

The NYCTA representatives stated that the Bronx will soon be introduced to the "Real Time" program. This program allows a rider to use their smart phone to find out how many minutes away their bus is from their bus stop. This would allow an individual to remain in their home or office until the bus was close.

Community Board 8 (CB8) member Michael Heller stated that bus routes have changed over the years and asked if there is a procedure to look at updating them. Ms. Carter said that costs were a key factor in the changing of many routes.

The Chair asked that the Community Board be notified of any future bus changes and Ms. Carter stated that notices go out about two weeks before any changes occur to Community Board offices. She added that the MTA is printing less schedules, and now has more schedules available online.

Chairman Padernacht announced upgrades at the West 225th Street, West 238th Street, and West 242nd Street #1 Elevated Subway stations. At West 225th Street, the northbound side is to be closed from April 2 to May 7 with northbound trains skipping the station.

A community resident stated that an elevator was out of service at the West 231st Street station of the #1 Elevated Subway line. Ms. Carter said that she would look into the matter.

The next guest of the committee was Captain Kevin Burke, Commanding Officer of the 50th Police Precinct. Captain Burke appeared at the meeting to speak about the intersection of Independence Avenue and West 235th Street. Some community residents have raised the issue of the safety at the intersection. The Captain stated that, since September 2011, there were only three reported accidents near the intersection. Two of the accidents were minor motor vehicle accidents. The other accident was a woman who was crossing mid-block by what appears to have been a preoccupied driver. The Captain said that he will station an officer in the area for the AM arrival/rush hour. Vice Chair Robert Press remarked that he believed the problem is that when the DOT changed the manner of parking on the street from parallel to angled, it created a semi-blind corner at Independence and West 235th Street. Captain Burke said that there may be somewhat of a semi-blind corner there.

The next topic of the Committee was the Slow Zone for the area encompassing West 232nd Street to West 246th Street. Dan Johnson, Staff Member for Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, stated that the Assemblyman is in communication with the Bronx DOT Commissioner on the issue.

A discussion of the Safe Route to Transit plans on Broadway at West 231st Street, 238th Street and West 242nd Streets. The Chair remarked that the plans submitted by DOT for the Safe Route plan for the intersections of West 231st Street and Broadway, as well as West 238th Street and Broadway, was supported by the Committee last year. New York City Council Member Oliver Koppell opposed the initial plan submitted for the intersection of West 242nd Street and Broadway. In response to the Councilman's concerns, DOT revised its plan and submitted to the Committee and the Councilman's office for review. Andrew Sandler, Staff Member for Council Member Koppell, stated that the Councilman is opposed to the revised plans as he believes the extension of the sidewalk would inhibit traffic at the intersection. Chairman Padernacht asked the committee to review the revised plans and if possible, visit the site. The Chair stated that the discussion will be tabled for a future meeting.

New Business: Ms. Vivian Dejesus, a board member of the Cannon Heights building, located at 3400 Fort Independence Avenue, said that there was no light or stop sign on Fort Independence Avenue from West 238th Street to Heath Avenue which does not give pedestrians a safe place to cross the street. Ms. Dejesus requested that a traffic device be placed at the intersection of Fort Independence Avenue and Bailey Place. Chairman Padernacht will send a letter to DOT on the issue.

The January minutes were approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Dan Padernacht
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee