

## **CB12Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting**

### **May 7, 2018**

**Committee Members Present** – Interim Chair, Elizabeth Lorriss Ritter, Asst. Chair, Debby Nabavian, Mary Anderson, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel. **Community Board Members:** Eli Bueno, Domingo Estevez, Fern Hertzberg, Richard Lewis, Maria Luna, Ayisha Oglivie **Public** – Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez; Paul Hintersteiner, Bob & Lisa Ortiz; Omar Tejada, Rosa <?> Margolla, Deborah Cardona, E.Prentiss, Nancy Bruning, community residents; Kumar Sanshosh & Greg Kisher, HDR Inc. (DoT consultants); Luis Sanchez, Malgorzata Banka, Haascor Robles, NYC DoT; Kateriska Medrano Diaz; C. Duran; Rafael Figueroa, La Plaza; Evangelina Fermin; Marlyn Nuñez, Jaritza DeLaCruz, Emmanuel Louijeune, Iyad Marzouq, Norberto Acevedo, NYC DDC; Jose Montan, Centro Cultural Deportivo Dominicano; Ben Suzuk, Matt Johnson, Pat Bunur, Sandra Harris, Ross Frommer, Columbia University; Thomas Leon 4NYS Senate; Martin Wallace, business owner; Jasmeen Nijjar, Vincent Faccetta, Ilen Franklin, Jessica Phippen, CU students; Heather Godfrey, Dance Project of WH; one illegible; several who spoke but did not sign in.

**1) Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.**

**2) ELR opening remarks:**

- a) ELR introduced herself as temporary chair, the previous Chair having resigned from the Board.
- b) DPR met this morning with the W. 181<sup>st</sup> St. Beautification Project regarding landscaped areas alongside the Pinehurst Ave. step-street which is to be reconstructed. Since the project is limited in scope and is essentially a “replacement in kind,” there will not be an additional scoping meeting; a presentation made to this committee in the fall.

**3) DoT update on Riverside Drive viaduct project (W. 153<sup>rd</sup> – W. 160<sup>th</sup>)**

- a) DoT provided detailed view of viaduct repair project that will run 42 months, from Summer 2018 to Winter 2021. Project goal is to restore the bridge to state of good repair. All work will be on roadway level.
- b) Federal funded project, and there are a many different agencies to coordinate. Majority of the work will be done in the daytime, outside of rush hours, with some exceptions.
- c) Three lanes of traffic will be available during construction period, one lane being a reversible lane that will allow maintenance of two lanes during rush hours. Sidewalk will be cut to allow bus stops / loading to be out of traffic lane.
- d) Sidewalk will be maintained during construction; however, a number of parking spaces will be lost during the project.
- e) Construction Impacts and Mitigation:
  - ◆ Strict requirements for limiting vibration will be met because of Audubon Historic District
  - ◆ Method of deck removal will minimize drilling and therefore noise.
  - ◆ There will be F/T public outreach presence at the Field Office
- f) DE asked for more specifics regarding hours of construction in various phases / seasons. DoT will get back to Committee.

g) Community questions and feedback:

- ◆ Deborah Cardona raised concerns about loss of parking over such a long period.
- ◆ Jerry Cullen asked about deliveries. A / can't design for illegal conditions, but outreach should to all major delivery entities.
- ◆ Martin Wallace reminded project staff that there needs to be signage for cyclists.
- ◆ Edith Prentiss suggested that DoT coordinate with ARC Fort Washington and Access-a-Ride.

h) Committee chair summarized follow ups requested: construction hours; cyclist signage; coordination with delivery companies and precinct / traffic enforcement.

4) **DDC Presentation on Inwood sewer and water main replacement. Norberto Acevedo and Jaritza De La Cruz. 7:45 PM**

- a) DDC provided information regarding 3 year project. Mobilization stage will start May 14. Bulk of project will be in area W 214<sup>th</sup> – W 218<sup>th</sup> Street.
- b) Work will be done in one block segments. Generally work hours 9AM – 4PM M-F, 8-6 Saturday. Parking overnight will be permitted, but no parking during work hours.
- c) There will be some water service interruptions.
- d) Jaritza De La Cruz is Construction Liaison ([watermainccl@gmail.com](mailto:watermainccl@gmail.com) / 646-921-9201). She will maintain distribution list for updates. DDC puts out Community Advisories and Weekly Bulletins that cover the upcoming week.
  - ◆ AO / asked that information on water shutdowns (and re-establishment) be district wide since effects may go further than the exact area of shutdown.
  - ◆ ELR / complete communications related to water shutdown should provide all necessary instructions, precautions and shutdown details.

5) **Dyckman Bike Lane update. 8:05PM** ELR announced May 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing at WH Academy/PS366 (Sherman Ave. & 204<sup>th</sup> St.) at which DoT will present proposed solutions to public safety issue and negative impact on business issues. Noted changes of venue related to accessibility and room capacity.

