



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

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**Transportation, Historic Preservation,
and Landmarks Committee**

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019
6:30 p.m.**

Hon. Raquel Vazquez, Chair

**Hon. Gregory C. Baggett, Vice-Chair
Hon. Keith Taylor, Vice-Chair**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Cicely Harris; Raquel Vazquez; Gregory Baggett; Keith Taylor; Karen Horry;
John Lynch; Lashanda Myers; Barbara Nelson; Tiffany Reaves**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Daniel Clark, unexcused; Troy Gethers, unexcused

GUESTS PRESENT:

**Michael Abrahams; Malcolm Barksdale; Dennis Biegel; Lyle Blackwood; Niall
Cain; Marsha Hudson; Guy Humphreys; Joanne Kidder; Phanindra Kurugamb;
Samuel White**

MEETING MINUTES

**The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm, followed by welcoming remarks and
introductions.**

TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATIONS

DOT Informational Presentation Concerning the Recommission of Bus Stops on Macombs Dam Viaduct. Mr. Michael Abrahams, Mr. Dennis Biegel, Ms. Joanne Kidder, presenters.

The bus stops will be constructed on the north and south sidewalks at the crosswalk located at the intersection of West 155th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.

The bus stops were decommissioned in 1988, and the decision to recommission the bus stops was in response to a request by former Assemblyman Danny Farrell who explained to the agency that the bus stops were a community priority.

The proposed bus stops are regular bus stops, sixty (60) feet long; SBS buses that use the viaduct will not use these bus stops.

The agency estimates the cost of the project to be one million dollars, which includes construction cost and support services for a new barrier and fencing, traffic signals moved, and sidewalks removed and rebuilt as well as construction under the viaduct.

The project will begin in May 2020 and is estimated to last no more than eight (8) months. The work on the deck should take four (4) months to complete, with two (2) months dedicated to bus stop; additional staffing includes traffic control agents and a dedicated community liaison during the construction.

Thus far, there has been no community engagement concerning this project, and there has been no impact study on traffic. Assemblyman Al Taylor submitted a letter supporting the project.

Because the Macombs Dam Viaduct has landmark designation, DOT is required to appear before the LPC.

Community Concerns: congestion; safety; reason for decommission; source of community priority.

Next Steps: Contact Assemblyman Taylor's office; DOT to send pertinent data to committee; LPC hearing, October 8, 2019.

125 Street BID, Outline of Proposed Scope of Work along 125th Street, Ms. Barbara Askins, presenter.

Introduction of a major capital improvement project along 125th Street that's presently in formation by the 125th Street BID in cooperation with DOT.

The proposed project includes improvements to sidewalks, streets, lighting fixtures, curbs, tree pits, and the underground infrastructure and grid.

The late-1980s was the last time that there was a major capital project along 125th Street.

A report on the conditions along 125th Street (see attached) was presented to DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Ed Pincar.

125th BID requested a walkthrough with Commissioner Pincar

Although the city has jurisdiction over area, the scope project project requires funding from the State.

Commissioner Pincar agreed to work with the 125th Street BID to put together a plan that can be introduced to state officials.

The 125th Street BID asked MCB10 to lobby State Senator Brian Benjamin and Assemblywoman Inez Dickens for support

Despite the popular success of the M60 bus, the line causes congestion and safety hazards because no traffic agents have been assigned to 125th Street.

Business owners are presently burdened with chronic flooding, unsafe sidewalks outside their establishments, and navigating the governmental bureaucracy to make some minimal capital improvements.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND LANDMARKS PRESENTATIONS

Review of CB Landmarks Procedures and Plan, Mr. Guy Humphrey and Hon. Gregory Baggett presenters.

Over the summer a small group of concerned residents convened a meeting to discuss enhancing the CB10 Landmarks Policies and Procedures. During that meeting the participants proposed:

Updating the committee's policy and procedures;

Introducing five (5) points for further examination and consideration by the THPL committee;

Identifying experts in the related fields and disciplines who could serve the THPL committee in an advisory capacity;

Bringing additional and continued training to the THPL committee by independent experts like the Historic District Council and Municipal Arts Society;

Advocating for the need to protect rooftops and rear façades from loopholes in the LCP standards;

Adopting best practices established by other community boards like MCB6 and MCB2;

Testifying at LPC hearing by CB10 staff; CB10 board members, community stakeholders, and residents;

Expanding, revising, and updating the CB10 Historic Preservation Plan.

Next Steps: Review recommendations; CB10 to attend LPC hearings; return to committee with update.

Update on the Dorrance Brooks Historic District Designation. Hon. Keith Taylor, presenter.

A Resolution was introduced supporting the New York City landmark designation for the Dorrance Brooks Square Historic District

In June 2019, the site was designated as a historic district by the National Parks Service and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The site is the first historic district in the state named in honor of an Afro-American.

Landmark designation by the city's LCP is needed to protect the historic assets within the district; the state designation does not afford those assets in the district with protections.

The state designation does however offer tax-credit to property owners and homeowners within the district access for capital improvements to assets in the district.

The Dorrance Brooks Historic District provides a model for community leaders, stakeholders, and residents because the guidelines from CB10 Historic Preservation Plan are followed closely.

The Resolution that was introduced was added to Agenda as a Voting Item.

LPC Application: Certificate of Appropriateness; 10 West 130 Street, Niall Cain, presenter.

Proposed restoration and alteration of 10 West 130 Street located on Astor Row.

Restoration of front and side facades, wooden porch, front and side yards, and painted wood windows.

Alteration of roof Includes grey stucco bulkhead; rear facade includes glass and steel windows, and brick veneer.

The historic free-standing three-story brick single family house was built between 1880 and 1883 and designed by Charles Buek on land owned by John Astor.

Former CB10 Chair, Ms. Betty Atkins commented that the community organized a broad coalition in the 1990s to restore the facade and porches, and she raised serious concern that those hard won efforts, led by Roberta Washington were being grossly under-appreciated and devalued by this proposal to restore only parts of the structure while using loopholes to alter the rear façade and roof.

The committee expressed serious concern about the LPC policy that preserves only parts of a designed landmark. The committee members rejected the logic that asserts the front facade of a structure is historic and deserves protection, while the roof and rear facade of the same structure are less historic and by extension deserves less protection.

VOTING ITEMS

Resolution in Support of New York City Landmark Designation for the Dorrance Brooks Square Historic District.

Motion to Support the Dorrance Brooks Resolution; Motion introduced by Hon. Barbara Nelson; Motion seconded by Hon. John Lynch; Vote was 8-0-0 in support. Motion passed.

LPC Application: Certificate of Appropriateness; 10 West 130 Street.

Motion to Support the LCP Application for Restoration and Alteration of 10 West 130 Street. Motion introduced by Hon. Barbara Nelson; Motioned seconded by Tiffany Reaves; Vote was 0-7-1 in support. Motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Information Regarding an Application of a Street Co-Naming: West 124th Street and Morningside.

It was determined that the location was not within the district's boundary.

The presenters were referred to MCB9 to submit their application.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting introduced by Hon. Keith Taylor. Motion seconded by Karen Horry.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.