

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2008
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Anthony P. Cassino	Committee Chairman
Warren S. Dolny	Committee Vice Chairman
Thomas C. Durham	CB-8
Robert Fanuzzi	CB-8
Thomas Giallorenzi	CB-8
Karen Pesce	CB-8
James Plaza	CB-8
Saul Scheinbach	CB-8
Bradford Trebach	CB-8
Herbert Young	CB-8
A. Kamrea	Lehman
Rachel Loonin	Riverdale Nature Preservancy
Gary Oliver	
Robert Press	
Manfred Segal	
Nick Sbordone	NYC Doitt
Brett Sikoff	NYC Doitt
Ann Smith	

1. The Committee meeting started at 7:30 p.m., and the minutes of the prior meeting were adopted.
2. Cellular Antennas on Lampposts

The representatives of the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT) oversees the City's use of existing and emerging technologies in government operations, and its delivery of services to the public. DOITT reported that pole tops in New York City are being rented for use by telecommunication franchises under a Federally mandated program with municipal enabling legislation from the City Council.

There are seven such companies operating in the City, with one being active in Bronx Community District 8. All such poles are required to be located at or as near as possible to an intersection. In District 8, there are 53 poles reserved for such use. Almost all of these have already been installed by Next G Networks. Thirty-four are on City-owned poles such as lampposts, and the remainders are on privately owned utility poles such as wooden telephone poles.

The devices are small, localized, omni-directional antennas installed with a box and base station. They are essentially low-powered radio transmitters. They are required to be periodically tested to make sure that they fall well below the transmission levels allowed by Federal law.

Community residents asked for an accommodation to be made for locations like the corner of West 242nd Street and Greystone Avenue, where a pole-top antenna is close to a third-floor bedroom window in an apartment building. They asked that the antenna be moved to a corner not as close to residential buildings. DOITT representatives said they would communicate the request to Next G Networks for their review.

3. Update on Con Edison's M29 Project.

The Chairman reported that a great deal of the project has been completed. He thanked Con Edison for living up to its agreements to remove the staging area at West 238th Street and Riverdale Avenue and for reducing the staging area at West 254th Street and Riverdale Avenue. He raised concerns about the condition of the roadway abutting the newly paved lanes used by Con Edison and said he would continue to request that Con Edison repair some of the damaged roadways. The major phase of the power line will be completed by the end of the year, after which the cable will be installed manhole to manhole.

4. Update on Alternate-Side Parking.

The Chairman reported that he continues to have discussions with City officials regarding the Board's proposal to reduce alternate-side parking rules from 4 days to 2 in certain parts of the District, and hopes to have more to report shortly.

5. Bogus Parking Tickets.

The Chairman announced that earlier in the day he met with officers from the NYPD Internal Affairs Division about the 12 documented cases he compiled regarding false ticketing in District 8 by a single traffic-enforcement agent. He was advised that the investigation will take some time (could be more than a year) and during that time the agent in question would remain in her position. He also advised that he was unable to persuade the City to freeze the tickets in the 12 documented cases until after completion of the investigation.

6. Abandoned/Warehoused Cars

The Committee has targeted problem areas. The 50th Police Precinct has towed at least 15 abandoned cars so far, and the Chairman praised Captain D'Adamo and officers of the 50th Precinct for their assistance with this issue.

7. Public Bicycle Racks.

The Committee discussed the NYC Department of Transportation's effort to install much needed bike racks. The DOT will seek Community Board recommendations for locating such racks. The Chairman asked the Committee to work on narrowing down 10 to 20 prime locations throughout District 8. R. Fanuzzi summarized the Economic Development Committee's criteria and suggestions in this regard. The Chairman pointed out that even more locations in other parts of District 8 should be considered. He proposed that several Committee Members (T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi) sit on a subcommittee to move forward on this matter.

8. Broadway and West 230th Street Retail Development Project.

The Chairman distributed a report from the developer on traffic and parking issues in the vicinity of the Broadway project. Discussion ensued regarding the report's upbeat projections. The Chairman asked Committee Members to review the report and submit comments to him in advance of the December 2 Land Use Committee Meeting on the project.

9. Bailey Place Retaining Wall.

Committee Vice-Chairman Dolny reported on his meeting with the DOT and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) about the new retaining wall for Bailey Place. Work is scheduled to start in October 2009 and is projected to last approximately nine months.

10. Step Street on West 230th Street

Committee Vice-Chairman Dolny reported on his meeting with the DOT and DDC about plans to redo the West 230th Street step street between Heath Avenue and Kingsbridge Terrace. Work is slated to begin in October, 2009 and is projected to last approximately one year.

11. A community resident expressed concern about the intersection of Liebig Avenue and West 259th Street, which she described as a dangerous area in need of four-way stop signs instead of the current two-way stop signs. She also asked for speed bumps. The Chairman said that he will ask DOT to examine the feasibility of such changes.

Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

At 9:00 p.m., the Committee was adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony P. Cassino
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee

APC:db (December 9, 2008)