



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. & Chris Petallides, P.E. –Co- Chairs
DATE: July 1, 2015

On Tuesday, June 30, 2015 the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Bernard Haber and Chris Petallides, Committee Co-Chairs, Christine L. Haider, Board Chair, Laura James, 1st Vice Chair, Eileen Miller, 3rd Vice Chair, Allan Palzer, Susan Cerezo, Henry Euler, Christina Scherer, Steve Behar, Joan Garippa, Sonya Fierro-Gladwin, Larry Gresser, Ed Doster and David Schachner, community representatives and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager. Richard Gippetti from NYC DOT attended. Four community residents also attended.

Mr. Haber asked the residents attending to speak about their support or opposition to the proposal to convert 53 and 54 Avenues to one-way operations between Springfield Blvd. and 217 Street. This same proposal was rejected in 2011. Two residents, including Board Member Sonya Fierro-Gladwin, spoke in opposition to the one-way conversion citing that they do not believe it will help because the problem is driver behavior of PS 203 parents. Enforcement is necessary and perhaps other changes by DOT. The problems exist only for a short period during the morning hours. Three residents spoke in favor of the conversion, one being the Vice President of the Community Education Council for District 26. There has been too much damage to cars and property caused by drivers going to PS 203. The drivers block driveways and make illegal u-turns. The street is only 25' wide and it is too narrow for two-way traffic with the large size cars on the road.

Sonya requested that DOT eliminate parking on the west side of Springfield Blvd. opposite the school for parents to drop children off and walk across with the crossing guard. Mr. Gippetti and I both thought that this proposal was already rejected by DOT. He will confirm and find out why that decision was made. The committee decided to wait to make a final recommendation about the one-way conversions until this question was answered.

Susan presented the information she received at the Bayside Village BID Parking Study presentation made on June 29. Basically, the consultants found that about 1000 parking spots are necessary to relieve the parking situation. The long term solution is to build a 5-story parking structure at the site of the current municipal lot. This would provide 335 spots. If the LIRR provided an easement to increase the size of the site, additional

spots could be added. Funding would have to come through the BID or the Economic Development Corporation and/or funding through elected officials.

Other possibilities examined in the study were resident parking permits. This would help residents, not shoppers coming to Bell Blvd. Short term proposals include working with the DOT to change muni-meter rates and times and other parking restrictions. Shared valet parking is an option being looked into, especially by restaurants, to use unused parking lots in the evenings for patrons. Mr. Haber said that there are also areas behind the stores on Bell Blvd. that could be used as customer parking. Susan will raise this with the BID executive director.

The committee decided that a second bench on Northern Blvd. east of Douglaston Pkwy. was unnecessary since the Q12 ends at Little Neck Pkwy. The benches are federally funded. Suggestions were made for better locations on Little Neck Parkway where the Q36 now runs and waits are long.

Bernie advised the committee of pending legislation to allow triple length trucks. These are dangerous and it should not be allowed. Susan will find out the status of the legislation.

Steve Behar stated that Bell Blvd. between 36 to 38 avenues still has not been restored following a DEP job. The office was told by DEP two weeks ago that the contractor was finishing the final restoration. Susan will tell DEP that it still was not completed.

Henry discussed the letter he wrote to DOT asking for a change in the traffic pattern on the Clearview Expressway exit for the LIE. CB11 wrote letter to NYSDOT two years ago. Bernie stated that NYSDOT told us that they are evaluating options. Mr. Gippetti will follow up on possible NYC involvement.

Henry also asked about the long-requested installation of a traffic signal at APEC's driveway. Mr. Gippetti said that he was told that APEC would have to pay for the signal. Members disagreed since it is Parks Dept. property. In 2012, the Community Board was told that DOT delayed the installation because the new building was yet to be constructed. However, Henry said that the driveway will be in the same location and traffic signal can't wait. Susan will write to the DOT Borough Commissioner regarding this request.