

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION AND THE
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES
HELD MAY 21, 2008
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Traffic & Transportation (T&T) Committee or the Environment & Sanitation (E&S) Committee present:

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Saul Scheinbach	E&S Committee Chairman
Bradford Trebach	T&T Committee Chairman, E&S Vice Chairman
Anthony P. Creaney	T&T
Warren Dolny	T&T
Robert Fanuzzi	T&T
Thomas Giallorenzi	E&S
Maria Khury	T&T
Laura Spalter	T&T, E&S

Other Board Members present:

None

Community Members of the T&T Committee present:

None

Community Members of the E&S Committee present:

Robert Spalter (from Riverdale Community Association)

Also in attendance:

Robert Fishman
Wyldon K. Fishman
N. Clark Judd (from The Riverdale Press)
Dorine Moresco
Phyllis Steele (from The Riverdale Press)
Robert Press
Chris White (from Our Lady of Angels School)

The two Committees met at 7:30 p.m. – S. Scheinbach in the Environment & Sanitation (E&S) Chair, and B. Trebach in the Traffic & Transportation (T&T) Chair.

1. The E&S Chairman explained that, as with the previous meeting, the current meeting was being held jointly between two committees because of the overlap involving Con Edison's M29 power-transmission line.
2. It was agreed by both Committees that their respective portions of the Minutes of the joint E&S and T&T meeting of February 7, 2008 be adopted.
3. Possible installation of an automatic public pay toilet in Kingsbridge.

The T&T Chairman said that he received notification that the east side of Broadway between 238th Street and 237th Street is being considered to house one of the 20 pay toilets the NYC Department of Transportation has long promised to install throughout the five boroughs. He noted that the first of the automatic public pay toilets (or APT's) was installed on the edge of Manhattan's Madison Square Park (along Madison Avenue between 23rd Street and 24th Street) on January 10, 2008. The DOT said that the Broadway location was suggested by the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

In an April 23, 2008 letter to Board 8 regarding the Kingsbridge site, DOT Assistant Commissioner Brooke McKenna wrote "Our initial survey indicates that it will meet all of the technical siting criteria, and given its proximity to transportation, we believe it would provide a benefit to the community."

The toilets are part of the larger Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise (CSFF) that involves a contract with Cemusa, a Spanish outdoor-advertising conglomerate, which is also providing 3,300 new bus shelters, about 330 newsstands and 37 bicycle-parking shelters. Revenue that Cemusa gets by selling ads on the restrooms and other "street furniture" is expected to generate \$1.4 billion over 20 years -- of which it pays \$1 billion to the City in fees, and another \$400 million as "in kind" NYC promotional advertising on structures the company operates overseas.

The proposed toilet kiosk, like the Manhattan one, is made of stainless steel and tempered glass, is about the size of a newsstand, is handicap-accessible, and has a tamper-proof, automatic sliding door that opens when a deposit of 25 cents is made.

The toilet itself is made of stainless steel. Flushing, as on an airplane, is done at the press of a button, but the toilets do flush automatically between use cycles. There is no toilet seat, but toilet covers will be available. Also inside the kiosk are a sink, a mirror and a hand dryer.

Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the facility will have a 15-minute time limit. After 12 minutes, an alarm with a warning light will go off for three minutes before the door opens. Pressure-sensitive floors detect when the user has exited before the door closes.

After each use, the APT has an automatic 90-second self-cleaning process, during which a sweeping arm sprays disinfectant over the toilet, before it blows heat to dry it. Jets propel about seven gallons of water with disinfectant on the non-slip floor, which is not dried, leaving it wet for the next user. The APT is serviced twice daily for inspection-system maintenance.

By way of precaution, there are several red emergency buttons at various locations within the kiosk, in case someone falls. There is also a separate yellow button to reach an operator. The toilets are locked each night to prevent anyone from camping out inside. The floor sensors have a maximum (currently 550 pounds) and minimum (45 pounds) weight allowance, or the doors will not close. The minimum prevents small children from getting trapped inside. The maximum would allow two, or perhaps even three, people inside.

In terms of site criteria, the DOT specifications require at least a 1.5 feet of clearance from the curb, 10 feet from fire hydrants and standpipes, 5 feet from tree trunks, 3 feet from streetlights, and 2 feet from cellar doors. The service-area clearance is 5 feet on all sides, with a clear pedestrian path of at least 8 feet. The site must have utility access for water, sewer, and electrical service. There is an underground clearance requirement of five feet.

The DOT has asked the Board to voice its support for installing the toilet at the Kingsbridge site. Formal consent by the NYC Art Commission, the Mayor and the City Council are required before such installation can begin. The DOT estimates that the entire approval and installation process will take between six months and one year.

The T&T Chairman said that since this would be the first instance of such a facility in Community District 8, the next step should be to get public input by having a hearing on the proposal.

