



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Comments on Rule Amendment: Bus Shelters
May 14th, 2024**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The LW! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the proposed amendment of existing rules to include regulations on bus shelters in Historic Districts.

Our Committee, while acknowledging the importance of bus shelters as urban street furniture, strongly objects to the LPC's consistent relinquishment of jurisdiction, guidance, and responsibility over street infrastructure installations.

Under the proposed rules, bus shelter designs are overseen by the Public Design Commission, with specifications regarding location and operation overseen by the Department of Transport and the MTA. All of these City agencies have different objectives from the LPC, and comprehensive regulation of these issues from a landmark point of view is important.

The LPC is responsible for guiding sensitive design for Historic Districts. It's perhaps not enough to have a uniform design for the whole city. It would be interesting if thought were put into designing street furniture that clearly expresses that you are in a distinct part of the city, such as a Historic District.

We believe that it is vital that the LPC retain jurisdiction over elements within Historic Districts, whether banal or not. These incremental forfeitures of jurisdiction whether LinkNYC towers, Sidewalk and Roadway Cafes, Newsstands, benches and street lamps add up, and the loss of nuance and expertise regarding our landmarks is a preventable tragedy.

Thank you.