



## Department of Transportation

Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

March 18, 2025

Valerie Mason  
Chair  
Community Board 8  
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Chair Mason:

I hope this message finds you well. I want to express my gratitude for your letter dated November 26, 2024, concerning the Birch Wathen Lenox School's proposal to operate an Open Street on East 77th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

The Open Streets program is an initiative led by the Department of Transportation (DOT) that invites applications from community organizations, educational institutions, and local businesses to transform selected streets into vibrant public spaces. This program aims to repurpose these urban areas into accessible environments where community members can engage in a variety of activities. These activities not only foster economic development but also create opportunities for educational institutions to thrive and for residents to enjoy cultural events, all while strengthening community bonds.

We have taken careful note of the concerns raised by Community Board 8 during the application process. After thorough review and discussion, we will not be moving forward with the current Open Streets application submitted by Birch Wathen Lenox School. Throughout the notification and comment period, we received valuable feedback from the community, which brought several important concerns to light. In light of this input, we strongly recommend that the school reassess the details of its application and enhance its efforts toward engaging with the community before considering any future proposals.

Thank you once more for bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Senior Borough Planner Colleen Chattergoon at 212-839-6216.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Pincar, Jr.", is placed over the printed name and title.

Edward F. Pincar, Jr  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

cc: K. Gorman, B. Morgan, File

DOT-677688-C7Y5