

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 19TH, 2015, AT
MANHATTAN COLLEGE, 3825 CORLEAR AVENUE**

Attendance – CB 8 committee members -M. Heller Chairman, R. Press Vice-Chair, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, H. Young. Community Committee member M. Joyce

Public – E. Bell, A. Sandler, F. Patterson, R. Espinal, J. Eddy, P. Sheir, J. Moss.

The meeting was held at the Manhattan College School of Engineering 3825 Corlear Avenue Fischbach Room, and was called to order at 7:35 PM. There was not a quorum present at the beginning of the meeting so Chair Heller gave the Chairs Report.

Chairman's Report: The Henry Hudson Parkway North has been milled and repaved, and the southbound side is on schedule to begin tomorrow. The Northbound service road to the Henry Hudson Parkway is in need of repair at West 235th Street, as is the southbound service road of the Henry Hudson Parkway in front of 3333 Henry Hudson Parkway. There is a question of ownership of the service road -- is it city or state owned since the Henry Hudson Parkway is a state Parkway? A. Sandler of Councilman Cohen's office said that the State DOT is putting in the requested curb by the West 235th Street pedestrian overpass of the HHP, seeming to confirm the State DOT is responsible for the service road since the curbing is in the bed of a mapped state parkway.

The MTA West 259th Street Metro North Station parking lot is to undergo renovation next month to replace the current power sub-station that was flooded out in the last hurricane. The new substation will be on higher ground, and there will be valet parking during construction to make up for the loss of parking spots. The MTA is asking for someone from CB 8 to attend a meeting about the HHP Bridge toll replacement project. The chair is to be out of town, the V-P cannot attend, and J. O'Brien volunteered to attend on June 11th or 12th.

There was a discussion of proposed capital and expense budget items for the committee. The Chair would like to have the West 235th Street pedestrian overpass repaired – Capital Budget item. M. Joyce mentioned having a pathway behind West 259th Street by 5900 Arlington Avenue. Other suggestions included more lane miles repaved for community boards as proposed by the City Council and Mayor, who has reduced the increase proposed by the Council for the next fiscal year. It was suggested that Councilman Rodriguez be informed of the committees request first. There are road, 65 miles in CB 8 according to the chair, and only 8 – 9 lane miles (equal to only about 3 full road miles) are repaved each year by DOT. Riverdale Avenue between West 231st and West 239th Streets is to be repaved as per A. Sandler (of Councilman Cohen's office). Other items mentioned include Expense Budget items that cost less than \$20,000 include painting of crosswalks and lane markings that have worn away, Crosswalks at the VCP exit of the Deegan Highway, and #1 train at West 242nd Street. Incorporate the current extra BX 7 bus service into the regular schedule while restoring the BX 20 back to full service. Mr. Heller also reiterated his proposal that now with toll booths at the Henry Hudson Parkway Bridge being removed, bring west side express bus service down the Henry Hudson Parkway into Manhattan.

With a quorum now present the chair moved the minutes of the April meeting that were corrected on page 2 to include the name of J. O'Brien in the vote of the January minutes. The April minutes were approved 8 – 0 – 0 as amended with members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, H. Young, and Community Committee

members M. Joyce in favor. The March minutes were also approved as written by the same vote of 8 – 0 – 0.

There was no old business.

New Business

A. Sandler brought up the problem of Independence Avenue that splits below Kappock Street into two roads, one a one way street below; the other which is a two way street that runs parallel to Palisade Avenue. He said the upper roadway is not a city street and residents of 2795 Independence Avenue are requesting renaming the two streets North and South Independence Avenue. The CB has to put in a request to the borough presidents office for this called 'an Opinion of Dedication Needs'. It was said that CB 8 has about 60 such private streets where the city can only fill pot holes, and not repair.

J. Moss – Heath Avenue/Fort Independence Avenue intersection is very dangerous. The chair gave a description of the bending curving streets that intersect here, but said there are very few accidents due to cautious driving. A related issue is a lack of a crosswalk at the intersection, forcing walkers to go to Sedgwick to cross the street. It was said that DOT had done a study of the intersection a few years ago and rejected changes; the committee would ask for a new study in light of Vision Zero. The councilman for the area is Councilman Cabrera, and it is at the very top of his council district. It was also mentioned that the 231st Street Bailey/Heath Avenues Step Street is in need of repair, and the chair will check it out by the next meeting.

J. Eddy – Described dangerous traffic conditions in Marble Hill as drivers seek to avoid congestion at west 230 street and Broadway. The no left turn sign 7 – 9 AM at Marble Hill Avenue and Broadway. West 228th Street coming from West 230th Street promotes cars to travel through the local streets of Marble Hill to get to Broadway. He presented a drawing and asked for several speed humps to be installed to slow cars as they speed through the local streets. The chair will contact DOT to look into the possibility of having the left turn restriction changed rather than installing many speed bumps or humps as they are now called.

P.S. 7 Principal F. Patterson - spoke on the intersection behind P.S. 7 Corlear Avenue and West 232nd Street where a student was hit by a car the day before the meeting. There is only a stop sign for West 232nd Street traffic, and the 50th Pct. He stated that the intersection is a high accident corner. A. Sandler said that a request by the councilman's office for a 4-way stop sign was denied by DOT, but that it will be revisited since the accident involving the P.S. 7 student. When asked, the principal said there were no crossing guards at the intersection which is one block from a recently opened charter school. The councilman will try to get a crossing guard at the intersection according to A. Sandler.

Another issue: There is a huge pot hole on West 252nd Street by the Russian Embassy, but it is a private street and DOT can only fill the pot hole and not repair the street.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Minutes submitted by Vice-Chair Robert Press.

Reviewed and edited by Chairman Michael Heller