



# COMMUNITY BOARD 11

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*Jerry Iannece  
Chair*

*Susan Seinfeld  
District Manager*

## COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members  
FROM: Transportation Committee  
Bernard Haber, P.E. and Chris Petallides, P.E. –Co- Chairs  
DATE: January 25, 2012

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On Monday, January 23, 2012 the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Bernard Haber, Chris Petallides, Allan Palzer, Andy Rothman, Mel Meer, Henry Euler, Steve Behar, Gordon Keit, Joe Sollano, Steve Newman, Laura James, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager. Maura McCarthy, Queens DOT Commissioner also attended.

The Committee reviewed two speed hump requests that the Dept. of Transportation approved pending community support:

1-210 Street between 32 Avenue and 35 Avenue. 36 residents were sent surveys. Eight responded in favor and no one called to oppose. Committee member, Mel Meer, who lives in the area, noted that this street has a high volume of traffic and believes that the hump is necessary. The Committee supported the installation.

2-53 Avenue between 194 Street and 195 Street. Seventeen residents were surveyed. Nine residents supported the installation and two opposed the installation. Since the majority of residents did approve, the committee supported the installation.

The Board received five requests for the new DOT initiative, Slow Zones. Susan prepared maps of the areas proposed. Commissioner McCarthy explained that a Slow Zone must be a grid of streets and decisions for a zone will be based on various factors including speed of vehicles, accidents, the location of schools and other facilities. Anyone can apply for a Slow Zone by submitting an application that is available on the DOT website. The deadline to apply is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. DOT will study the areas and see if they meet the criteria. If they do, Community Boards will be asked for input.

Mel Meer requested a Slow Zone for 33 Avenue, 33 Road and 35 Avenue from Bell Boulevard to Crocheron Park. The area includes PS 41 and the park. Christine Haider sent in a request for a zone from Utopia Parkway to Peck Avenue and from the Horace Harding Expressway to Underhill Avenue, this includes PS 177 and the Kissena Park Corridor playground. Andy Rothman requested an area on 29 Avenue Road from 216 Street to 215 Street and also on 216 Street from 28 Avenue to 31 Road. This area includes the area around St. Mary's Hospital. Susan will work with the members on these application areas.

We also received a request from Joe Sollano for Hanford Street from Alameda Ave. to Douglaston Parkway. However, this would not be considered because it is one street and DOT would have to look into other traffic calming measures. This was also true for a request, from a resident, for a slow zone on 204 Street from Northern Boulevard to 46 Avenue and a request from the residents of Lakeside Towers for a slow zone on 46 Ave. between 220 Place and 223 Street.

The Commissioner then made a power point presentation on the 216 Street Pedestrian bridge. DOT presented an alternative design which is still large but better than the original. They have \$2 million for the project. Basically, it has to be a ramp design or the total demolition of the bridge. Any capital money spent on a structure must be ADA compliant. Bernie said that the bridge is still structurally sound and in good condition and just needs maintenance. He suggested that DOT wait 3-4 years and reassess the condition. Ms. McCarthy said that at that time the bridge may just be closed and the funds used for demolition. The Committee voted on two options, 1- accept the new ramp design, or 2- leave it alone for 3-4 years and then reevaluate the status. Three members voted for option one, seven for option two and there was one abstention.

Susan reviewed a request to reevaluate parking signs around Queensborough Community College. Commissioner McCarthy had agreed to reevaluate the signage based on Community Board review. The office had received complaints from residents that the parking times were not fair to residents. The signs on numerous blocks around the college say "No Parking 9-11 and 6-8 pm School Days. It restricts the parking of students but also of residents. However, years ago, the residents wanted these signs. Ms. McCarthy said that this type of sign, restricting street parking, would never be installed now but they do not remove signs unless requested. It was determined that all residents would have to be surveyed before anything else is done, and letters should be sent out soliciting input from residents. QCC should also be involved in the final decision.

The Committee unanimously approved the Street Activity Permit Office application for the Douglaston Greenmarket this year. There were no complaints during last year's event. The market will run from July 8<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Susan also advised the committee that an application was submitted by Gregg Sullivan on behalf of the Village Artists Organization to close Bell Boulevard for one block in May and November. The Committee said they would want input from the BID on any event applied for on Bell Boulevard, but since Bell is a bus route they would be against any application. Permits may be approved for the side streets, like the BID did last year. (Addendum: Gregg Sullivan advised Susan that he is removing the Bell Boulevard application and will apply for a side street, he will revise his applications.)

At the Board Meeting last month, the Board was asked to support the extension of the QM20 to lower Manhattan. Andy pointed out that there are 4 blocks in CB 11. The members said the request must be deferred to CB 7 first for an opinion.

Bernie mentioned that it is a year since we asked Dept. of Parks to name a park section for Joe Hellmann. The Queens Parks Commissioner supports the naming. We must follow up with Commissioner Mr. Benepe, who must make the ultimate decision.

Andy presented a plan for DOT changes outside of St. Mary's including a new four-way stop and daylighting changes. Bernie said that the new driveway will be open in two weeks and at that time DOT will have to be involved. Susan said that she spoke to Dr. Simpson and she gave him Maura McCarthy's telephone number.

Bernie reported that the Shore Road project is moving ahead. DEC approvals are pending. The construction should start in the fall and be a \$5 million project to reconstruct the road.

Alan Palzer says that there is not enough time to turn onto Marathon Parkway from Northern Boulevard and there are red light cameras there. Chris Petallides said that he had been on a site visit with the Commissioner and Susan about 2 years ago and nothing is changing except that they had lengthened the signal time to turn. It is not enough time but there is not enough "storage" of vehicles waiting to make a turn in order to put in a turn signal. Alan also stated that all schools should have cross-hatched crosswalks.