

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES: MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015

Meeting called to order: 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum - Chair, Susan Cleary, James Gallagher Jr., Michael Sidell, Martha Taylor, Marie Adam-Ovide - District Manager CB8 and Alma Karassavidis CB8 staff member. Also present Luke DePalma - MTA Community Outreach, David Moss - MTA Queens Bus Division, Richard Gippetti - NYC DOT and Dorian Statom - NYC Transit.

- I. **MTA PRESENTATION** (*study attached*) – David Moss (MTA Queens Bus Division) presented the results of the North East Queens Bus Study affecting Community Boards 7, 8, 11 & 13. Initial reports to affected Community Boards were made in November 2014 and March 2015. Updated reports are scheduled for May 2015.
 - A. Bus on-time statistics:
 1. General on-time statistics in Queens average 79% which is equal to or better than 5-borough statistics. Average Queens on-time +80%. Weakest line – Q66 at 66% on weekends. Express Bus – weakest performance on weekends averages 77% versus 5-borough at 79%. Weakest performance – QM3 at 60%.
 - B. Average Bus speed during rush hours – 8.6 mph (a.m) 7.9 mph (p.m.)
 - C. Ridership
 1. Increase from 2008: Q19 = +32.1%; Q25 = +15.9%; Q44= +16.8%
 2. Decrease from 2008: Q1 = -9.5%; Q20 = -10.5%; Q26 = -29.8%; Q31 = -9.5%
 3. Express Bus: In general, decrease in usage across all lines. QM1 = -13.5%; QM4 = -25.6%; X68 = -14.7%
 4. Bus to subway transfer per day: 30,000 @ Flushing/Main Street; 21,000 @ Jamaica Center; 12,500 @ Jamaica/179 Street.
 - D. Metro Card Ridership Data-Pending
 - E. Ridership and Marketing Survey Feedback from CBS and passengers:
 1. More North / South routes needed.
 2. More 24/7 days a week routes with extended hours.
 3. Some streets have several routes that are redundant. One route should skip stops.
 3. Extend Q64 to 188th Street.
 4. On lines where there is one bus every hour it should be reduced to one bus every half hour.
 - F. Feedback from CBS and passengers - Comments on Environment:
 1. Bus shelter at every bus stop.
 2. Separate stops for busy bus routes at the same stop (confused passengers get on the wrong line and the wrong bus because of overlapping waiting lines).
 3. Bus stops are poorly maintained in regard to trash, lighting and snow removal.
 4. More Metro Card sales locations are needed.
 5. Put bike racks on buses.
 - G. Feedback from Community Boards and passengers – Service Performance
 1. Drivers are not stopping to pick up passengers.
 - a). Passengers refuse to move back from front of bus so there is not enough space.
 - b). Buses are bunching and “leapfrog” assuming bus behind will stop.
 - c). Drivers don’t see passengers because of other route at stop.
 2. Bus schedules are not accurate or held to.
 3. Bus loads are uneven – sometimes too many “Limited” and not enough locals. These bus lines should be switched on an as-needed basis.

5. Not enough buses during rush hour and at end-of-school-day.
6. Buses ahead of schedule slow down for no reason.
7. Bus “bunching” is a major problem on many routes.
8. Buses are slower during rush hour as riders take too long to swipe Metro cards.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. MTA – Has agreed to re-name Van Wyck Boulevard Station (E, F train) to Briarwood Station.
 1. Station was re-opened on December 14, 2014. **DONE**
- B. Transportation Committee policy on accepting individuals to be members of the Committee.
 1. Application in file, applicant and policy to be discussed. **COMMUNITY BOARD POLICY PERMITS THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO ACCEPT INDIVIDUALS ON TO THEIR COMMITTEE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS**
- C. DOT – Councilman Mark Weprin requests additional traffic signal on northbound 188th Street at entrance to westbound GCP. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE TO INCLUDE “RIGHT TURN ON RED AFTER STOP”. ROAD MARKINGS SHOULD INDICATE STOP HERE, RIGHT TURN OR STRAIGHT ON GREEN LIGHT.**
 1. Pavement markings not visible in heavy traffic.
- D. DOT – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal for select bus service to add a bus-only lane on Main Street, Parsons Boulevard & Kissena Boulevard from Flushing to Jamaica. Residents and local politicians object as traffic congestion from the elimination of one lane will force motorists onto local streets; and needed parking spaces will be lost in front of small businesses on affected streets. This proposal is not supported by elected officials; Councilman Rory Lancman and Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, or by Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association and Kew Gardens Hills Tenant Association. **DOT IS STUDYING ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES OF DEDICATED BUS LANES AND WILL SEEK COMMUNITY BOARD AND INDIVIDUAL INPUT BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY PLAN.**
 1. DOT has agreed to update this Committee and allow for our input before implementing any plan.
- E. MTA – Borough President Melinda Katz requests renaming Willets Point / Mets Stadium to include Flushing Meadow - Corona Park. **WAITING ON RESPONSE FROM DOT**

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT – One-way street conversions
 1. Request to convert 160th Street one way northbound from Goethals Avenue to Union Turnpike – **APPROVED NOT DONE YET**
 2. Requests to convert 161st Street southbound; and 162nd Street northbound has been approved as those streets are very narrow. **APPROVED- NOT DONE YET**
- B. DOT (10/2/14, 10/8/14) – Request refurbishment of pavement markings. These locations have been approved to be completed by spring 2015 :
 1. Park Drive East from 73rd Avenue to Union Turnpike **NOT DONE**
 2. 138th Street from 73rd Avenue to Union Turnpike **NOT DONE (STREET DOES NOT GO THROUGH BECAUSE OF SCHOOL)**
 3. 147th Street from 73rd Avenue to Union Turnpike (See III. M) **NOT DONE**
 4. 150th Street from 73rd Avenue to Union Turnpike **NOT DONE (NOT THAT BAD)**
 5. Kissena Boulevard from LIE to Parsons Boulevard **DONE FROM LIE TO 72ND, NOT DONE FROM 72ND TO PARSONS. POTHOLE REPAIR NEEDED**
 6. LIE service road eastbound from Kissena Boulevard to 164th Street. **NOT DONE**

- C. DOT – 5/29/14 – Resurface Dalny Road from Highland Avenue to Wexford Terrace. Street does not meet criteria at this time. **DENIED (DALNY FROM WEXFORD TO MIDLAND IS OK; MIDLAND TO HILLSIDE NEEDS WORK)**
- D. DOT – Request resurfacing Tudor Road between Chevy Chase Street & GCP westbound - Street does not meet criteria at this time. **DENIED**
- E. DOT – Resurface Midland Parkway between Hillside Avenue & GCP eastbound. Resurfacing completed August 2014. **GOOD CONDITION**
- F. DOT – 3/27/14 – Left turn signals at the intersection of Midland Parkway at GCP service road North & South – **APPROVED. NOT DONE**
- G. DOT – 3/7/14 – Daylighting at the intersection of 67th Avenue & 175th Street – visibility is deemed adequate. **DENIED**

ITEMS H – L WERE TABLED FROM LAST MEETING FOR INPUT FROM AREA 7 CHAIR:

- H. DOT – Pedestrian countdown signals at intersection GCP S.R. westbound and Utopia Parkway. **APPROVED**
- I. DOT – Left-turn signal Utopia Parkway southbound at GCP S.R. westbound. **DENIED**
- J. DOT – Left-turn signal GCP S.R. westbound at Utopia Parkway southbound. **DENIED**
- K. DOT - Left-turn signal Utopia Parkway southbound onto Union Turnpike eastbound. **APPROVED**
- L. DOT – Study to improve traffic flow on Utopia Parkway southbound between Union Turnpike & 80th Road. **DENIED**
- M. DOT- 10/14/14 Resurface 147th Street between 73rd Avenue and Union Turnpike has been approved for fiscal year 2016. (See item III. B) **AMEND REQUEST TO START AT 72ND DRIVE**
- N. DOT – requests CB8 input to identify need for changes in grid from two-way streets to one-way operation in Kew Gardens Hills from LIE (north) to Union Turnpike (south), from Park Drive East (west) to Parsons Boulevard (east). (See Item V-A) **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAS AGREED TO WAIT FOR ADDITIONAL DOT INPUT BEFORE FORWARDING THIS REQUEST TO MEMBERS OF CB#8 AND ALL EFFECTED CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS. IF NO DOT RESPONSE IS RECEIVED BY MID-APRIL, IT WILL BE FORWARD FOR ABOVE FEEDBACK.**
- O. DOT – request moving “right lane ends” sign to 138-39 Union Turnpike (12/15/14). **THIS IS PART OF NYS DOT PROJECT. REQUEST SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THEM.**
- P. DOT – 10/18/13 request for additional traffic control at the intersection of 65th Avenue & 165th Street – **REQUEST DENIED AS UNNECESSARY. DOT HAS ISSUED ORDERS TO INSTALL “STOP AHEAD” SIGN ON 165TH STREET. NOT DONE**
- Q. DOT – 10/23/13 request turn signals at the intersection of Union Turnpike and Parsons Boulevard – **LEFT TURN SIGNAL HAS BEEN DENIED. REQUEST SHOULD BE RESUBMITTED IN 18 MONTHS.**
- R. DOT – 1/6/15 request resurfacing 86th Avenue from Queens Boulevard to 143rd Street. **LOCATION WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR EVALUATION AFTER COMPLETION OF QUEENS BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.**
- S. DOT – 1/6/15 request resurfacing of 84th Drive from Queens Boulevard to Smedley Street. **LOCATION WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR EVALUATION AFTER COMPLETION OF QUEENS BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.**
- T. DOT – 1/6/15 request resurfacing 148th Street from Hillside Avenue to 84th Drive. **LOCATION WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR EVALUATION AFTER COMPLETION OF QUEENS BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.**

- U. DOT – request timing change of traffic signal at Jewel Avenue & 144th Street. **DOT STUDY INDICATES THE SIGNAL AT THIS LOCATION IS WORKING PROPERLY WITH ADEQUATE TIME FOR PEDESTRIANS AND MOTOR VEHICLES.**

IV. REQUESTS BY Marie Adam-Ovide, CB 8 District Manager, ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS.

- A. DOT – Request resurface Henley Road between Midland Parkway & Homelawn Street. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- B. TLC – Reliance Group Inc. License #BO2168, 185-02 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366. CB8 office received complaints regarding this company parking vehicles on residential streets overnight and on weekends. CB8 office was not notified that this company seeks License for Hire application. Prior entities Vernisage Limo & Masada II Car & Limo Service had similar complaints. Thorough investigation is requested to determine how licensing for this establishment is allowed without community input. **WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY NYC TLC THAT RELIANCE GROUP IS A LUXURY LIMOUSINE BASE AND THEREFORE DO NOT FALL UNDER NYC TLC RULES REGARDING OFF-STREET PARKING. THEY ARE THEREFORE PERMITTED TO PARK ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CONTACTING LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CHANGE THE OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE LUXURY LIMO SERVICE.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT – Request 77th Avenue & 137th Street be changed to one-way operation – INDIVIDUAL (See Item III.N) **PART OF GRID CHANGE**
- B. DOT – Request Traffic light and/or crosswalk/lane markings at the corner of Homelawn Street & Charlecotte Ridge – INDIVIDUAL. **REPAINT STREET MARKINGS AS NEEDED WITH “DON’T BLOCK THE BOX” ENFORCEMENT FROM NYC PD 107TH PCT.**
- C. DOT – Request removal of one-way street on Croyden Road – CB8 Board Member. **APPROVED**
- D. DOT – Request traffic signal at Henley Road & Midland Parkway be removed. CB8 board member believes it was installed in error. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- E. DOT – Request No U-Turn sign at the intersection of Union Turnpike & 150th Street – INDIVIDUAL. **APPROVED**
- F. DOT – Request left turn arrow going east at intersection of Hillside Avenue and Clearview Expressway – INDIVIDUAL. **THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN CLARIFIED. THE INDIVIDUAL IS REQUESTING ADJUSTMENT OF WALK/DON’T WALK SIGN TO DESIGNATE A TIME WHEN IT IS SAFE FOR PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF HILLSIDE AVENUE. APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

Amended Agenda item: Time Sensitive Safety & Security request dated 2/23/15

G. DOT – request installation or approval of bollards adjacent to curb line in front of Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, 83-10 188 Street. YIJE Chairman of Security and Safety Committee requests installation of bollards to prevent motor vehicles and automobile-borne improvised explosive devices from penetrating synagogue property causing damage to buildings and occupants. **15 of 17 MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WERE POLLED AND APPROVED THIS REQUEST UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm.