

**ESCR CAG Meeting -- July 28, 2022**  
(via Zoom)

**CAG members present**

Richard Heitler Christine Datz Romero Dov Goldman Dina Elkan Dianne Lake Michael Marino	Martin Barrett Susan Steinberg Tony Rivera Ayo Harrington Sam Moskowitz Nancy Ortiz
--	--

**DDC Presentation of Updates**

*Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo*

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Community Programming & Coordination
  - a. Community call for art posted on ESCR website
- II. Information Delivery
  - a. Community tabling: 7/26 Abrons Art Center; 8/18 Corlears Hook Park; 8/30 Hamilton Fish Park
- III. Hiring Compliance
  - a. 5/25 Spring Virtual Information Session – Resumes: recording & presentation available on website under “Featured Announcement” or “Past event recordings” [on this page](#).
  - b. PA2 Quarterly Update: 126 new hires, 419 total staff on PA2
    - i. Majority of new hires are provided through union labor
    - ii. Staff by residency chart on slide 7 [of the presentation](#)
    - iii. 30% progress made to date with Section 3 hiring
    - iv. M/WBE Utilization goals met in PMCM and exceeded in GC
- IV. Construction Progress/Approach and Environment
  - a. PA2 Construction Progress & Activities
    - i. Stuyvesant Cove Park north of 20th St.: sea wall construction and grading, Solar One temporary pavement installation in progress
    - ii. Stuyvesant Cove Park south of 20th St.: pile installation, ferry access remains open
    - iii. E. 23rd St. Intersection: utility work & floodwall construction
    - iv. West Service Road: floodwall construction
    - v. FDR Dr. NB exit 7 ramp: pile installation and ECS work under FDR
    - vi. Con Edison Facility: sewer reconstruction

- vii. Avenue C between E. 20th St. and E. 18th St.: ConEd utility work
- b. PA2 Construction photos updated on website
- c. Environment
  - i. PA2 AQM June 2022 update: PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of June
    - 1. On June 5 and 14, PM levels exceeded the PEL for 15 minutes of less
    - 2. On June 4, PM levels exceeded the PEL for 12 minutes near the 23<sup>rd</sup> St. intersection

## V. Q&A

- a. Martin: Several months ago, you had indicated that the north part of Stuyvesant Cove Park will be reopened towards the end of August. Is that still on target?
  - i. Desiree: Yes. The sea rail needs to be replaced there which is what we are waiting on, but significant progress has been made, and this is still our goal.
  - ii. Martin: And the southern part will be closed?
  - iii. Desiree: Yes, besides the area used to access the ferry.
- b. Diane: On the staff by residency chart, what is the “Other” category?
  - i. Desiree: Unsure, likely Rockland and Westchester. I will confirm that and let you know.
- c. Sandra: When the north part of Stuyvesant Cove opens up, will the detour also be revised?
  - i. Desiree: Yes. Once they are able to open the greenway north of 20<sup>th</sup> Street, that’s when the detour will change, and the greenway south of 20<sup>th</sup> Street leading into PA1 will have to close. They’ll wait until they absolutely have to do that.
  - ii. Sandra: CB6 doesn’t meet during the summer; would it be possible to come into a fall meeting to explain this?
  - iii. Desiree: Yes.
- d. Dina: For the schedule for opening the north end of the park at the end of August -- which wasn’t in the original plan -- we have no staff available for maintenance or garbage collection. And we won’t have any until early September. So, we have asked the construction team to keep the northern end closed until we have people available.
  - i. Desiree: Thank you for that.

## VI. PA1

- a. Construction progress/approach
  - i. Construction progress & activities
    - 1. Soil stabilization, deep sewer activities and pile install

2. Delancey Street utility, pile, and abutment work
3. Corlears Hook Bridge removed
4. Passive lawn partial closure for utility work
5. ConEd utility work near Montgomery St. and South St. starting again, Monday Aug. 1
6. Montgomery St. overnight work for pile installation prep and activities
7. ConEd work in Shared Use Path around E. Houston St. will be followed by ESCR retaining wall work
8. Partial closure of E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. pedestrian bridge 8/3-8/5
9. ConEd utility upgrades at E. 10<sup>th</sup> St. work upcoming
10. Ongoing partial FDR lane closures continue at various locations

b. Environment

- i. PA1 AQM June 2022 Update: PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of June
  1. PM levels surpassed the PEL for 15 min TWA on one occasion: 6/27 for 14 minutes

c. Access/Signage/Safety

- i. Improved site conditions: asphalt at E. Houston St. and Track House path completed, lighting around track house and at Corlears Hook Park under review, passive lawn drainage review in progress
- ii. Corlears Hook Signage: Corlears Hook ferry and temporary ramp
- iii. E. Houston Bike Greenway: bike and pedestrian interaction response in progress

