

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
COUNCIL MEMBER GALE A. BREWER  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
TEL: 212-788-6975  
FAX: 212-513-7717  
[www.council.nyc.gov](http://www.council.nyc.gov)



**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**Council Member Brewer Releases Columbus Avenue  
Bike Lane Survey Results**

*West Siders Divided Over Benefits of Bike Lane*

Contact: Jesse Bodine  
Office: (212) 873-0282  
Cell: (917) 280-6249

From September 13, 2011 to October 10, 2011 the Office of Council Member Gale A. Brewer (D-Manhattan) conducted a survey of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, business owners, seniors, and visually impaired individuals who use, work near or live near Columbus Avenue and the year-old bike lane which runs along Columbus from West 96 Street to West 77 Street. The survey was conducted online using the SurveyMonkey service, with a paper form available at Council Member Brewer's District Office, neighborhood senior centers, NORCs, and various local businesses. Business Improvement Districts, the NYS Restaurant Association, and Justice Will Be Served (which represents delivery people) provided the online survey to their members. A total of 908 surveys were completed (772 online and 136 on paper). See the accompanying report for data and graphics, which is also available on Council Member Brewer's website at <http://council.nyc.gov/d6/html/members/home.shtml>. A broader analysis will be forthcoming.

**What our respondents told us:**

- Almost half of the 908 respondents live on Columbus Ave or its side streets
- 804 respondents identified themselves as upper West Siders; 25% of people in this group use the bike lane to commute to work or school
- 40% of all respondents think that the current design of the bike lane works for all users (pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists); 33% think it is a good start but can be improved; 27% think that the current design does not work and should be changed
- Pedestrians and bicyclists agree that the bike lane makes travel safer, and that fewer bikers are using the sidewalk as a result of the bike lane; drivers have concerns about parking, loading/unloading, and traffic enforcement for both bicyclists and motorists
- Some respondents say that the bike lane helps to calm traffic; while others claim that it creates more congestion

"We all know that change is hard," said Council Member Brewer, "but 70% of our respondents think that the bike lane is going in the right direction." Brewer added, "Along with many West Siders, I recognize that there is room for improvement. Merchants have a hard time with deliveries, seniors can't get curb side pickup, and wrong-way bicyclists are a hazard to all. These challenges can be resolved if we work together, and our survey is meant to get us rolling down that road."