

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 21ST, 2015, AT
MANHATTAN COLLEGE, 3825 CORLEAR AVENUE**

Attendees:

Community Board Attendees:

Daniel Padernacht, CB chair
Michael Heller, Chair
Robert Press, Vice Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Robert Bender
Anthony Creaney
Joseph O'Brien
James Rather
Georgia Santiago
Myra Joyce

Public Attendees:

Al Chapman, KHNA
Herb Barrett
Gardenia Slade, KHNA
Elizabeth Thompson, KHNA
Philip Shen
Bob Drake
Justin Demko, Office of Assemblyman Dinowitz
Andrew Sandler, Office of Councilmember Cohen
Michael Blaustein, Office of Senator Klein
Tracy Shelton, KRVCDC
Linda Manning

The meeting was held at Manhattan College, 3825 Corlear Avenue, Fischbach Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chair M. Heller. A quorum was not present, and the meeting began with the chair giving an update of the Henry Hudson Parkway resurfacing to begin this week. The chair also mentioned city council members are talking about increasing the city's resurfacing budget.

DDC conducted two presentations:

D. Pantel from the DDC gave a presentation of the reconstruction of the West 229th Street Step Street, which is between Kingsbridge Terrace and Heath Avenue. Project number is HWX5411. Project start date is expected for June 2016, finished by December 2017. Estimated cost is \$ 2.1 Million dollars, will take 15 months to complete, and will be done in 6 phases.

This is graded one of the worst 20 Step Streets in NYC. New steps will be ADA compliant, and have 10 flights of stairs (10 – 11 steps each) with varying sized landings, 9 in all. Existing step street will be demolished, and set up 2 temporary alternate routes around the

next two streets, and temporary stairs at the site during construction. Questions about the drainage system were answered that it is to be moved slightly for better drainage. There will be no wheel-chair accessibility, and the angle of the stairs is to be slightly lower to make them easier to climb.

Cannon Place Retaining Wall update. Carl Muraco, the community liaison presented. Work is almost finished, and should be done by the summer of 2015. The project was emergency replacement of the wall, and included water main and sewer replacement among other items. There will be an 18 month warranty on the wall that has a life of 50 years once it is completely finished. Any future construction next to or near the wall must go through the proper city agencies for review which includes the Community Board.

K. Hart community resident thanked the DDC, but asked why the entire wall was not extended to where visual observation seems to indicate. DDC said they did what was requested of the DOT who owns and maintains the retaining wall. She added that a new developer has purchased the property at the foot of the wall, and has said that they want to build using the wall as a support or even part of the building foundation. She also mentioned a meeting of the CB Land Use Committee where the developer had mentioned that there was a meeting in 2011-2012 between DDC, the first developer (Jackson) and the DOB. DDC said that they are not a regulatory agency, do not have the review process of safeguarding additional properties, and only construct what DOT requests. CB 8 Board Chair Padernacht then asked why the community board was not included in those discussions with DDC, HPD, DOT and the elected officials, and was told that the community boards are not invited to such alignment meetings. He then asked how the new wall is to be supported since it does not go below the soil at all points, or with a building next to it. A question of how blasting of the rock in front of the wall at the bottom would affect the wall was answered that no one present is an engineer, and cannot speak on the questions asked. There is to be feedback from DDC when the questions are put to the engineers.

With a quorum now present the chair asked for approval of the January and March minutes due to a lack of quorum at the last meeting. The chair laid over the January minutes so they could be redistributed, and the March Minutes were approved 9 – 0 – 0. Board members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, D. Rather, G. Santiago, and D. Fuchs with Community Committee Member M. Joyce in favor.

SAPO Applications:

North Riverdale Merchants Association Street Festival September 20, 2015: Full closure of Riverdale Avenue from West 258th to West 259th Streets. Traffic is detoured north at West 256th Street. The chair spoke of a problem that occurred at last year's event, and it was stipulated that one lane of the street will remain open for emergency vehicles and city buses to travel under direction of the TA dispatchers and police at the event. The chair used an example of an upstate bridge that was only one lane, whereas only one vehicle could cross at a time in either direction. He added that on Sunday during the event there is decreased bus traffic, and the SAPO rules require a 15 foot lane be clear for emergency vehicles. The vote was unanimous 9 – 0 – 0 Board members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, D. Rather, G. Santiago, and D. Fuchs with Community Committee Member M. Joyce in favor.

Cayuga Avenue Block Party: Full closure of street at 4414 Cayuga Avenue between West 246th Street and the dead end to be held on June 20, 2015. The event has been previously held. The vote was unanimous 9 – 0 – 0 Board members Heller, Press, Alexander, Bender, Creany, Rather, Santiago, and Fuchs with CCM Joyce in favor..

KNHIA Health and Wellness Fair: The date was changed to September 26, 2015 for full closure of Reservoir Avenue between West 197th Street and University Avenue. The event has been held previously. The vote was unanimous 9 – 0 – 0 Board members M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, D. Rather, G. Santiago, and D. Fuchs with Community Committee Member M. Joyce in favor.

Recommendations for Capital Budget projects:

The chair mentioned the West 235/236th Street pedestrian overpass of the HHP. A. Sandler of Councilman Cohen's office said that a request was put in with DOT to fix the stairs that are crumbling.

J. Rather mentioned the West 225th/Broadway intersection, and A. Sandler said that it is done in house by DOT.

M. Joyce asked about the pathway by Skyview to Arlington Avenue and West 261st Street. A. Sandler said it would be better as a pathway and not a street which would be very expensive.

M. Heller – an elevator should be considered for the West 242nd Street #1 subway terminal station where there is one level of entrance/exit.

A. Sandler mentioned that Councilman Cohen wants countdown clocks at most busy bus stops which are similar to the subway countdown clocks presently being used. One is to be placed at the West 231st Street and Broadway multi line bus stop northbound at the foot of the # 1 subway station there.

Other Items/ New Business:

West 255 Street off Mosholu Avenue, a dead end street path to Fieldston Road has caved in. That is a maintenance issue that has to be called in to 311.

Irwin Avenue and West 240th Street also cave in by the stop sign, and is also a maintenance problem, as is the 2nd cave in at the intersection of Oxford Avenue and West 236th Street for the 2nd time.

J. Moss Giles Place, Heath Avenue and Ft. Independence Street triangle - new markings need to be placed, and better traffic control so pedestrians can cross safer.

The question of Fort Independence Street being called Heath Avenue according to some GPS and even some EMS technicians, as well as the speeding on the street which is a 50 Precinct matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Minutes submitted by Vice-Chair Robert Press, Approved by Chairman Heller