

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8, Traffic and Transportation Committee**

**Minutes of March 15, 2016 Meeting held at**

**the Riverdale Mental Health Association**

Committee Attendance:

M. Heller, Committee Chair  
D. Fuchs, Committee member  
A. Creaney, Committee Member  
R. Press, Committee Vice Chair  
S. Alexander, Committee member  
G. Santiago, Committee Member  
M. Joyce Community Committee member  
J. O'Brien, Committee member  
H. Young, Committee Member

Non-Committee Board members:

Amy Jo Robateau

Committee Absences:

S. Sarao

Guests:

C. Moran, NYCDOT  
Charles Green, NYCDOT  
Matthew Arancio, NYCDOT  
K. Kalb, NYCDOT  
N. Lopez, NYCDOT  
Merisa Gilman, NYCDOT  
Heidi Wolf, NYCDOT  
R. Martos, Office of Assemblyman Dinowitz  
Kathy Valji, Community Resident  
Peter Nulty, Community Resident  
Toni Brown, ILCHS  
John Farrell, Community Resident  
Cristina Lang, Office of Senator Klein

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM by Chair M. Heller, a quorum was present. The minutes of the February 2016 meeting were amended to reflect the correct spelling and addition of Ms. Santiago correcting all votes to 8 – 0 – 0. The amended minutes were

approved 8 – 0 – 0 with committee members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and CCM M. Joyce in favor.

The Chair moved his report to present a SAPO for the Lag B'Omer Picnic and Block Party to be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 11AM – 9 PM, on West 236<sup>th</sup> Street between Independence and Douglas Avenues. This event has occurred before with CB 8 approval, and the vote was 8 – 0 – 0 with members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and CCM M. Joyce in favor.

The Chair then introduced Bronx DOT Commissioner Connie Moran, who introduced several members of her staff who then gave a presentation about proposed installation of new marked crosswalks at the intersections of Eames Place and Clafin Avenue, adjacent to PS 307 and the public library branch. This is the area where a child was accidentally run over, and the community had called for action by the DOT.

This project is called an “Enhanced Crossing” where pedestrians may cross intersections with or without traffic controls. After a DOT survey it was found that this area is a low volume area where two speed humps were installed in the school area. The crosswalks have over 100 pedestrians per peak hour, and crosswalks are to be put in the roadway at the previously mentioned intersections. There will also be day lighting of the intersections by removing one or more parking spaces to improve pedestrian safety; and proper signage placed nearby. DOT still would like a letter of support for this project, and there was no objection.

DOT has overruled CB 8's original request for no parking on Sycamore Avenue on the North side by Independence Avenue. Upon an inspection by the chair, red tape was placed over the arrows to create a gap in no parking regulations. It was subsequently verified it was done by DOT after there was a request from a resident to reinstate the parking. It was said that three houses have no driveways so they need the on-street parking. Another survey will be done as other residents of the block complained that the parking situation was back to the way it was before the no parking was instituted. The main problem appears to be SAR staff and MTA parking on the block according to one resident, to which the chair commented that he indeed found some hoods on cars warm during his survey. It was said that 5268 has no garage, but a pull in parking space, 5270 the garage is not used, and that only 5286 has no garage or parking space. The matter of the street not having sidewalks came up, and DOT will do another survey taking into account the entrance to a cul de sac that cars almost block on Sycamore Avenue. The chair suggested a meeting of residents with DOT to reach a compromise.

The one hour muni meters on Mosholu Avenue from Broadway to Post Road being changed to two hours was brought up. After further review, chair will consider supporting the request.

Two merchants from Riverdale Avenue (West 236<sup>th</sup> to West 238<sup>th</sup> Streets) complained that DOT put up signs that the street would be closed for milling on one particular evening, when in fact that nothing was done in the area marked. The merchants and some board members wanted to know why the milling was not done on the first day, and why it would take two days to do one block. Commissioner Moran replied that the board has requested that Riverdale Avenue South from West 230<sup>th</sup> Street to West 239<sup>th</sup> Streets be repaved, and with the warm winter that DOT is able to do the work now rather than later. (The milling between West 236<sup>th</sup> and West 238<sup>th</sup> Streets was entirely done overnight starting Tuesday night). DOT agreed to consider ways to adjust street closure hours to minimize impacts on local merchants.

To a question of reverting the #1 bus to its original starting point, now that construction on the ILCHS school is complete, DOT has to get the request from the MTA. Ms. Toni Brown from the new charter school at the corner where the #1 bus originally began said that buses are idling in front of the school, to which the chair replied he would work to insure such practices

cease, The chair presented a resolution to restore the #1 bus stop to its original starting point which was approved unanimously, and the vote was 8 – 0 – 0 with members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and CCM M. Joyce in favor.

To a request by the Vice-Chair who lives on Independence Avenue for a warning sign that a new traffic light is ahead southbound by the blind curve at PS 24 as drivers approach the new light at West 235<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue. The Vice-Chair stated that he has been told by the crossing guard that cars are occasionally are going through the red light. DOT Commissioner responded that drivers should be able to see the light, and if not be ticketed by the 50<sup>th</sup> precinct.

A representative from Transportation Alternatives mentioned several upcoming events in the Bronx, but none were in the CB 8 area.

Committee member Tony Creaney mentioned that it is taking longer for him to cross the street by his home on Irwin Avenue and West 240<sup>th</sup> Street due to increased auto traffic, and he wonders if there is additional traffic now that the new Riverdale Crossing shopping center on Broadway is causing cars to find other local streets than Broadway to drive on.

The meeting was adjourned at 905 PM.

Minutes submitted by Vice-Chair Robert Press for corrections and approval.