6) **Presentation on Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza, Sandra Harris, AVP Government Affairs, CUMC. 8:05PM**

- a) ELR announced intent to get to a resolution on Haven Plaza. Many public attendees disturbed to hear this and thought the prior vote meant the Committee had voted no on the Plaza, and others voiced dismay about very little public notice of Plaza being on agenda again.
- b) Sandra Harris presented CUMC application for NYC Plaza program being driven both by value add to community programming as well as addition to green space. Ms. Harris expressed her hope that people would allow some programming partners opportunity to speak about their support of the Plaza program.
- c) Ms. Harris also cited April 26, 2018 letter from DoT to Sam Schwartz Engineering related to DoT's review of the traffic study done on behalf of CUMC. Letter reflects two versions of traffic study (May 17, 2017 and February 6, 2018 prior to final draft March

14, 2018 and states, “This draft adequately addresses all of our comments (9/25/2017, 2/21/2018 and 3/5/2018)” including “full re-analysis of each intersection...” The study identified need for traffic signal re-timing at two intersections.

d) Comments:

- ◆ DE / How many of these organizations receive funding from CU?
- ◆ AO / Impact on community is negative and notification has been insufficient. Parking is very difficult in that area and no action is justifiable that makes it harder.
- ◆ MA / Thought long and hard and feels an interim plaza seems like a good test to see if the community likes it, and it can be removed if we don't.
- ◆ Rafael Ortiz / Objects to loss of parking. Ms. Harris responded to remind that all lost parking spots plus several incremental will be added.
- ◆ Question was asked of Interim Chair as to whether she had ever been employed by Columbia. After some thought, ELR noted that 25 years ago, in 1993, she had worked an approximately 60 day contract job with CUMC. Person asked if she would therefore recuse herself. ELR declined, citing no conflict of interest.
- ◆ Several people called for using the Armory and “the assets we have,” including J. Hood Wright park.
- ◆ Eric / For those who must drive out of neighborhood to jobs, parking is a crisis. CU has taken more and more spots over many years.
- ◆ Nancy Bruning / Leader of group that exercises at various outdoor venues + Hike the Heights. Seniors can be isolated and decreasingly active. This is opportunity to create space to move and connect.
- ◆ Deborah Cardona / We have J Hood Wright Park, lots of unmet promises by CU.
- ◆ M. Hano. What can't CU do using the parking at Neurological Institute?
- ◆ With regard to questions about traffic study and if it was a “conflict of interest” for CU to commission it, Luis Sanchez, DoT Borough Commissioner noted they have done traffic study, but explained that when non –governmental entities wish to do something like this, they must pay for the traffic study to be completed and it therefore is common for parties outside of DoT to do them.
- ◆ Vincent. Taccetta – Against the Haven Plaza proposal as it is violent gentrification.
- ◆ Use of terms like “disorderly” are a dog-whistle meant to stifle comments of People of Color in this discussion.
- ◆ Rafael Figueroa, President Dominican Church Association / Don't have a lot of public spaces for activities such as chess or basketball.
- ◆ This won't get used year around, and if it won't be well utilized, shouldn't do it.
- ◆ This is part of a CU land grab. Utilization comes from CU people, not residents.
- ◆ Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez: We want permanent support for our many arts and cultural organizations, more parking. We can do better, and we should be able to put something together that benefits our community, particularly in the arts.
- ◆ GD / Couldn't CU use excess parking lot capacity and offer some free overnight resident parking? S. Harris said it could be looked into.
- ◆ Gerry Cullen / Trust of CU is low. W. 169<sup>th</sup> will lose parking with the loading dock and bike lane.
- ◆ Dmitri / Instead of fighting with each other, community should put efforts into Ydanis' resident parking proposal. NYC is only major city without it.

- ◆ Heather Godfrey, Dance Project of the Heights. Serve about 600 children. This is underserved community with lots of artists, but few places to see and perform. Pop up plaza and car free day provided valuable performance opportunities for kids.
  - ◆ FH / Seniors love an opportunity to be outside in an unstructured environment. Plaza is definitely worth exploring. Also her vans have no problem making turn at W 169<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◆ ML / Parking is not a right. Plaza is a good idea; it will make us better neighbors.
  - ◆ Martin Wallace / CB member from Harlem.
  - ◆ Omar Tejada / Nice to have but not a necessity, and given CU has been a bad partner, it would be best to leverage our current resources.
  - ◆ J. Cuesta / School of Social Work. CU is built on bodies of brown people and is a vehicle of colonization. Does not support this violence in their name.
  - ◆ Gabrielle / It would be good to have time to talk about this in a real way.
  - ◆ Andrea / Orchestra program for kids hopes that the Plaza happens, but if it doesn't somewhere else is very much needed.
  - ◆ Edith Prentiss / We should try the plaza. Parking is not a right.
  - ◆ EB / While it is true that Yeshiva plaza isn't particularly utilized, this is an opportunity to make something better.
  - ◆ AO / Already has been talked about for three months. Use the Armory.
  - ◆ Deborah Cardona / Maybe we should hold off until viaduct project over.
  - ◆ DE / CU is bullying community. Council Member and CU should do something that taxpayers and community want.
  - ◆ M. Hano / Significant space already exists for CU to do what it wants to do. Suggests that CU wants this for concessions revenue. Pointed out that CUMC views this as desirable step to conversion of area to be a more proper campus, and that community doesn't want that.
- e) ELR summarized that there would not be a resolution this month, but it would be on agenda for June so that the Committee can pass a resolution one way or the other for the full Board to consider.

**7) Meeting adjourned at 10:20PM.**