

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2nd 2015

Attendance

Board Members Present: Y. Kalinsky, Y. Alonzo, A. Barberis

Excused: J. Berlin. Absent: W. Garcia, T. Peters

CB12 Members: Elizabeth Ritter, Steve Simon

Community Members: Kelly Ruby, Pedro Vallalta, Montserrat Daubon, Josh Orzeck, Alicia Posner, Steve Gordon, Andrea Martinsen, Sarah Lilley, Nina Marran, Courtney Whitelocke,

Meeting began at 7:10pm

- DOT presentation on artwork installation at W. 155th Street and Riverside Drive West
 - Location is in the middle of the plaza, overlooking the water
 - “Shipwreck” - 13 ft. high made out of bronze and wood
 - 7 x 7 footprint
 - Artist name is Monserrat Daubon
 - Will be up for 11 months
 - Installation scheduled for end of March 15’
- Hudson Heights Slow Zone Proposal
 - Slow Zone is defined as a neighborhood residential area in which street speeds reduced to 20 MPH
 - Studies show that odds of pedestrian death decreases from 70% when vehicle is traveling at 40 MPH, to 20% at 30 MPH, and down to 5% at 20 MPH
 - Components:
 - Gateway signage (no longer on streets but on sidewalk – so no loss of parking)
 - 20 MPH street markings
 - speed humps – helps to “self enforcing”
 - No loss of parking related to the proposed slow zone
 - 22 proposed speed humps and 12 proposed gateways
 - DOT would like to begin implementation in April and project should take about 4 weeks
- Crosswalk at Bennett and 190th Street – at entrance to the A Train
 - DOT accepted our proposal to install a crosswalk at that location
 - Inclusive of a stop sign and ADA accessible pedestrian ramps with tactile warning strips
 - Possibility of loss of 4 parking spots on the east side of Bennett Avenue in order to create the crosswalk
 - Committee members asked to reexamine this and try to limit the loss of parking to 2-3 spots, especially because there is a hydrant at that location already

- Committee needs to decide if we will convene a meeting with quorum before the general meeting and vote on these items, or wait until the next month's meeting.
- Updates from DOT
 - Bike paths – proposed plan was not completed before the winter but DOT will pick up where they left off once the weather permits
 - Proposed safety mitigations at Hillside Avenue (near the post office) by the residents of the area and the Bogardus Block Association will be implemented – with respect to parking regulations and speed hump installation near Bogardus Place

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Community Board 12, Manhattan

Traffic and Transportation Committee

Request for DOT to consider Slow Zone area within CB12

Whereas: DOT has introduced a city-wide Neighborhood Slow Zone program in order to apply various traffic slowing techniques to targeted areas; and

Whereas: CB12M has an ongoing commitment to the safety of neighborhood residents as demonstrated by the resolution supporting the instillation of Manhattan's first slow zone which occurred in June 2012 during the project's first round and we are now in the project's second round of proposed areas; and

Whereas: The Neighborhood Slow Zone program targets low technology slowing/safety improvements in limited and definable areas that have streets not appropriate for fast and/or through traffic; and

Whereas: A neighborhood slow zone is announced with signage and gateways, has self enforcing via speed bumps, has narrowed roadways at key points, has daylighting at entry points to the sector in order to create better sightlines for pedestrians; and has 20 mph markings to remind drivers to slow down; and

Whereas: Findings show that slow zones provide 10-15% reductions in speeds, 14% overall reduction in crashes and injuries, 31% reduction in vehicle injuries; and

Whereas: The proposed area has seen one pedestrian severely injured and four vehicle occupants severely injured over the last four years, and one fatality within the last eight years, and

Whereas: There has been substantial outreach through multiple meetings and individual contacts throughout the proposal eligibility and approval process for the proposed Neighborhood Slow Zone; and

Whereas: Selection criteria in this proposed zone, consistent with DOT's criteria for Neighborhood Slow Zone designation, include: strong boundaries (busy, commercial streets, parks, dead end streets); highly residential character; three schools; three Daycare and Pre K centers; one senior center; three nearby subway stops; an average of 11 traffic-related injuries per year; numerous letters of support from residents, organizations, and elected officials; and

Whereas: The process of review and approval by NYCDOT has included numerous determinations as well as reviews by other NYC agencies; and

Whereas: NYCDOT has reviewed, improved, and approved a proposed Neighborhood Slow Zone consisting of the areas between 179th Street and 192nd Street between Broadway and Cabrini Boulevard – an area that comes to .22 square miles; and

Whereas: The zone plan includes: 20 proposed speed bumps (including four existing ones), 24 proposed entrance gateways, eleven 20 mph markings, and may include refinements and additions to these components; and

Whereas: No speed bumps will be placed on bus routes inclusive of Broadway and Ft. Washington Ave.; and

Whereas: Due to the innovation, review and improvements made to previous slow zones, no street parking would be lost in the proposed area; and

Whereas: As part of this project DOT has added a bonus to the community in that of a new high visibility crosswalk located on Bennett Avenue between Broadway and West 192nd St. outside of the A train stop at W. 190th St. that would include a new stop sign, ADA accessible pedestrian ramps with tactile warning strips, and the removal of 3 parking spots on the east side of the street and one parking spot on the west side of the street in order to facilitate proper installation of the crosswalk; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M supports the designation of a Neighborhood Slow Zone in the area between 179th Street and 192nd Street between Broadway and Cabrini Boulevard; highly commends DOT for their thorough review of the proposal and analysis of neighborhood needs; asks DOT to implement this proposal in the current FY; and be it further

Resolved: CB12M supports the installation of the proposed crosswalk at Bennett Ave. and 190th St. exit from the A train and asks that DOT do its due diligence to complete the project with the minimum amount of loss to street parking