

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York

Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025

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

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

Attendance: (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Andrew Magnus; Calista DeJesus; Valerie Fleming

Absent: (Board Members): None

Absent: (Community Resident Members): None

Guests: Carmen Martinez, Christine Granderson, Deborah Hedwalk, Everleen Cook, Isaiah Pecou, Janice Grannum, Jeffrey Granum, Pamela Yard, Vivien Watts, Zach Sutton, Rod S. Herbert

Agenda:

- I. Welcome/Greetings
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 7:14 pm, June 11th, 2025.
 - b. Chairman Norville noted this is the last committee meeting until September.
 - c. NYC DOT did not attend, and so their item will be skipped from the agenda.
 - d. Since there is a noticeably large crowd from Sterling Street, Chairman Norville offered the opportunity to take questions on their collective topic of concern: Uncertainty about a recurring pop-up event at the Washington Avenue Plaza, between Empire and Sterling Street.
 - i. Open Q&A allowed many residents to ask questions with clear concerns about what might be happening throughout the summer at this sidewalk plaza adjacent to a residential block. Big concerns were raised by multiple residents and the block president, Carmen Martinez, which included –
 1. Who is setting up the pop-up? What documentation and permits do they have (i.e., will there be food sold, trash collected, and if so, how frequently will it be collected, because there are already rat sightings in the current overgrown grass)
 2. Why were signatures not requested by residents, considering a block party itself needs local signatures?
 3. The hours of operation seem excessive as there is a list circulation which requested hours till 11 PM

4. Is there crowd control and security? Will it bring more people than the space can handle? And will it interfere with the adjacent Western Beef's driveway?
 5. Is the pop-up group the one who put up the new benches and art, which also had no community notice?
- ii. Chairman Norville and the committee replied with the little information it had.
1. Then benches and art are in coordination with NYC DOT, and I am Caribbean's art installation, which will be on site till April of 2026. <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pr2025/nyc-dot-art-commissions-five-public-artworks.shtml>
 2. The previous meeting had a very loose overview of the pop-up plan. without clear indications of food sales/ permits needed. They described it as an opportunity to boost local young adults who are entrepreneurial and looking for customers in the summer months. The committee had given general support to the idea and asked the group to keep the area clean and offer more details about vendors, etc. But the dates/ hours they presented were old, and so the consideration for full approval did NOT proceed to the full board yet. It was left pending Lancaster Youth's follow-up.
 3. As they are not present at this meeting to clarify things, approval will not move ahead of this committee. Chairman Norville will send a note to them through the CB office to make the community and committee's concerns clear.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes of May 14th, 2025.

- a. Rod Herbert requested small adjustments to last month's minutes regarding his concerns for DOT's choosing Brooklyn/ Kingston Avenues for safety improvements.
 - i. He specified his view that the criteria is not being followed concerning the Vision Zero program. He also stated Wingate Park is not part of the Safe Routes to School program and that DOT's plan is to use a street that has been removed from the Vision Zero priority corridor lists. He also noted concern with equitable distribution of street projects and asked that these be added to the minutes, which has now been done in a revised document.
- b. Calista DeJesus makes a motion to approve minutes with the corrections Rod flagged.
- c. Felice Robertson seconds the motion.
 - i. **Motion is approved by common consent.**

III. Dining Out NYC Application Review

- a. Taqueria El Patron – 51 Lincoln Road (Flatbush/Ocean Avenues)
- b. Antojitos Del Patron – 52 Lincoln Road (Flatbush/Ocean Avenues)
- c. Trove – 406 Rogers Avenue (Corner of Sterling Street)

- d. The committee reviewed the presented material for each of the above restaurants and found no issue with the proposals.
 - i. Paco Abraham makes a motion for CB9 to support all three dining out applications without modification
 - ii. Calista DeJesus seconds the motion.
 - 1. Motion is approved by common consent.**
- IV. NYC DOT Presentation
 - a. Brooklyn/Kingston Avenues - As NYC DOT did not attend, the committee is skipping their item on the agenda.
- V. Lancaster Youth Pop-up Presentation
 - a. As Lancaster Youth did not attend to give more context on their request, Paco Abraham makes a motion for CB9 to disapprove of Lancaster Youth's existing application because of a lack of project specificity and local resident concerns.
 - b. Valerie Flemming seconds the motion.
 - c. **Motion is approved by common consent.**
- VI. New Business
 - i. Recap of Outstanding Projects
 - 1. CB9 wanted a joint effort by BBG, the museum, residents, and the CB, but it seems DOT already coordinated with BBG in response to their letter of concern. DOT said there is a project and study in the works through DDC. CB9 will follow up with both DOT & DDC about any projects currently on the table. The last we heard from DDC was for an intersection redesign at Washington and Classon, but that itself was more than 5 years ago and never came to fruition
 - ii. Brooklyn Kingston Avenues
 - 1. CB9 office will follow up with DOT about the latest version of their safety plan, and if it can be presented to us quickly, rather than waiting till fall
 - iii. Q Train issues
 - 1. Chairman Norville said a letter of concern has been (or will soon be) sent out to NYC Runs, the MTA, and elected officials regarding the lack of coordination and transportation debacle that occurred during recent races
 - iv. Bus Idling on Lincoln Road
 - 1. Chairman Norville said he believes CB9 has reached out to MTA with the neighbors' petition
 - v. Pedestrian safety islands on Empire Blvd at Rogers & Albany Avenues
 - 1. Chairman Norville said the letters to DOT will go out soon. Rod Herbert asked the letter to remind DOT to reach out to FDNY and ensure a Vehicle Swept Path Analysis is done to ensure emergency access is clear
 - vi. Remsen Plaza re-evaluation
 - 1. The committee lightly discussed that there are congestion issues on the blocks adjacent to the rebuilt plaza, and no updates on traffic

flow have been given in half a decade. Paco Abraham suggests the board ask DOT to evaluate traffic flow from Schenectady Avenue on the west to Rochester Avenue on the East

vii. FDNY illegal parking on Rogers Avenue

1. Over a year has passed since Chairman Norville, District Manager Arnwine, and committee member Paco Abraham met with multiple leaders at the local firehouse. There has been zero follow-up on the agency's side, and so the CB9 board office will have to follow up and request answers.

viii. Lincoln Road (Ocean to Flatbush) potential redesign

1. The committee agreed in January to send out a survey to neighbors to gauge their thoughts on the current street design and solicit feedback for any potential changes. Chairman Norville said it has not yet been done but will be a focus moving forward. Calista suggested the committee make a site visit to assess the area.

VII. Adjourn

- a. MOTION- Andrew Magnus made a motion to adjourn at 9:31 PM. Paco Abraham seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous consent**