Testimony on Cargo Bike Rules Hearing

September 13, 2023

Pedestrians for Bike Safety is a group comprised primarily of Hell’s Kitchen and Chelsea block associations but with members from around the City. We have a horrific situation in our Hell’s Kitchen, Chelsea and around the City with bikes, mopeds and ebikes (collectively referred to herein as “Bikes”) riding with disregard for the safety of pedestrians and other bike riders. Dangerous numbers of mopeds ride in bike lanes and on sidewalks, many of the Bikes ride on sidewalks, against the legal flow of traffic and without regard to traffic regulations.

Proposals to allow cargo bikes to function in our City without a comprehensive effort to promote safe bike riding with substantial public education as part of the Vision Zero program and NYPD enforcement of laws against dangerous Bike riding will only aggravate the existing dangerous situation. It is a disgrace that our treasured ability as City residents to walk and ride safely is being taken away from us by our government’s failure to educate and enforce laws regarding Bike matters.

Already, you can see smaller cargo bikes disregarding safety rules – riding on sidewalks and against legal traffic flow. Adding even larger cargo bikes whose riders will behave in the same manner, will make matters even worse.

In particular, we object to the following provisions of the proposed laws:

Allowing cargo bikes to be left on sidewalks,

Allowing these gigantic vehicles to ride on sidewalks

Allowing these gigantic vehicles to ride in bike lanes.

The City has failed its citizens by allowing the current chaotic situation to continue. Adding cargo bikes to the mix without correcting existing Bike problems will only reduce our ability to walk and ride safely in our communities.

Richard Marans

Pedestrians for Bike Safety