

Save 34th Street!

Thus sayeth the New York Post in an editorial today (Sunday, February 27, 2011). Keep NYC Free welcomes the Post's call for City Council oversight into the [transitway](#) scheme. We also remind folks of our [observation](#) that the resources applied to advance this [scheme](#) in tight budgetary times essentially steals from other, more compelling [needs](#). Council oversight will help make this plain. Manhattan Borough President already raised his [concerns](#).

NEW YORK POST

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City Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan — aka The Thing That Ate Times Square — is on her way back for seconds.

New York's bicycle belle has her eye on 34th Street this time, which she's planning to transform into another teeming walrus wharf . . . er, pedestrian plaza.

She's planning to swipe the entire block between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, permitting only buses to pass through.

Nor will the chop stop there: 34th Street is to run eastbound only from Fifth Avenue, and westward from Sixth Avenue, rendering the road useless as a thoroughfare.

Which, of course, is precisely the point.

Sadik-Khan came to the Department of Transportation from a nonprofit do-goodnik shop hell-bent on "reducing car dependency" — that is, giving automobiles the old heave-ho from Manhattan.

And she's made great progress with her mission — much to the city's detriment.

Certainly her new plan would severely degrade one of New York's premier commercial districts, for no discernible good purpose other than to give a boost to the lawn-chair and roller-blade industries.

Worse still, she's proceeding with her \$30 million scheme in secret and without a shred of real accountability.

Which is why it is critical that the City Council exert its every power to force Madame Bike-Lady to explain — publicly and in detail — what she has in mind, and precisely what its impact will be.

The pedestrian-mall concept could only have bubbled up in the mind of someone either ignorant of the synergies that make great cities work — or contemptuous of them.

[Read](#) the entire editorial.