

Traffic & Transportation Committee, Manhattan CB12 – December 2019

Committee Members Present: Nicholas Martinez (Chair), James Berlin, Gerard Dengel, Bruce Robertson, Omar Tejada

Committee Members Absent: Robin Cruz, Danielle Jettoo, Mary Anderson

Board Members Present: Richard Lewis, Betty Lehmann

Public Members Absent: Edith Prentiss

Public Attendees: Robin Kalap, Paul Huntersteiner, Thomas B. Wraith, Jessica Cignarella, Nolan Levenson, Howard Levine, Loren Parkins, Maryann Tulvern, Karen Greene, Ynatt Yun

1. Call to Order

Nick welcomed everyone to the monthly Traffic and Transportation meeting after the summer hiatus. Nick went through Robert's Rules and kicked off the meeting with the introduction of Board Chair Richard Lewis.

2. Update-Only on Traffic on Cabrini Boulevard (No Proposal)

- a. Board Chair Richard with update. A meeting was called by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and was just to find out suggestions on possible changes. The goal was to find solutions for the children. Precinct officers and principle were present in the meeting. There is a shortage of traffic agents in our district. It has been difficult for the police department to recruit for these positions. The school is using a traffic agent now. This is not yet a permanent solution. No solution will be reached without community input. Solutions from the school so far:
 - i. The school is looking at arrival times to improve traffic flow both at arrival and dismissal times. The school will look to use walkie talkie systems to usher vehicles to the pickup area.
 - ii. Introduce further traffic agents to help with traffic flow.
 - iii. Committee Chair Nick asked about the growth of the school, illegal parking problem, parking spaces.
 1. School will not be expanding further.
 2. DOT volunteered to conduct a traffic study on 12/11 but the school reported its a half day this would not provide accurate data. DOT to work on a possible other date.
 3. No change in parking spaces now but will come up in a public hearing.
- b. CB12 Jim questioned using just using one day of data from DOT. Also noted that DEP should study the air quality of the area due to the increased traffic.
- c. CB12 Gerard stated that the school should look at busing as an option. They should try to seek that assistance from DOE. We should feel comfortable asking the school for this information especially with the down the road effects that congestion pricing could bring.
- d. Public comments
 - i. Lauren Parkins- lives across from the school. Description from a neighbor. Showcased the gridlock and havoc the traffic is caused by the pickups of the children. The neighborhood was not designed for this traffic. Believes that the busing suggestion is a good one. Wants enforcement of the law.
 - ii. CB12 Berlin suggested keeping an archive of all footage and be forwarded to the board. Screen shot google maps traffic patterns during that time.
 1. CB12 Gerard asked that we see what the school presented before it opened regarding traffic issues.
 2. Marian - lives in Inwood and asked for clarification on what is congestion pricing.
 3. CB12 James notes that its intent is to reduce automobiles in downtown.
 - iii. Karen Green - What is going to happen when the elevators close for renovation? Why can't arrivals be spread out as parents are waiting outside.
 - iv. Tom Wraith - 689 Fort Washington. Asked about traffic direction change on Cabrini Blvd.
 1. Board Chair Rich mentioned now there is no change.
 2. Committee Chair Nick mentioned that at our last meeting DOT mentioned no traffic changes are expected.

3. Bronx Bus Redesign Presentation. Howey Levin from MTA transit.

- a. CB 12 Nick mentioned that this presentation would have been better earlier as MTA will be voting on this plan this month. Also, brought up the issue of the BX 7 service reduction in upper Manhattan. This presentation didn't touch on the BX 7.
- b. CB 12 Jim is glad DOT is looking at the traffic patterns on 181st street. 1,100 feet between stops is detrimental to elders and children.
- c. CB 12 Gerard questioned who this presentation is for? There is a lot of information here to digest. Can there be a better format to better present this data as a lot of it can make it easy to lose key points of the changes.
 - i. DOT said no information has been provided on specific stop data.
 - ii. DOT responded to ADA concerns on BX7 by stating they have listened and part of the reason for the reductions was due to space between the stops being 300 feet.
 - iii. MTA has been allowed to install enforcement cameras for parking in bus lanes.
- d. CB 12 Omar asked about what the improved time assumptions are based on these changes.
 - i. DOT has time savings study pending completion with a last due date of thanksgiving. This federally mandated due to any change of 25% or more to bus routes.
- e. CB 12 Betty mentioned that this information could be shared earlier and that we feel like a second cousin to the Bronx as we are overlooked with these changes.
 - i. DOT presentations are uploaded online the next day at New.mta.info/bronxredesign
 - ii. A hard copy is provided to the board chair.
- f. CB 12 Gerard asked if the study takes it into account actual on the road times.
 - i. DOT asked the study uses software which considers currently stored traffic pattern information.
- g. Committee Chair Nick questioned if this study considered the new buildings coming on the waterfront near 207 street and the impact the influx of new residents would have to an already stressed area.
 - i. DOT and MTA mentioned this isn't a final project yet and data acquired can lead to new changes.
- h. Public Comments
 - i. Paul - asked for clarification on express buses.

4. Old Business

- a. 191st 1 train subway station elevator closure concern.
 - i. CB12 Betty voiced the concerns of Isabella workers, visitors and residents. The walk with this closure would be too far with this closure occurring.
 - 1. MTA Howey said they are currently working on solutions.
 - 2. Committee Chair Nick mentioned there is a tentative planned hearing for Dec 19.
 - ii. CB12 Jim reiterated the concern over the number of people impacted by this closure.

5. New Business

- a. Up and coming. Dyckman lanes. Possible parking space removals for school drop-offs.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56p

Minutes Recorded by Omar Tejada