



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Transportation Committee
Bernard Haber, P.E., Co- Chair
DATE: July 28, 2014

On Monday, July 28, 2014, the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Bernard Haber, Steve Behar, Andy Rothman, Susan Cerezo, Christine Haider, Laura James, Jyothi Sriram, Eileen Miller, Ocelia Claro and Lawrence Gresser. Jonathan Matz from MoveNY was here to make a presentation to the members.

Mr. Matz presented a plan formulated by a coalition called MoveNY to promote Fair Tolling and Transportation Reinvestment. The plan was developed by Sam Schwartz, a former Commissioner in the Dept. of Transportation. The coalition is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the NY Community Trust and other foundations.

They have determined that \$12 billion is needed for the highway, bridge and transit system in NYC. They propose the following:

- Invest in road and bridge repair
- Restore 2010 cuts to the transit system
- Increase express buses, expand routes, and provide fare discounts
- Add new select bus service and limited bus stop locations
- Provide weeklong City Ticket discounts 24/7 on the LIRR
- Rehabilitate subway stations
- Improve signaling for faster train service
- Expand locations of countdown/train arrival signs in subway stations
- Increase suburban transit lines
- Make a fairer toll system on the bridges, reduce tolls for MTA bridges, add tolls for East River bridges into the central business district, eliminate toll shopping, add time of day pricing, and use license plate reading technology.
- Add tolls for all vehicle entry below 60 St. (14 streets) in Manhattan through license plate technology. Tolls on East River bridges will be \$15.00 cash roundtrip and tolls on MTA bridges will be reduced to \$10.00 cash roundtrip, both reduced for E-Zpass holders.

The committee discussed that this plan is another form of Bloomberg's Congestion Pricing scheme. Bernie Haber stated that he still considers the tolls on the east river bridges as an additional tax, and if tolls are imposed, they should be during weekday peak times only. He pointed out a study from 1961 that the traffic numbers have not changed in all these years.

Bernie Haber suggested that cross-town streets, 36 and 37 Streets, which are wide, be one way to relieve the crosstown flow of traffic from the Midtown Tunnel to the Lincoln Tunnel. He also said that trucks get free unloading zones on sidewalks causing congestion and should be taxed.

Andy pointed out that if more LIRR service is provided, then parking has to be provided.

Larry Gresser stated that the free bridges are free now because the bonds were paid off, that was the agreement years ago.

Mr. Matz said that the alternatives to fund mass transit is to:

Increase the gas tax

Increase the sales tax

Double the payroll mobility tax

Reinstate the commuter tax

Issue more debt

Mr. Matz stated that the Hudson River crossings are not included in the plan because they are run by the PANYNJ and those tolls can remain as they are but will be less than the East River bridges.

In general, the Committee was not receptive to this plan presented by MoveNY.

Susan Seinfeld presented information to the Committee members:

Mayor de Blasio had signed a package of traffic safety bills.

Assembly Member Brennan is holding a hearing regarding the MTA capital plan on August 7.

Based on the board's request, the bus shelter at Union Turnpike and Springfield Blvd. will be moved five feet from the curb, the repositioning will help visibility of pedestrian traffic.

DDC will start the water main project in Bayside Hills.

DDC also has on the list of projects, the replacement of the pedestrian bridge over the LIRR at 216 St. The CB held a public hearing regarding this project in 2008. The community and the Board had objected to the helical replacement structure at that time. Susan contacted Dalila Hall, DOT Queens Commissioner and DDC about this objection and questioned why it was on the list of projects again. Bernie asked that the Board write to the Commissioner requesting basic maintenance again.

The Committee voted to approve the speed bump on Hollis Hills Terrace between Union Turnpike and 73 Ave.