

CB12Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting February 5, 2018

Committee Members Present – Committee Chair Yahaira Alonzo, Asst. Chair, Debby Nabavian, Mary Anderson, James Berlin, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel.

Absent: Anita Barberis

Community Board Members: Richard Allman, Ariel Miranda

City of New York: Deputy Manhattan BP, Adrian Bonilla, Charlie Samboy, NYC EDC

Public – Residents from CB12M including Phil Simpson, Katherine O’Sullivan, Valinn Ranelli, Jonathan Martin, Mike Hano, Paola Ruiz.

- 1) **Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.**
- 2) **Enhanced Station Initiative (Package 3), 163rd Station (C line). Deirdre Parker and Bill Montanile, MTA – NYCT.**
 - a) Fast track, NYS Governor initiative to be completed by December 2018 that rehabs stations. Design-build contracts allow projects to be completed in much shorter time frame.
 - b) Rehab and state of good repair work to include Waterproofing, Station Entrance Rehab, Improved Platforms, consolidated wire ways, new furnishings (ADA compliant) and digital dashboards & count down clocks. New design of mezzanine level allows for better sight lines through station, and shift in paid and unpaid areas.
 - c) Station will close for approximately 7 months, March – Sep 2018.
 - d) Discussion of making station accessible with elevator. Mr. Montanile said this rehab is not coming in under the program to make 100 stations accessible, so no elevator as part of this project. However, nothing in design will make it impossible to put one in the future.
 - e) Resident asked whether the 163rd entrance to the station will be re-opened as part of this Initiative. Answer/ no.
 - f) Committee requested information on what CB12 stations are coming under other NYCT programs, specifically the Renewal and Component programs.
- 3) **New Business. Katherine O’Sullivan, regarding car travel on RSD / Seaman Corner sidewalk.**
 - a) 1825 RSD Inc. has requested that boulders or perhaps a large planter be placed on the sidewalk at the property line, outside of building door to prevent cars from driving on the sidewalk (against traffic direction) and accessing the gas station to get to Dyckman. Situation is very dangerous.
 - b) Lyle Blackwood, DoT has said boulders not possible, but exploring bollards. Also reflected DoT position that this is an enforcement issue. Ms. O’Sullivan was encouraged to attend Public Safety meeting; she has communicated with Public Safety Chair.

- c) Ms. O'Sullivan asking for more immediate action, given serious public safety issue, and questions whether bollards will prevent cars from mounting sidewalk. Shared the police are reluctant to ticket for this.
- d) Richard Allman, suggested adding signage to notify motorists that Henshaw is last opportunity for left turn until Broadway.
- e) GD: Could there be a traffic camera to photograph and issue tickets?

4) **Fort George Hill traffic issues, Paul Hintersteiner.**

- a) Mr. Hintersteiner presented information about vehicular traffic and congestions on Fort George Hill, exacerbated by protected bike lanes. The lack of usage of these bike lanes was cited. Mr. Hintersteiner encourages conversion back to unprotected bike lanes, to create more street width to open traffic flow, although JB and YA noted that it was unlikely that DoT will go for unprotected bike lanes.

5) **DDC, Norberto Acevedo.**

- a) Mr. Acevedo provided information about upcoming DDC projects in CB12, in order to give early heads up prior to more complete presentations.
- b) There are several water main projects, as well as a pedestrian safety project anticipated for Broadway / Nagle intersection.
- c) Sewer job in 215th Street and Park Terrace East area will be lengthy and require deep digging through rock. Because water main and sewer projects are substantial, there will be a Community Construction Liaison for these projects.
- d) YA and committee requested as much lead time as possible when available.

6) **Inwood Rezoning.**

- a) DKN: This is opportunity to identify traffic and transportation related investments as part of the Inwood Rezoning. Also, time to raise anything missed in draft EIS.
- b) GD and JB discussed MTA issues that are the most pressing to the community and simply the most significant. Mr. Samboy of EDC noted that because MTA is a State agency and not City, it is harder to win increased investment in that area as part of the Inwood Rezoning, while recognizing the significance of the MTA issues.
- c) Areas highlighted by Committee include:
 - Parking (YA)
 - W. 207th street east of Broadway (DKN)
 - Accessibility investments, including but not limited to elevator for uptown 1 line platform at Dyckman stop.
 - Pedestrian safety, especially when looking at seniors (MA) vehicular experience, etc.
 - JB raised the need for a traffic planning study for the whole rezoning area, to ensure that street configurations are put in place with capacity and safety adequate to the traffic and pedestrian loads that will be generated by new development. This will be particularly important for those streets where residential build will be new i.e. manufacturing areas that to date have not had very much pedestrian and vehicular traffic. This planning, would be expected to look at bike lanes, pedestrian safety, major intersections, high volume corridors (e.g. 207th) etc.

- d) Phil Simpson encouraged committee members to vote no on rezoning. Mr. Simpson cited adverse & unmitigated impacts at 29 intersections, as well as net loss of parking and potential contraction of auto industry, including car services.
- e) Katherine O' Sullivan encouraged committee members to vote no on rezoning. Ms. O'Sullivan highlighted issues with population projections far exceeding initial rezoning documents, in both Williamsburg and Long Island City.
- f) Valinn Ranelli encouraged committee members to vote no on rezoning. In addition to the issues raised by Mr. Simpson and Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Ranelli highlighted negative air quality impacts that would correspond with increases to airborne pollutants.
- g) Ariel Miranda raised concerns about speeding in 207th to 215th area in "cove" area and along 10th Avenue already, and the need to address pedestrian safety in these areas.

7) **Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.**