

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HELD OCTOBER 27TH, 2008
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Anthony Perez Cassino	Committee Chairman
Anthony P. Creaney	CB #8
Thomas Durham	CB #8
Ari Goldman	CB #8
Karen Pesce	CB #8
Joyce Pilsner	CB #8
James Plaza	CB #8
Saul Scheinbach	CB #8
I.W. Stone	CB #8
Bradford Trebach	CB #8
John Barnes	
Steve Boatti	FPOA
Audrey Burtey	
Rhea Dornbush	
Carolyn Friedman	
Maria Gwertzman	
Mike Heller	
Walter Hickey	MTABT
Megan James	Riverdale Press
Debbie Jordan	
Galina Kovalevskaya	
Sandra Lerner	
Mayra Linares	Con Ed
Brendan Maher	Con Ed
Michael McGinn	FPOA
Andy Meyers	
Johanna Odrich	FPOA
Ronald Odrich	FPOA
Margaret Paccione	
Frank Pascual	MTABT
Robert Press	
Diane Riback	
Al Rivera	MTABT
Clara Schaefer	
William P. Still	
Tim Stewart	Con Ed
Charles Weintraub	
Vivian Weintraub	
Geoffrey Zelnik	

1. Chairman welcomed attendees and the minutes of the meeting of September 16th, 2008 meeting were adopted.

2. Henry Hudson Bridge

MTA representatives provided a slide presentation detailing the progress of the reconstruction of the Henry Hudson Bridge. The bridge, which was built in 1936, is undergoing an \$84 million reconstruction that is scheduled to be completed in 2010. The project is on schedule and on budget, and is half-way done.

3. Con Edison M29 Power Line

Con Edison's community liaison Myra Linares discussed the status of the project. Most of the major work of cutting and trenching left to be done is in north Riverdale (north of 259th Street). They are also working on tunneling into Manhattan near 225th Street and Broadway. Much of the route has been repaved. Con Edison was asked to consider paving more of the adjoining roadway by the committee and audience members who believe that part of the road was damaged by the heavy equipment they used. Con Edison agreed to share photos of all locations that indicate that the road was damaged prior to construction of the power line. Con Edison was also asked to reduce or eliminate staging areas to make room for more parking. They agreed to eliminate the staging area near 238th and Riverdale Avenue by the end of the week and to reduce the large one at 254th and Riverdale Avenue. There were also complaints about pieces of tar on the road and sidewalks that need to be swept clean. The estimated completion of the project is the end of 2008.

4. Bridge Construction – West 246th Street and West 254th Street

The committee chair discussed the status of the renovation of the overpasses along the Henry Hudson Parkway at West 246th Street and the Riverdale Avenue bridge (West 254th street). T&T Chairman reported that the first week of construction was a perfect storm of problems. The same week when work on the West 246th Street bridge began, Con Edison began repaving the service road in that area and the Fieldston Property Owners Association (FPOA) began construction of two stone pillars at the same intersection. T&T Chairman reported that all the parties met after the first two days of construction to work through some of the problems and have made significant strides in improving the safety and traffic at the area but more needs to be done. Representatives of the FPOA reported on their concerns for safety at the location, and requested a traffic agent be placed at the site. The committee agreed to reiterate its request for a traffic agent at the site to DOT. FPOA also stated its objection to the striping on its streets, and said it would remove such striping and replace it with a single double yellow line if DOT does not do so in short order. FPOA also made a request to make the West 246th Street bridge a one-way headed westbound. There was not consensus on the committee for such a proposal, but the chair agreed to forward all of those concerns to DOT.

5. Kappock Overpass Construction

Officials from Design and Construction were scheduled to present at the meeting but did not attend. Representatives of the board of 629 Kappock attended to voice their concerns about the disruption to their building. The area is very noisy and dirty, and they are upset about any work being done on Saturdays. They thanked the committee and T&T Chairman for helping to improve the situation. The chairman agreed to arrange a meeting with DDC officials and representatives of the building to address their remaining concerns.

6. Traffic Enforcement Agent Fraud

T&T Chairman detailed allegations about a traffic agent in the Riverdale area who is handing out fraudulent tickets to area residents. Chairman detailed numerous complaints involving the same traffic agent that seem to indicate that tickets are being issued fraudulently. Chairman wrote a letter to the police and internal affairs to request that they conduct an investigation into the allegations, and he has been advised that one has been initiated. Six to eight people detailed their stories involving the same traffic agent and their belief that they were incorrectly ticketed. Chairman agreed to continue to pursue the matter until a full investigation is done.

7. Abandoned/Warehoused Cars

Chairman commended the police, including 50th Pct. Captain D'Adamo, for their efforts in addressing the problem of cars being left on our streets without moving for months in areas with no alternate-side parking rules. The police have towed more than 15 cars and ticketed many more for failure to move or other infractions. The effort to remove these cars will continue as long as there are more cars that are not moved for more than seven consecutive days.

8. Alternate-Side Parking Report

T&T Chairman reported that he continues to talk to City officials about the Board's recommendation to reduce alternate-side parking from 4 days to 2 in certain parts of the community. He hopes to have a more detailed report in the near future.

9. Bike Racks

This discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

10. **Miscellaneous**

Saul Scheinbach reported on the rules governing towing by private companies at parking lots and on private property. Chairman mentioned that the Marble Hill retaining wall at Metro North was completed.

Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perez Cassino
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee

APC:db