

Traffic & Transportation Committee, Manhattan CB12 – May 2019

Committee Members Present: Nicholas Martinez (Interim Chair), James Berlin, Gerard Dengel, Danielle Jettoo, Bruce Robertson, Mary Anderson, Robin Cruz

Committee Members Absent:

Board Members Present:

Public Members Present: Omar Tejada, Edith Prentiss

Public Members Absent: N/A

Public Attendees: Martin Collins, Steven Nunez, John Keiren, Cynthia Carter, Samson Jacobson, Sarah Stack, Emilia Vigushin, Cornelius Cadisan, Bermuda Clark, Robert Clark, Dhowang Patel, Alyssa Timin, Alsacia Jimenez, Katherine Acevedo, Marcelle Dijon, Joannie Eddy, Daniel Perez, Jasmeene Reddic, Bernadette Drysdale, Hannah Caballo, Conway Githens, Howard Levine, Fausto Garcia Eric Lo, Wendy Olivio, Orlando Ovalles, Natalie Espiro, Louis Bernier-Heroux, Hannah Caballo, Lenny Cucone, Ana Garcia, Yissett Parra, Tatiana Mahoney

1. Call to Order

Nick welcomed everyone to the monthly Traffic and Transportation meeting and thanked the YWHA/YM for hosting the meeting. Nick went through the process of speaking and emphasized Robert's rules of three allotted minutes dedicated to speaking and allowing for each person to get a turn.

2. Broadway Bridge Construction Update and Presentation

Joannie Eddy and Eric Kelly presented about the current status of the bridge as under construction. Gave an overview of the bridge as a moveable bridge that was constructed with two-towers. Part of the NYC MTA, roadway, and the Appalachian trail for cyclists. The overview went over the amount of traffic and public transportation at the bridge. The bridge 60 years old and in need of repair. There will now be a right-hand bicycle lane on each side of the bridge. There will be a complete replacement of the electrical system and the mechanical systems. Notice to proceed was initiated in September 2018 and will be completed in an expected 36 months. There will have to be one lane open and one sidewalk open at all times. Systems tests will happen at all times with the transit authority. MetroNorth will not be impacted.

Stage 1 will be the replacement of the median barrier. Stage 2 will take out one of the middle lanes and one of the right hand lanes. Stage 3 will have the new portion of the sidewalk in place and will be taking up the other right-hand lane. The contractor has some staging area on the other side of the bridge. 9th Avenue and 225th Street will be the two staging areas by the contractor. The current activities include the staging areas and temporary shielding. The contractor is training for the movement of the bridge. They are also training to do repairs to the gatemen areas. Throughout the full construction process, there will be community outreach and there will be continual updates to the community board. The community liaison will be Yanna Almonte. Her contact information is in the provided notice.

Omar Tejada: what type of outreach will be used outside of electronic communication for community members who do not use social media?

DOT: We will be out in the community with bilingual communication. There will also be mailers sent out to the community.

Gerard: How often will there be updates to the community board?

DOT: Monthly, can answer any questions via email that the board may have.

Jim: Clarification of Robert's Rules.

Yanna Almonte: Presented her contact information.

Edith: On the east side of the bridge, there is no ramp to get on the bridge. Will that be rectified?

DOT: There will be a ramp added to the 9th Avenue side.

Martin Collins: What will the last stop be on the 1 train in Manhattan during the construction?

DOT: It will either be 215th or 207th Streets. It will be dependent upon the const

Howie Levine: DOT will get back to you related to the turnaround of the final stop on the 1 train related to the construction.

Fran: What public parking will be affected?

DOT: There is one parking garage on the southside of the bridge that will be affected. We have taken curbside parking away from there. There are likely 3 or 4 spots taken

Barbara Clark: When you close one lane, will it only be on the bridge or on Broadway also? Is there anything that can be done about the car wash on Broadway effecting overall traffic.

DOT: It will only be on the Broadway Bridge, there will be a bit of a taper. Both sides will not be affected.

Edith: The car wash completely blocks the bus stop. What can you do?

DOT: We cannot do something that we can impact for the bridge construction. You must go through the precinct. We cannot close down their business.

Cornelius Cady: When the bridge opens when it is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, they have to bring the fire department to cool it and close. What is the amount of time have you allotted for the opening and closing of the bridge?

DOT: We will have it shut down up to 15 minutes and only during the night.

Gerard: Has congestion pricing been incorporated into the timing and the traffic going in and out of Manhattan.

DOT: The unknowns outweigh the knowns, because we don't know the specifics to congestion pricing.

John Kiernan: What is going to be done about the bicycles and motorbikes on the bridge's sidewalk?