4. Update on Con Edison's M29 high-voltage transmission line.

The E&S Chairman reported that so far the work at the south end of the line along Riverdale Ave. was less disruptive than had been anticipated, and he hoped it would continue that way. The T&T Chairman and other committee members agreed with that assessment. The E&S Chairman provided an overview of the work scheduled for the week of May 18 – 25:

- (i) Riverdale Avenue between Irwin and West 231st Street: Excavation, pipe installation, and restoration work.
- (ii) Riverdale Avenue between West 232nd Street and Greystone Avenue: Roadway Restoration.
- (iii) Riverdale between Greystone Avenue and West 238th Street: Excavation, pipe installation, and restoration work.

More information is available at <http://www.coned.com/M29>, 1-800-799-1083, or e-mail M29project@coned.com.

5. Request to name Claflin Avenue in honor of Our Lady of Angels School.

Chris White, a fourth-grade teacher at Our Lady of Angels School, presented a request to name Claflin Avenue between West 197th Street and Reservoir Avenue in honor of the school, which is located at 2865 Claflin Avenue. This year marks the school's eightieth anniversary, and, in commemoration, the students in Mr. White's class have proposed calling the avenue "Our Lady of Angels Way."

The T&T Chairman explained that he is only aware of the procedure for street naming in honor of a person, and that he would need to clarify the Board's policy and procedure regarding street naming in honor of an organization. He also noted that the City Council has apparently put a moratorium on new street naming in light of a recent controversy.

6. Parking problems in the vicinity of West 254th Street and Sycamore Avenue.

The T&T Chairman reported that he and the Board Chairman visited Sycamore Avenue on May 3, 2008 and met with local residents concerning a variety of parking problems they complained about. On that visit and during three subsequent visits, he observed numerous cars parked on and damaging the cobblestone drainage gutter on the western shoulder of Sycamore Avenue. He noted that Sycamore Avenue is part of the Riverdale Historic District that was created in 1990, and that the cobblestone shoulder is a protected landmark feature.

It was decided that the T&T Chairman should send a letter to the Bronx DOT Commissioner requesting that signs be installed to prohibit parking from the western shoulder in front of 5243 Sycamore Avenue all the way south to the fire hydrant at the bend in the road in front of 5205 Sycamore Avenue.

Local residents in attendance then raised the issue of traffic and parking problems on 254th Street and Palisade Avenue, which they say are caused by the motorists who want to park near the SAR Lower School or the Riverdale Station of the Metro-North railroad. The T&T Chairman said that he and the Board Chairman plan to visit that location soon to see the situation firsthand.

7. Report on Croton Water-Filtration Plant project.

The E&S Chairman said that at the April 17 meeting of the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee, concerns were expressed over the refusal months earlier by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to allow public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir. He said the Jerome Park Conservancy had anticipated that the public would be able to enter past the outer fence to circumnavigate the reservoir, with entry being controlled by a DEP guard. The DEP has taken the

position that because the water from Jerome Park would quickly enter the drinking water system (within 10 to 15 minutes), they could not allow any access. He said that Anne Marie Garti disputed this, saying the timeframe was several hours, enough to shut down the system in case of a terrorist attack.

The E&S Chairman said that he and the Board Chairman support the Conservancy's position and the matter would be discussed at the next CFMC meeting on June 19, 2008.

The E&S Chairman said that the Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association complained about trash and graffiti around the reservoir and that is why he intended, once again to include maintenance by the DEP as a budget item. Other board members agreed that the DEP has responded poorly to community requests. The E&S Chairman also said he has asked the DEP to review at the September CFMC meeting the measures taken to protect the Croton watershed from pollution, specifically from homeowners living within the drainage basin of many of the lakes that make up the water supply, and what program, if any, exists to purchase property in the watershed.

8. E&S budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2010.

Department of Sanitation

Capital Budget:

- (i) Personnel for weekly trash and graffiti cleaning, maintenance and rodent control along the perimeter of Jerome Park Reservoir between the fence and curb.

Expense Budget:

None

Department of Environmental Protection

Capital Budget:

None

Expense Budget:

None

9. T&T budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2010.

Department of Transportation

Capital Budget:

- (i) Revamp exit ramp northbound on Henry Hudson Parkway at West 253rd Street to avert dangerous condition on sharp turn.

- (ii) New sidewalk curbs on West 260th Street between Riverdale and Delafield Avenues.
- (iii) Reconstruct West 230th Street exit off Major Deegan Expressway – 1080505A

Expense Budget:
None

10. Request for crosswalk in front of SAR High School.

R. Fanuzzi inquired as to the feasibility of installing a crosswalk in front of SAR High School on W. 259th St. between Riverdale and Netherland Avenues. He explained that the high volume students crossing that street was hazardous, and that a crosswalk and school crossing guard would enhance of the safety of the public. The T&T Chairman said that on May 21, 2001, he sent an e-mail message to the Bronx DOT Commissioner asking that she give this matter prompt attention. He is awaiting a reply.

Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

At 9:16 p.m., the two Committees were adjourned to days and times to be fixed by their Chairmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Saul Scheinbach
Chairman
Environment & Sanitation Committee

Bradford Trebach
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee

SS:BT:db (June 4, 2008)