

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2012, AT THE OFFICE OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

PRESENT

Daniel Padernacht
Robert Press
Sylvia Alexander
Mike Heller
Pedro Reyes
Andrew Sandler
Daniel Johnson
I.C. L-Engel
Aida C. Acevedo
Giovanni Castro
Maria Cantorino
E. Bejarane
John A. Pavlik
Miawling Lam
Steven Scher
Andrew Caraballo

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
rep. Councilman Koppell
rep. Assemblyman Dinowitz
BCEQ
DDC
DDC
DDC
DDC
DDC
Riverdale Review
Generico's Pizza

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by T&T Chairman Dan Padernacht.

The first item was the sidewalk cafe application for Generico's Restaurant located at 3525 Riverdale Avenue. Owner Andrew Caraballo said that there would be 6 tables with 10 chairs in a small enclosure used from 6-10 PM. The owner added that the restaurant will serve wine and beer outside also. Board Member Mr. Heller wished the owner good luck and the vote was 5 – 0 (M. Heller, P. Reyes, R. Press, S. Alexander, and D. Padernacht) voting in favor of the application.

The Safe Route to Transit which extends the sidewalk out to meet the bus stop under Broadway at West 231st, West 238th, and west 242nd Streets was then discussed. There was no problem with the West 231 and West 238 street plans, but the DOT and DDC revised the West 242nd Street plans to allow for revisions that Councilman Koppell had requested. A. Sandler of Council Member Koppell's office stated that there is no need to extend the sidewalk by West 242nd Street and Broadway Southbound because it would create a bottleneck which would become a traffic hazard. Mr. Sandler said that the Councilman still opposes this plan for West 242nd Street and Broadway stop. After continued discussion as to why there is a need to extend the sidewalk at the West 242nd Street stop, Chair Padernacht decided to table the project taking into account the members and Councilman's concerns.

Givani Castro, Alda Acevedo, John Pavlik, Maria Cantorino, and E. Bejarne of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) gave a presentation on the Palisade Avenue retaining wall reconstruction. One block of Palisade Avenue between Independence Avenue South and Independence Avenue North will be completely closed to vehicular traffic with a walkway only. Independence Avenue South will become a two way street and the North road will become one way to allow for lost parking spaces. DDC said that it had gone over the plan with DOT.

Reconstruction of the wall should start in April and run for about eight months. Residents of the area will be informed of the changed traffic patterns by notices on poles, cars, and in building lobbies before the construction begins. The wall is 250 feet long, there will be six trees removed and replaced with seven new trees. DDC has a community liaison Ms. Aida Acevedo whose phone number is 347-899-8930, her email is palisadeavenuecl@gmail.com, and the field office is located at 2287 Johnson Avenue Apt. 6A.

It was mentioned that test pits for the water main at Bailey Avenue between West 233rd and West 234th Streets for the Bailey Avenue retaining wall project is being done where work will soon begin as all the paperwork is now being finished.

The corridor of Broadway between Mosholu Avenue and West 242nd Street came up for discussion. There was an accident at the corner of Broadway and Mosholu Avenue recently and 27 accidents have occurred in the past 5 years at the intersection which has a traffic signal. This corridor will be looked at further in upcoming meetings.

It was mentioned that Councilman Koppell was able to have DOT pave West 227th Street between Arlington and Netherland Avenues. The Councilman has asked DOT to repave West 254th Street from Riverdale Avenue to the Metro North train station. Assemblyman Dinowitz has asked DOT to repave several streets in parts of Van Cortland Village.

Mr. Steven Scher of 2600 Netherland Avenue said that he has written letters to the DOT and elected officials about exit 19 southbound off the Henry Hudson Parkway at the Whitehall building. He said that cars travel over the safety island to enter the Whitehall driveway causing a hazard. Mr. Scher proposed that rubber sanctions be put at the exit 19 island to prevent cars from crossing it to enter the Whitehall driveway. Board member Heller added that people do that to avoid getting off the exit before and stopping at the light at West 235th Street. The chair will follow up on the matter, and forward the photos Mr. Scher had to DOT, and Mr. Sandler said that the councilman would also follow up on the matter.

A discussion of a mass transit survey by a local college student for her school came up. Mr. I.C. L-Engel brought up the subject of the Greenway route and walkway over the Henry Hudson Bridge. Mr. L-Engel said that he is a cyclist and mentioned that that upper roadway of the bridge

has (or had) a promenade that was lost to MTA parking. It appears that many people want the community board to intervene between the MTA and the agency building the Hudson Greenway so that the upper roadway can have a walkway. The Chair read an e-mail from one such person, Ms. Haas, and a discussion began about the issue.

Board Member Heller recalled that he use to walk on the upper roadway walkway, but that ended many years ago when the MTA built a new revenue building that covered most of the walkway. After mention that the HHP bridge was going to all Easy Pass, it was suggested that the building be removed. The chair mentioned that the lower roadway can be cantilevered for a 10 foot bike path. Vice Chair Press said that we are talking about the Manhattan side of the bridge and we may not have the jurisdiction to say what to do. Press added that CB 8 should confer with CB 12 of Manhattan on the issue. Discussion continued where the chair said that he wanted more information from all parties involved and just what authority the community board has before making a decision.

The chair then said that he wanted to set up a sub-committee to monitor the construction work on the Palisade Avenue retaining wall at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM

Minutes submitted by Vice Chair Robert Press.