VII. Q&A

- a. Dov: Thank you for the Gantt chart. I think it would be helpful to add a column showing what the planned end date initially was so that we can know where problems are. For the Delancey St. construction, it says work begins in Q3 of 2022. Does Q3 mean July, or is it in the fiscal year? No one from the city has reached out to us about the construction, and it's leading me to question some of the info on the timeline.
  - i. Desiree: It isn't the fiscal year, so it would be July, August, and September. The Gantt chart is the projected timeline. The work that has to happen at Gouverneur Gardens and East River Houses is hinging on agreements between the parties, the city, and the owners. All work is subject to change. The contractor is also free to start working on other items if things don't work out how they originally planned.

- ii. Dov: I think it would be helpful if this is something that we got quarterly for the CAG. I do think if there was another column indicating the projected end date the CAG would have a better understanding of where things are.
- b. Michael: For the lighting on the temporary bridge at Corlears Hook, is the construction why our lights have been on all day for the past few weeks? Also, we could really use a garbage bin at the end of that landing for people coming off the ferry. I understand that the contractor has certain leeway with construction activities. But what happened last month with the closure of the dog run, which was never in the project's scope, I never got an answer as to why the contractor did that.
  - i. Desiree: We did try our hardest to resolve that within 24 hours.
  - ii. Michael: I have no complaints about HNTB-LiRo but for the contractors who seem like they can just do whatever they want.
  - iii. Desiree: I'll follow up on the item with the contractor. I think there was a miscommunication in the drafting process. Next time we're on site we will check on the tree protection for the magnolias.
- c. Dianne: For the 6th St. bridge closure, partial closure means that the whole bridge is closed but just for a couple days?
  - i. Desiree: Yes. It is a temporary closure.
  - ii. Dianne: That starts on Wednesday morning?
  - iii. Desiree: Yes.
  - iv. Dianne: Is it expected to be completed on Friday?
  - v. Desiree: Yes.
  - vi. Dianne: What kind of signage will be on the west side of the FDR?
  - vii. Desiree: We're working on what signage we need to put up, and I have not seen the final plan. That will be our goal tomorrow.
  - viii. Dianne: If it's possible, could you indicate to people that if you come to 6<sup>th</sup> street and can't get across the bridge, you can go up to 10<sup>th</sup> or down to Houston right there along the FDR? You don't have to backtrack.
  - ix. Desiree: We're working on a revised access plan. We can include that in there.

#### VIII. CAG-only portion

- a. Dianne: I'd like to go through the Gantt chart that was provided at CB3, and if the CAG has questions, we can compile them in one place. The timeline seems like it is in pretty broad pieces.
  - i. Paula (to the whole CAG): If you haven't already, please take a look at the chart and send me and Tara your feedback.

- ii. Tara: Can we do that by the 5<sup>th</sup>?
  - iii. Paula: Yes, please send your feedback by next Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Dov: I think it's a great report and should be distributed more frequently because it's a nice visual aid.
  - i. Tara: Yes, this is something that we want them to present and update regularly.
- c. Dov: I still want to hear more about the parallel conveyance before the construction begins.
  - i. Michael: I agree; it's helpful if we can be proactive rather than reactive.
- d. Michael: I'm curious about the ConEd work that is simultaneously outside of the project and part of it, and how it relates to our group and what we have purview over.
- e. Dianne: What's the process like if there is a large change in what they are planning to do between now and mid-September because there is no CB3 meeting? The CAG is the only body that will be meeting with them. If something happens, are they prepared to talk to everyone and ensure that they are well-informed?
  - i. Paula: Regardless of if there's a CAG August meeting, communication is not supposed to stop or slow down between us and DDC. If there was a major change, they would likely contact me or Tara and we would in turn inform you all.
- f. