



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  
Chris Petallides, P.E. –Co- Chair  
DATE: March 12, 2015

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015 the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Bernard Haber and Chris Petallides, Committee Co-Chairs, Ocelia Claro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, Eileen Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair, Allan Palzer, Susan Cerezo, Henry Euler, Christina Scherer, Steve Behar, Alim Gafar, Steven Newman, Mel Meer, Joan Garippa, Jyothi Sriram, Edith Basom, Ed Doster, Community Representative and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager. Community representatives, David Schachner and John Kelly and Anthony Lemma, representing Assemblyman David Weprin, attended. Representing the NYCT was Luke DePalma, Dorian Statom and Robert Lai.

Susan Seinfeld announced the following:

1-Christine Haider and Steve Behar attended the Bayside Village BID Parking Study kick-off meeting and heard about the plans by VHB Engineering to study and present recommended solutions to improve the parking situation along Bell Blvd. BID Director, Lyle Sclair, Executive Director of the BID, discussed it with the Economic Development Committee at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2- The DOT sent a letter approving the conversion of 208 St between 47 and 48 Avenues to a one-way street northbound. There were 24 homeowners contacted by mail, eight approved the conversion and no one has called to disapprove. This is the second time that the conversion has been approved by DOT. In 2009, we did not receive many replies. The Committee asked Susan to reach out by phone to as many residents as possible to determine opinions.

3- Susan attended the Traffic Safety Board meeting at Borough Hall. Queens Deputy DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia presented the Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. We have a copy of the report which is available on-line. DOT will be making safety improvements to 47 priority corridors and 72 priority intersections. None are in CB 11.

### **Northeast Queens Bus Study Presentation:**

Luke DePalma, from NYCT, reviewed the purpose of the Northeast Queens Bus Study that is funded by Sen. Avella. They held a workshop at QCC and participants gave input regarding bus service in the area. The final report will be ready at the end of May. Mr. Statom

presented their report on performance and reliability of local buses. He highlighted that the Q17 and Q25 are the lowest performing routes weekdays; Q44 and Q66 are the lowest Saturday performing routes and the Q25 and Q88 are the lowest Sunday performing routes. Express bus service is below the citywide average for performance. Northeast Queens buses travel at faster average speeds. Ridership is growing on all but the Q1, Q20, Q26 and Q31 bus routes. Express bus ridership is declining except on the Union Turnpike buses. There are many transfers to other buses in Queens especially on the Q17, Q27, Q30, Q43, Q44 and Q46 for the Flushing No. 7 line or the E and F line at Kew Gardens. Bus to bus transfers is greatest on the Q17, Q27, Q30, Q43, Q44 and Q46 lines.

The feedback obtained during the public workshop is that that more routes are needed especially for north and south routes, some lines end service too early, some streets have redundant routes, more frequent service is needed, drivers are not stopping to pick up customers because buses are crowded, schedules are not accurate, the end of the school day requires more buses on school lines. Riders also wanted more bus shelters, cleaner bus stops, more places to buy Metro Cards, separate stops where multiple buses stop at busy places, and bike racks on buses.

Discussion followed. Jyothi Sriram requested improvements for the Q12 on Northern Boulevard (copy attached). She suggested that there be express service from 166 St to Glenwood Street and vice versa.

Mel Meer was concerned with the Q31 bus and the need for more buses especially for high school students, and if buses are removed from the line to be used on other routes. He said the report does not reflect the real wait times. Mr. DePalma will inquire whether this occurs.

David Schachner handed out a list of recommendations (copy attached). His concerns involved service on the Q46 line on Union Turnpike along with various other lines. He suggests more buses, select bus service and off-board fare collection in order to increase reliability and decrease wait times.

Christine Scherer pointed out that it is hard to find bus stops in Flushing due to poor signage.

Other recommendations made by committee members are 1- more Metrocard purchase locations and suggested that muni-meters sell Metrocards, 2- establish a bus terminal in Flushing, establish an information kiosk in Flushing, 3- extend a bus line to the Douglaston LIRR station, 4- create a No Parking zone on Kissena Boulevard at Holly Avenue because buses cannot pass each other 5- add Q36 weekend service and 6- have buses dedicated solely to pick up high school students so as not to overwhelm the buses at dismissal time.