DOT: This is citywide issue and it's not for us to dictate during the construction process. This is a policy issue that is citywide and not a part of our jurisdiction.

Marcelle Dijon: When the shoulder becomes a traffic lane, will there be a threat to bicyclists?

DOT: There will be a FRP area that will help create a bike lane.

Bill Bethel: The bridge is unsafe for bicyclists. Will there be separation for the bicyclists?

DOT: New bridge will have FRP decking. The material for the dedicated FRP that will allow for the bicyclists to be protected.

John Eddy: On the Marble Hill side, businesses get deliveries on Broadway. Will there anything be done for them?

DOT: We have worked with the businesses in order to figure out their schedules. There will be conflict, but we will help to create alternatives for the times that deliveries happen.

3. Elevator Repair IND Stations (181st and 190th Street)

Howie Levine presented on the elevator replacements on the A Line. The two locations are at 181st and 190th. The replacement will take placement with every aspect of the elevators. The new elevators will have a new technology called LiftNet to communicate any incidents. There will also be new battery back-up life. Each elevator will have two cameras in them and they will be monitored.

181st opened in 1932 and historically designated. The elevators have not been fully replaced in 87 years. During the project, the elevators at Fort Washington and 184th. There will be a replacement of the elevator shaft due to water damage. There will also be a widening of the elevator doors. There is severe water leakage in the shaft. Part of the reason why there can't be a repair of the old shaft is because of corrosion that has happened over the 87 years. During the 12-month construction period, all of the elevators must be closed. There will still be access at Overlook Terrace and 181st Street escalators. During the closure there is an expectation that folks will use the escalator at 181st Street for service. The elevators' shapes will be wider and shallower. The doors will also be wider. The overall size of the elevator will be a little smaller due to the additional of interior shaft wall. The best alternative for 184th Street and Fort Washington Avenue is to take the train 181st or to 175th for ADA. There will be a ramp that will be cornered off at the Overlook Terrace station entrance for staging.

190th Street Station is basically the same except there will not be a need for an additional shaft. The construction will be 12 months and will be done by September 2020. There will be storage and staging areas by the Corbin Circle that will take up 10 parking spots for the elevator replacement. Best way to access the train is to walk down to Fort Washington and 184th Street to the 181st Street Station that will be open by that construction period or 175th Street for ADA access.

Edith: There doesn't seem to be any concern related to accessibility to ADA riders. There is a tremendous utilization of the elevator by ADA and senior community members. What do you define as having no impact?

DOT: We are only speaking about folks who use the subway stations. We recognize that these elevators are critical parts of community infrastructure. This is to say, that we have to replace these elevators. We are not making the stations ADA accessible, we recognize that, but these projects were designed about five years ago. It's unfortunate, but these are the plans that were created five years ago.

Jim: Five points about the history of the two IND Stations that were presented. The most prevalent is there should be some type of shuttle bus service for the senior elderly.

Mary: It feels like the elderly or those who cannot easily walk are being discriminated against.

Danielle: Who is monitoring the activity on the elevators with the new camera systems?

DOT: We cannot answer who is actually monitoring, but we can say that they will be monitored for security purposes.

4. In the Heights Tunnel Use Presentation

Samson Jacobsen, speaking on behalf of the Locations Department for the film, In The Heights, presents on using the tunnel to the 191st Street 1 Train Station for In The Heights production during filming in Summer 2019. The time proposed will be after 10:00pm until 4:00am on a Friday evening during the summer, and will work with the community to be respectful of the time and donate to the community in a good faith effort.

Jim: May want to provide shuttle service to community members and do it on a weeknight that may be less utilized than during a weekend.

Mary: Are you planning to do any repairs to the tunnel?

Samson: We do not plan to do any repairs.

Yissett Parra: Perhaps you can offer to beautify and repair the tunnel in exchange for the tunnel use?

Samson: We can certainly have the conversation to see what we can add in order to help the tunnel's appearance.

T&T will present a joint resolution with Cultural Affairs at the General Meeting in May.

5. Old Business

Edith: Presented about the post office trucks and the safety hindrances related to site lines because of those trucks and wanted answers as to what could be done. DOT and the Precinct spoke to the issue in the past, the issue was addressed previously and has gotten worse. Request to speak about the issue at the June Committee Meeting.

Danielle: Asked about the issue of lighting on the Harlem River Drive. Lyle from DOT addressed the issue by speaking to the fact that it's a lengthy process, but the DOT is aware. Danielle was also curious about the entrance to the Major Deegan.

6. New Business

Representatives from Manhattan Bible School and IS 218 both asked about issues related to traffic patterns near their respective schools. Lyle offered to help them directly by starting dialogue on possible solutions.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Nick at 9:08.

Minutes transcribed by Nicholas Martinez