



CB12 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting November 5, 2018

Committee Members Present –Edgar Roman (Assistant Chair), James Berlin, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Bianca Guerrero, Danielle Jettoo.

Committee Member Absent – Debby Nabavian

Public: Paul H., Jack Fogli, Eli Gantias, Edith Prentiss, Kate Sterns, Rita L, Edward Shatchner, Troy C, Martina, Josefa Jaime, Geine, Derek Ratzenboeck, Temple Kemezis, Tatiana Mahaney, Yasmin Moorman, Sonia Dueno, Joy Gramolini

- 1) **Meeting called to order by Edgar Roman @ 7:05PM**
- 2) JB reminded the public of Robert's Rules — you cannot participate in the discussion again until everyone else has had an opportunity to speak.
- 3) **Request to MTA consider West 181st Impacts in Bronx Bus Redesign Project**
 - a) ER: Buses on W 181st St: there are concerns about 5 bus routes cross between W 181st & Amsterdam and GWB Bus Terminal. With Bronx bus route redesign underway, we have opportunity to ask the MTA to look at W. 181st Street corridor.
 - b) JB: Last time, MTA said that the buses are full, so all buses needed. At the Williamsburg Bridge there is a big terminal on Bk side, one gets off bus and take one bus line across the bridge. JB suggests a similar terminal to be built here.
 - c) Debby had raised question: Do we want to do a resolution (letter to Byford) to escalate beyond Operations Planning? JB noted that CB12 has passed multiple resolutions on this, so we could create a new reso that references the others (which should be pulled from archive, and attached).
 - d) Edith Prentiss ("EP"): Three bridges bring Bx buses into Manhattan: 181st is most widely used, but also 155th and 207.th Could lines be distributed more equally? EP also noted that buses laying over on W. 179 violates the law that they're supposed to park behind line. With new supermarket on 179th St. there will be car services pulling up. EP noted that we have yet to see resolution to relieve the bus congestion.
 - e) JB: we never talked about 155th St. bridge in other resolutions (RC remembers differently)
 - f) Other issues: intersection at 207 is hectic because of Major Deegan, 155th as well — might be too congested already in those intersections, but doesn't mean they can't look at it
 - g) ER question: what does the resolution initiate? / Answer: If we want to raise a concern, we create a resolution and put us on record as asking a question.
 - h) BG: suggestion to invite appropriate MTA people and state elected officials to present to figure out concrete next steps coming together. EP made point that lobbying, litigation are also options.
 - i) Comments about other bus issues: 3 Broadway bus lines that don't all run all the time, and unevenness of crosstown service, e.g., on 207, 15 and 155 only 1 bus line crosses, while 5 cross W 181st (from all over Bx). DJ: this is an issue but also these bridges are congested. Rita (Public) noted 155 cannot handle more traffic. Also bear in mind major Riverside Drive Viaduct project.

- j) Kate Sterns: Issue seems to be that all buses terminate at 181st – is it possible to extend them a little bit further in Manhattan so they don't all stop at 181st?
- k) ER: Main concern is why isn't this gaining traction? We will try our best to get this escalated. ACTION (JB): Dig into the issue, Gathering information is the first step. Ask Deirdre Parker to come with appropriate bus people to explain the analysis. Give people questions in advance.
- l) EP: 181st can be quite congested - we should be looking at the safety of our community as well

4) Old Business - Construction on Riverside Drive Viaduct

- a) Edward Shatchner: Issue has been brought before the Board before. People unclear about start dates, project scope, etc. Viaduct is busy as alternate route to GWB; this will have significant impact particularly on parking w/ few garages in the area, deliveries, building access, etc.
- b) ER shared notes from DN: this project was presented earlier in 2018 and is likely to begin late winter/early spring. Community liaison being hired. DoT to return prior to launching project. Jim: CB12 can do its best to get more clarity on the project.
- c) Troy C.: Went to River Terrace meeting with Assemblyman Al Taylor and DOT representative. At that meeting, they talked about end of year project start; co-op board member told her Jan 1 start date. Early spring is ideal but not what people were told.
- d) Rita L.: Attended same meeting, Al Taylor knew nothing about it until a week prior. We need a game plan for the project, what's happening with bus re-routing, deliveries. Another issue: big construction project on 153 Riverside and Broadway — will also affect traffic. Already concerned about speeding and traffic in the oval (used to get to the highway). Need lights, speed bumps, and attention — it's a residential neighborhood.
- e) GD. This project is a phased, multi-year project that has a number of agencies involved, and this was presented at a high level. ACTION: Pull the minutes from the last presentation and have copies placed for the next meeting
- f) Rita (public): what about the vermin that's going to be released from this construction?
- g) Jim: Sounds like the Al Taylor meeting didn't go well. This is a huge project - either DOT or DDC is in charge and Contractor is required to have a community outreach person, as Edgar mentioned. We need to know precisely when project begins.
- h) Martina: with reconstruction, please address the dangerous conditions around Riverside West. Pedestrian killed about a year ago, cars damaged, bikers end up on the pedestrian path. Need to address dangerous conditions with speed bump, etc. ER: Eugene Baylor brought this up
- i) Jerry C.: CB12 meeting on viaduct was not very informative, few details about buses, bike lanes, deliveries, access-a-ride, parking etc. GD / presentation to CB12 clearly outlined the phases.
- j) Josefa Geine: Three buildings directly affected on Riverside Drive West between 155th –160th St. One must walk down to 155 to go up to Broadway OR take the Bx6 bus, a lifeline. Didn't feel DOT liaison knew much about project and area, e.g. no thru streets to Broadway.

