



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

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

Jerry Iannece Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Transportation Committee
Bernard Haber & Chris Petallides, Co- Chairs
DATE: September 21, 2012

On Wednesday, September 19, 2012, the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Bernard Haber, Chris Petallides, Allan Palzer, Gary Sekdorian, Joan Garippa, Andy Rothman, Susan Cerezo, Henry Euler, Christine Haider, Mel Meer, Steve Behar, Susan Seinfeld, District Manager and Al Silvestri, representing Queens DOT Commissioner. Also attending was Thomas Fennell and Irene Fennell regarding a street renaming.

The Committee reviewed several items brought to the attention of the Board.

1-Thomas Fennell presented a proposal to name 214 Lane and 35 Avenue for PS 41 teacher Geraldine Cilmi. Ms. Cilmi taught science for about 30 years at the school. She was loved by the children and well respected by her colleagues. She created the garden at the school. He had presented this information at the board meeting in May. Some members expressed support to name the street, which only borders the school and Crocheron Park. Other members said that a dedication should be made at the school, such as a renaming of a room in her honor. The committee's vote was split 6 in favor and 6 opposed. The item will be brought to the full board in October.

2- DOT sent CB a list of sites, all are on Bell Blvd for the City Bench program- Andy Rothman mapped all 15 sites and raised questions about the locations. Only 5 are on the west side of the street. The members had 4 questions and asked Mr. Silvestri to obtain answers before they make a decision. 1-Why are most of them on the east side, 2- how close to the curb are the benches, 3-can some be put in as a test before the CB approves all 15 sites, 4-will the benches have backs or be backless, since both models are shown. Mr. Silvestri will speak to the program manager.

3-A speed hump was requested for 29 Avenue between Bell Blvd. and 216 Street. DOT requested the recommendation of the CB before installing a speed hump. 36 residents were surveyed, 13 in favor and 5 opposed. St. Mary's Hospital stated that humps will slow emergency vehicles. Weeks Woodland Association proposed more four-way stop signs instead. Members recommended not to install the hump for these reasons and instead will ask DOT to install four-way stop signs at intervals on 29 Avenues and at 216 Street at the entrance of the hospital.

4- A speed hump was requested for Grand Central Parkway Service Road between 244 St. and 72 Avenue. DOT asked the board for a recommendation. 121 residents were surveyed but only 17 replied, 14 in favor and 3 opposed. The members found this response insignificant and showed a lack of interest by the residents. The members recommended against the installation.

5- Mel Meer had asked for the restoration of weekend service for the Q31 that was cut by the MTA during the last round of budget cuts. Other lines were restored, but not the weekend service on the Q31. This line serves QCC, St. John's University and Queens College. Now that classes are held on weekends, this line would benefit many people. The members voted unanimously to support restoration of service, at least on a light schedule.

6- Bernie Haber presented a diagram of the intersection of 35 Avenue and Bell Blvd. Mel Meer had contacted Bernie about problems with vehicles not being able to continue eastbound if a car is making a left onto Bell Blvd. northbound because there is only one lane. Because of the increase in traffic volume, drivers have to wait through a few signal changes. The same is true of cars traveling westbound. Bernie proposed that DOT should place "No Standing" signs on the southeast and southwest corners of 35 Avenue, making 2 lanes at the corners so vehicles going through the intersection can pass. This information will be submitted to DOT.

7- Christine Haider presented requests for several traffic improvements in her area bounded by Utopia Pkwy, 188 Street, Peck Avenue and 58 Avenue. She had a letter prepared with the details. After discussing the traffic issues, it was also suggested by Mel Meer that there be thermoplastic STOP messages at the intersection of 58 Avenue and 189 Street by PS 177.

8- Joe Sollano asked that "No Truck" signs be posted at Douglaston Pkwy. and Marathon Pkwy. at the LIE and at Northern Blvd. Mr. Silvestri took this information.

9- Allan Palzer spoke to Mr. Silvestri about the dangers of crossing Northern Blvd. at Alameda Avenue. Cars do not stop to let pedestrians cross. He asked that DOT survey the intersection and make changes, even to just post a larger sign that tells drivers to stop for pedestrians.

10-The CB office received a proposal to convert all the streets in Little Neck Hills to one-way operations because the streets are narrow, winding and hilly. DOT will look at individual street conversion requests. Mr. Silvestri stated that since Leith Road became such a problem when it was converted to one-way, DOT will be hesitant to convert more streets. However, some of the streets would benefit from one-way operation. Mr. Haber suggested that area board members be asked for their opinions as to what streets should be one-way before the Board makes a request to DOT.