

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HELD SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2009
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Anthony Perez Cassino	Committee Chairman
Robert Fanuzzi	CB #8
Thomas Giallorenzi	CB #8
Yael Levy	CB#8
I.W. Stone	CB #8
Bradford Trebach	CB #8
Herbert Young	CB #8
Laura Fieber	
Hilary Hart	
Nick Judd	Riverdale Press
Robert Press	
Cliff Stanton	PS 24 Co-President, Parents Association

1. Chairman's Report -- Chairman announced the tragic passing of board member Cassandra Prentice recently from cancer. Chairman updated the committee on the status a number of initiatives since the committee last met. In August, muni-meters were installed in and around Johnson Avenue and 236th Street and Riverdale Avenue. The total amount of meters installed were 35, which replace 225 single space meters. It is estimated by DOT that it will add approximately 20% more parking spaces. Chairman reported that there have been some complaints concerning the new meters, and that the committee will be monitoring the issue. Muni-meters will be replacing the old meters city-wide, but there is no date set for additional meters to be installed within Board 8. Chairman reported that new electric hybrid buses are now in use in Board 8, and he will be requesting details from MTA on the number of new buses that will be hybrid. Chairman thanked the police at the 50th pct. for continuing to summon and tow warehoused and/or abandoned cars in the area. Chairman mentioned that the investigation into the rogue traffic agent T. Flight continues to move forward at a very slow pace by the police department.
2. Update on PS 24 Traffic Concerns -- Chairman reported on efforts made in the late Spring and during the summer to deal with a number of traffic safety issues around PS 24, especially as a result of the new use of the Annex at the Whitehall by the school. Chairman reported that he met with DOT Bronx Commissioner Connie Moran in the Spring to assess the problems. During the summer, DOT worked on a number of the concerns raised by the school including the addition of a speed bump on 236th street, the rearranging of signs and parking rules on 235th and 236th to accommodate a revised bus drop-off, and the changing of the traffic light pattern at 236th and Independence to foster greater traffic safety. Cliff Stanton of the PS 24 Parents Association expressed appreciation for these changes, but remains concerned about the need for a traffic calming measure at 235th and Independence, where many of the

students attending the new Annex will cross. A study is being conducted by DOT to determine whether a traffic calming measure such as a light is needed at that location. Mr. Stanton also mentioned that PS 24 will be participating in the International Walk to School Day on October 7th. The Chairman mentioned that PS 81 will also be participating and he has reached out to other school to join as well as a way of highlighting school traffic safety, reducing traffic and improving health.

3. Installation of Bike Racks – About 6 months ago, the committee submitted an extensive list of locations for the installation of bike racks to the DOT. We have been advised that action will be taken in the coming year but no details were provided by DOT. There are very few bike racks in Board 8. Bill Stone raised a concern over the width of the new bike path along Manhattan College Parkway and the safety of bikers. Chairman responded that DOT had reviewed the location in response to an earlier request and found it to be within the City guidelines and appropriate for use.
4. Status of Alternate Side parking rules changes -- Chairman reported that the change of signs to indicate a reduction in the alternate side parking rules from 4 days to 2 days a week within Board 8 are due to be changed in the fall. The change was approved by the Board and the City early in 2009.
5. City Ferry Study -- the City is looking at locations throughout New York City to develop ferry commuter service lines. A public hearing was held in Riverdale during the summer and the Chairman attended and testified about some of the concerns that have been raised by the committee over the years concerning ferry service in the area. The City will be considering areas to study, and the committee expressed a desire that our area be studied further. Chairman will write a letter to the Ferry Committee expressing interest in a study being done for ferry service in the area.
6. Valles Avenue Sidewalk violations -- Chairman reported that he has been in communication with DOT concerning a large number of sidewalk violations issued along Valles Avenue early in the summer. He reported that it is common practice for DOT to review an entire street for violations if a single complaint has been made concerning the area. Many of the homeowners on Valles have requested a secondary review of their sidewalk, which is provided for in the procedures.
7. New Business
 - Laura Fieber-Minogue raised a concern about the condition of the sidewalk along Johnson Avenue near Edsall. The sidewalk is in disrepair and difficult to pass for commuters heading to metro-north. Chairman reported that it is the responsibility of the homeowners, and that following her 311 complaints the homeowners have been issued violations to repair.
 - Bob Fanuzzi reported that DOT has agreed to create a pedestrian walkway at 261st Street between Arlington and Independence Avenue in response to a request of a local resident.
 - Bob Fanuzzi, chairman of the Board's Economic Development Committee, agreed to work with the Traffic Committee to look at ways of easing the difficulties being caused by lack of parking and aggressive traffic enforcement in business areas. He reported that local businesses along Broadway have requested that the parking lot at West 230th and Broadway that is slated to become a shopping center should be utilized for parking until development of the site is imminent. Local businesses have reported a drop in sales, and continued parking difficulties for customers.
 - Chairman discussed the new arrangement with SAR High School to improve traffic flow around the school by creating a drop off pattern on the grounds of the school. The Chair will monitor the new traffic procedures during the next month.

- Various requests were made for stop signs and traffic safety measures that will be forwarded to DOT.

Anthony P. Cassino
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee

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