5) New Business - Speed bumps on W 183rd & Wadsworth; 176th between Audubon & St.

Nicholas, raised by Robin Cruz. Audubon: one of the crossing guards was hit, AM drivers driving way too fast. On 183rd: kids was hit, needed 10-15 stitches/staples, school kids running around in



the area. Robin is putting in a request to DOT to look into. DJ noted that DOT shared that they have a backlog of speed bump requests

- 6) Yasmin Mormon: **Traffic lights at 181st and Haven in connection with GWB Restoration.** When they shut down the 178th ramp and detoured traffic up Riverside Dr. onto W 181st, no changes made to the lights at W 181st intersections to account for traffic. Neighbors have called 311, videotaped intersection etc. to show that light is not long enough. Can DOT do a formal evaluation?
- 7) DJ raised **resident parking**. [Suggestion: get a sign up sheet for new ideas. JB: if you want to address an issue, call the board office so that you can get on the agenda] Ydanis proposed resident parking - what happened to proposal? If nothing came of it, could we do it just in WaHi & Inwood?
- 8) Derek R.: Traffic blocked on **Cabrini and Fort Washington** north of West 190th at **Success Academy daily pick up and drop off**. Streets almost entirely blocked between 7-8AM, and in the PM either 12-1 pm or 3-5pm. Success is causing a complete blockage as parent's double park in No Parking zone. Nothing can get through, including emergency vehicles, and there's significant noise from honking. 34th Precinct won't put a traffic cop, Principal refuses to meet. Problems arose when converted from high school, to which kids took subway. Eva Moscovitz is head of Success Academy. Can this be escalated? ER / he and DN will make sure it gets channeled to proper people. JB noted that issue is the police department's, as they enforce the traffic rules, so issue should be raised with public safety committee and the monthly 34th Community Council meeting.
- 9) Tatiana M., Inwood Leaders Academy, **safety measures near PS5 and ILA**. Need speed bumps, need school zone signage, and fix light timing. There is a crossing guard. Cars speed, and elderly woman was hit on 10th Avenue. JB/ Crossing guard is from police academy. Escalate through DOE too. CB12 could create slow zone near these schools. Come with more parents, etc. ACTION: CB12 can ask DOT to do a traffic study of the area.
- 10) Sonia Dueno: **W 181st station is in disrepair** W 181st has 3 MetroCard dispensers, 2 consistently out of service. Sonia has reported, as have others. Can committee raise with MTA? Station is very dirty and not cleaned regularly. Will station be rehabbed any time soon? Is there a cleaning schedule? Also raised bird droppings near GWB Market - could the Committee recommend that the agencies to put metal thing to keep birds from congregating? GD: How do we make the concerns impactful, get the answers people are looking for? Station manager responsible for broken machines and station cleanliness; vandalizing is NYPD and DOHMH could address bird-dropping issue. JB noted that structure from the bird dropping is from PANYNJ. DJ: have the station manager attend our next meeting? EP notes that Station Manager covers stations from 207 to 145. JB: People who sell rides sometimes damage the machines so you buy from them.
- 11) EP: keep on the radar that the tunnel on 190th from Broadway, through to the 1 train will be redone. JB / Jim: the tunnel is City Street under the control of DOT.
- 12) ER: we wanted to listen, normally we do not take this many issues under new items, but with one agenda item, could be flexible. Notes that best to call the board ahead of time with agenda items.
- 13) **Adjournment**, 8:44 PM