

**Brooklyn Community Board 9
Transportation Committee Meeting**

**890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225**

December 11, 2024

Chair: Ethan Norville; Vice Chair: Felice Robertson; Secretary: Paco Abraham

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville; Felice Robertson; Benny Rosenberger

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Andrew Magnus

Absent (Board Members): Yaakov Pearson; Raphaella Godoy

Absent (Community Resident Members): Calista DeJesus; Valerie Fleming; Jeffrey Grannum;

CB9 Staff: Dante B. Arnwine, District Manager

Agenda:

- I. Welcome/Greetings
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 7:15 pm, 12/11/24
 - b. Group discussion about a City Council E-Bike registration bill ([Intro 606](#)) that had a hearing this week in the Transportation Committee. All comments were in agreement that safety was key but the committee shared the pros and cons of the proposed measure, if it was proven effective elsewhere in the world, and how enforcement could or could not realistically work.
- II. Assess bike lane/school safety plan feedback
 - a. Committee Chairperson Norville presented a summary of feedback received by CB9 from the community regarding the DOT presentation for a safer corridor on Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. Overall, 56 % of respondents were in support, 42 % were against, and less than 2% were neutral. Some of residents' concerns were alleviated by the recommended changes the Transportation Committee offered while others were adamant that the plan did not go far enough.
 - b. Andrew Magnus wondered if we shouldn't revert to the original plan first and see how the full board and DOT responded before offering amendments
 - c. Benny Rosenberger reminded the committee that there was also a survey in COLive which garnered many negative comments against the proposal.
 - d. Paco Abraham agreed with Chairman Norville's summary to suggest there was no way to have complete support but the committee's suggested changes proved local concerns were incorporated into the plan.
 - e. Group consensus that the plan should move forward to the executive committee.
- III. Action on FDNY sidewalk usage and safety improvements
 - a. Committee Chairperson Norville noted that it has been several months since he met with FDNY station on Rogers Avenue about changing their sidewalk parking habits and no

progress has been made yet. It seems FDNY is waiting for more direction from DOT and City Hall.

- i. Paco Abraham expressed frustration that there had been no progress and suggested the effort in which FDNY staff met with CB9 members in person was perhaps sadly disingenuous. He theorized that a local fire captain could certainly give clear directives to their firefighters to not block sidewalks.
- b. Committee Chairperson Norville noted CB9 recently had received a letter from FDNY flagging that there were multiple instances of emergency vehicles being unable to easily traverse local streets, in particular Maple Street. The FDNY letter raised the alarm about double parked cars blocking their way. Committee members noted that some of the issues on Maple might have been people parking in the center of the street during alternate side parking hours to keep the bike lane clear, but inadvertently making the street too narrow for fire trucks. Discussion about the specific asks FDNY's letter was making and what type of parking etiquette CB9 ought to be officially condemning and condoning.

IV. Action on Washington Ave safety improvements

- a. Chairman Norville shared the news that DOT is aware of our committee's past requests for traffic calming (March 2024) and looks to announce a safety plan sometime in 2025.
- b. Group discussion about the need for crosswalks on Washington Avenue, especially where pedestrian ramps already exist. Members wondered if perhaps we expand the safety requests and include speed humps or raised crosswalks.
- c. Discussion of merits for some press and a news story about the long delay for updates and action.
 - i. Felice Robertson will draft a letter in support of crosswalks on Washington for the adjacent Brooklyn Botanic Garden and local schools/ daycares to sign on to.
- d. Paco Abraham asked to clarify the scope of the previous motion and if it included all of Washington, or just between Eastern Parkway and Empire Blvd.
 - i. He then suggested flipping the one-way direction of Washington Avenue between Lincoln Road and Lefferts Avenue so that northbound vehicles wouldn't speed up Washington Ave when coming from Flatbush Avenue, and so that the southbound buses would only need to make one right turn to reach their Lincoln Road layover destination rather than the current setup which demands three turns.
 - ii. Andrew Magnus suggested this idea about potentially adjusting Washington Avenue between Lincoln Road and Lefferts Avenue ought to be packaged with the ongoing discussion about re-evaluating Lincoln Road between Ocean and Flatbush Avenues.

V. New business

- a. Committee discussion about soon making another survey for the community, this time focused on the single block of Lincoln Road and what are people's level of comfort using Lincoln Road as is, along with changes they may want to see to ensure more pedestrian safety and park access.
 - i. Paco Abraham asked if the committee would consider adding his above-stated idea to the future survey - to potentially change Washington Avenue's direction to benefit buses.

VI. Adjournment

- a. MOTION - Ethan Norville made a motion to adjourn at 8:45p.
 - i. Felice Robertson seconded the motion.
 - ii. **Motion passed by unanimous consent**