Transportation spokesman said, "These are precisely the concerns we're been working with the community to address. We are preparing a revised plan."