

Community Board # 1 – Staten Island Transportation Committee

Date: 9-25-08

Location: CB 1 Board office

Time: 7:33

Attending members:

Sean Sweeney

Richard Zichettello

Nicholas Siclari

Members excused:

John Guzzo

Rajiv Gowda

Guests:

Katrin Kark

Francine Galvez

Geri Bonarrigo (Rep. Titone)

Meeting

The meeting began with a greeting to all in attendance and a welcome back from our summer hiatus. Katrin Kark introduced herself as NYU student from Brooklyn who is taking a course in transportation. Geri Bonarrigo was in attendance representing Assemblyman Matt Titone. Francis Galvez of the now famous Sweet 16 brought well wishes from her group and thanked Community Board 1 for the diligence we have shown in dealing with bus service complaints. She informs us that the X 16 service has improved and she offers up her gratitude to us all.

- 38 residents of Evelyn Place (10305) have signed a petition and forwarded it to the attention of this committee. The petition states that this street is overburdened and too narrow (26 feet wide) to accommodate 2 way traffic. They wish to have traffic head south east which would send the flow of traffic downhill. The argument is that the hill is “impassable going uphill” until snow and ice is cleared. The directions would also “decrease non-resident traffic” and prevent patrons returning from the local Bars/Taverns from traversing “after they have had a couple of drinks” Transportation Committee members see no obvious reason why this request can not be entertained and brought before the appropriate area committee.
- All members were in favor of honoring the Staten Island Ferry crew that recently plucked a dying woman from the waters off of Staten Island.
- We discussed the Clove Road and Victory Blvd. vacant lot and what has become of the proposal to create a park and ride at this location. Perhaps the area committee has some additional information regarding this site?
- DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik- Kahn sends us a correspondence regarding Bicycle Facilities on Bay Street between School Road & Richmond Terrace. This would be in addition to the already installed 110 miles of new on street bike paths in all 5 boroughs. This is a step towards completing 1997 NYC Bicycle Master Plan. A future route will stretch from St. George to Tottenville. The assembled group applauded these measures as an alternative to vehicular traffic.
- State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli released a prepared statement on September 24th stating that the “MTA Faces \$522 Million Budget Gap for 2009” An extensive financial

outlook was included with the comptroller's statement. The committee made Francine Galvez aware of this deficit and the possibility of bus service being cut in the future. Ire should not be directed at the Community Board since our diligence can not overcome the MTA's lack of funds.

- Discussion of the Committees proposed future agenda include the following items:
- Traffic study/hearing on Victory Boulevard/Manor Road
- Fresh Kills Roadway
- North Shore Light Rail
- Creating a bi-state regional transportation planning council to provide Staten Island with greater visibility and financial support than currently exists under NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transportation Planning Council)
- Update from Transportation committee members on transportation issues/information from their respective CB Area committees.
- Public Session: The attendance was light so the meeting allowed for back and forth discussion throughout.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted by Sean Sweeney

Next meeting is Thursday, October 23rd.