

CB12Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting
March 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Committee Members Present –Chair, Debby Nabavian; Assistant Chair, Omar Tejada; Richard Allman, James Berlin, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Bruce Robertson.
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Community Board Members: Wayne Benjamin

Public: DoT: Lyle Blackwood, Kimberly Rancourt, Alicia Posner + 1; Wendy Olivo (Assemblyman Taylor), Liznel Aibar-Ventura (NYS Senate), Marcel Dejean, Paul Hintersteiner; Robin Kolup

Meeting called to order 7:14 PM.

1) Chair / Welcome and opening remarks:

- a) Shuttle buses have been increased for morning/afternoon rush to support the elevator updates on the 191st Stop of the 1 train.

2) DoT: W 178th Street (Ft Washington to Wadsworth Av.) Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Measures.

- a) This is a vision zero priority intersection due to number of serious injuries. Most instances of accidents have occurred while pedestrians are crossing with the light/right of way and of those, most occur when cars turning left from W. 178th street to Broadway.

b) Committee questions

- i) GD / These changes could cause increased ticketing and increased congestion. DOT: These changes designed rather to ease congestion and the associated idling.
- ii) JB / north side of Broadway/178 intersection does not have a refuge island. Also, parking spaces lost? Can same study be done on 179th street. DOT: There is no parking loss.
- iii) Robin: The light intervals EB on 178th street seems to cause congestion issues. Offloading of pedestrians is also increases the issue. DOT: By adjusting the FWA timing it addresses the east bound timing issue allowing for a more seamless transition.
- iv) OT: Thank you for addressing the issues on 178th street and FWA heading EB. We also need to address the far end of 178th street left turn to the Washington bridge where traffic is also bad. DOT: Acknowledged this.
- v) DN: taxi stand on east side FWA in front of bus terminal exacerbates problem of one lane of traffic on FWA. DOT: Acknowledged they need to look at this.
- vi) RA: The rest of 178th street and 179th needs to be looked at - when might it be looked at? DOT: we addressed this focused area because of serious safety issue and need to respond more quickly. However, have received feedback on 179th street and will continue to look at it. \
- vii) DN: when are you looking to do this? DOT: Looking for a letter of support to possibly schedule construction this summer.

c) Public Comments

- i) MD: Has noted accidents with oversized load trucks for which this is a route. Questioned the light timing on FWA causing increased traffic. Asked about adding a NW pedestrian buffer on 178th/Broadway. DOT: Pedestrian buffer in that location would be too small and not viable.
- ii) PH: Where are the overhead signs? Larger cities have these. DOT: We will be evaluating all the signage as part of this project.

d) Committee voted 7-0-0, other Members 1-0-0, Public 2-0-0

3) Old Business

- a) DOT Riverside Oval Project: 155th to 161st . This project stems from two walks throughs with the community. DOT willing to take comments ahead of the presentation agenda item appearing next month (has been delayed since last month due to finalization).
 - i) BR: Reported on a pedestrian recently being struck by car. DOT: Timing of this project is not affected by the delay of the presentation as project implementation wouldn't happen until May.
 - ii) Jim: This occurred at night, asked DOT to be mindful of lighting in their plan.
 - iii) WB: 157th street turn onto Morgan has been a problem for decades. Very large safety issue. DOT: Has acknowledged hearing feedback on this intersection and will look at it as part of this scope.
 - iv) Jerry: Hopes DOT will be open to making changes based on community feedback. Asks to align parking in the center next to the oval. DOT: Listened to the suggestion.
- b) PH: Traffic on St Nicholas and double parking. DOT: There is loading zone space, so parking in this zone is a law enforcement issue.
- c) Lighting on the Harlem River Drive. Chair: The foundations of the lights are under and adjacent to trees in Highbridge Park, which means work takes longer. DOT: It's requiring coordination with Parks department and Con Ed to get to the wires. Will seek to get clarity on what's still out, and timeline on the project.
- d) School buses parked in bus stop / in front of Armory: Chair update: CB12 District Manager and Chair raised with Precinct, who said they'd get facts and move quickly to help address this issue.
 - i) JB: in the past we brought in the precinct and the armory together to a meeting. This helped address issue. This meeting needs to happen in advance of winter track season.
- e) FWA W. 168th - W 165th / NYP traffic issues. Involving the hospital, DOT, NYPD. DOT: May is a good time to begin this conversation. We can have a stake holders meeting before that. Gather the feedback and go back to our colleagues to give them information to brainstorm.
- f) Success Academy WaHi traffic issue. DOT: The circle in the north was being used as a staging area for traffic. Has not been told of any issues since then as apparently the coordination with the 34th precinct seems to be working.
- g) CitiBike expansion update: DOT had a feedback portal open for the community. DOT will be coming back to ask for feedback from the board and the residents. Time frame is to go up to 155th street. Will look for timeline north of 155th street.

4) New Business

- a) Painting on 207th street will begin 4/1 /20 and is a two year project.
- b) Cars speeding off Dyckman exit of HHP NB and taking left onto Henshaw too fast, wiping out sign. DOT: Now looking into issue.
- c) Jerry: W. 165th needs to be addressed as a much larger project all the way through Riverside Drive and the bridge. DOT: Addressing portions of the issues on Riverside drive through the Oval project and are looking at North of Riverside Drive.

5) Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.