

**MINUTES**

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8  
Traffic and Transportation Committee  
Minutes of March 21, 2017  
Citadel Nursing and Rehab Center, 3400-26 Cannon Place**

**Committee Attendance:**

M. Heller  
E. Bell  
A. Creaney  
S. Sarao  
H. Young  
G. Santiago  
J. O'Brien  
M. Joyce, Community committee member

**Non-Committee Board Attendance:**

Chairman Dan Padernacht

**Guests:**

Margaret Della, KHCC  
Geraldine Hill  
Evelyn Oliver, Con Ed Community Affairs  
Eric Soto, Con Ed Community Affairs  
Mark Bower, Electric installation Project  
Dan Johnson, Office of CM Cohen  
Eric Stellman  
Robert Press, Bronx Voice  
James Fereber  
Nicole Wallace  
Laurie Srebnick, Cannon Heights  
Ian Srebnick, Cannon Heights  
Carol Hass, Cannon Heights  
Lordes  
Tanya Greene  
Crystal Holgolin  
Joseph Lopez  
Piebobin Develop  
Irene Flamino  
Artemis Colon  
Brenda Ferebee  
Kelli Biford  
Armenoldb Aslanio-Persilo  
Daniel Ranells, TA Bronx  
Janet Rivera

Alixandra Pene  
William Behnken  
Waldemir Piegdn  
James Monahan  
Jeffrey Laufer, Office of the Bronx BP

The meeting opened at 7:35 PM. The February 2017 minutes were reviewed. The Committee approved unanimously. 8-0-0. In favor - M. Heller, E. Bell, A. Creaney, S. Sarao, H. Young, G. Santiago, J. O'Brien, M. Joyce

**Consolidated Edison Company:** Presentation by Con Edison about Sedgwick Avenue Gas project, Electric project and general discussion about scopes, roadway noise/damage/disruption and notifications to Community Board

Evelyn Oliver, apologized for problems with gas project. Notice about electric project announced 2 ½ weeks in advance. Also, emergency gas repair is underway. Transition electric project. No electric work until gas project completed. Mark Bowers conducted the presentation about the project: Excavate feeder pipes on Sedgwick to prevent oil coolant leaks from high voltage conduit. Goal is to prevent leaks and enhance reliability. Will dig up four pipes, removing coating, welding sleeves where corrosion or damage is found, then restore street trench. Trenches will be 5-6 feet wide covered with plates when working, performed in 250 foot increments starting at VCP working south, carrying out tasks sequentially. Each 250 feet segment will take approximately 6 weeks, fully restored and move on to next segment. 9am-4 pm weekdays, 8am-4pm Saturday. Work by schools will be confined to 9am-2pm. There will be impacts on bus stops, and in touch with TA to choose locations. In 2009-2010 a portion of the line was repaired so it is true they have been in area before, acknowledging that "a lot of work" has been performed on Sedgwick Avenue. South of Giles, some of the work will be along the sidewalk. Community notices will be issued for each segment before they happen.

**Board member questions** – Chair Padernacht where do electric segments start? Just south of VCP along Sedgwick to Giles this year. Then picking up from end of that segment, skipping a few portions that were already done. Different contractors from gas. Discussion of road plate issues. Trenches are wide with overlapping plates. Electric plates will be less intrusive and recessed and pinned with rubber matting to dampen vibration. Will weld where possible. Heller – will there not be constant new defects and why not replace whole line? They are doing full refurbishment and this program is proactive-inspect entire pipe, will correct all defects and yield 30-40-year lifespan. They do not want to come back. They do permanent backfill with each segment before moving on. Considering extent of work, CB and elected officials will want entire street resurfaced curb to curb when job is completed.

Anthony Creaney: Complained about constant potholes, they recognized.

Eric Bell: No outages to local residents, it's a bulk feeder between power substations.

Georgia Santiago: Question about contamination, may find oil in soil to be removed as hazardous waste? They have real time leak detection that shows where leak is.

**Audience questions and answers summary:**

- Noise/loose/dangerous plate questions – most questions were centered on gas job – some plates have been welded, finish around April 7. Contractor has been sternly warned to secure plates.
- Clarified electric is feeder line, serving entire Con Ed system, so concept of local residents being unfairly penalized is irrelevant.

- Trees and pedestrians will be fully protected, arborist on site to protect trees.
- Water main breaks are they related? Con Ed will coordinate with DEP.
- Lack of notices for gas conversion and poor response to complaints – both gas main replacement and oil-gas conversion, and moving gas lines away from electric work.
- Excessive removal of parking when no work being done – Sometimes crews removed to emergencies. Con Ed will contain removal of parking and keep worksite in better shape.
- Lack of coordination with ongoing building brickwork that was delayed. Also, can trucks go back to a yard? Need better notification.
- Contractors don't seem to care how they impact community.
- Con Ed employees in private cars at 3860 and 3845 Sedgwick blocking bus stops forcing school buses into street. Con Ed will monitor and discipline.
- Are private watermain breaks related to electric line problems? 30-40 such breaks over last few years. Not clear how related to Con Ed conditions.
- How will construction notices be delivered? Press releases sent as emails to CB and press, all customers with registered emails are mailed notices. Frequency and update every month.
- Equipment/supply staging areas need to be reconsidered.
- Agencies do not seem to speak to each other – DEP not familiar with Con Ed work.
- What is voltage of line? 345 KV. Other similar electric projects? Not known. Vermin control? Does not seem to be an issue in this area.
- How many fines have been levied on contractors? Answer is not known but info will be sent to community board.

**Takeaway:** Concerns communicated loud and clear – cannot happen with electric project. As gas project wraps up, contractor will tighten plates – legitimate concerns raised and impact must be minimized, less parking taken, rubble cut down. Community board will monitor projects closely.

**SAPO applications:**

- 1) Presented by Jeffrey Laufer of the Borough President' s Office:

Be it Resolved: The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve Israeli Independence Day Block Party with full street closure on May 1, 2017, to be held on Netherland Avenue between Henry Hudson Parkway and West 236 Street. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 8-0-0. Heller, Bell, Creaney, O'Brien, Sarao, Santiago, Joyce, Young

- 2) Presented by Miguel Acosta, expediter. Myra Joyce stated she heard loud music being played one afternoon. Mr. Acosta said it would be handled.

Be it Resolved: The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve a Sidewalk Café application submitted to NYC Department of Consumer Affairs – K Café Corp., d/b/a Yukka Latin Bistro Lounge – 5684 Riverdale Avenue. Passed unanimously 8-0-0. Heller, Bell, Creaney, O'Brien, Sarao, Santiago, Joyce, Young

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM. Next meeting: Date TBD, Location TBD.

Minutes submitted by T&T Chair Michael Heller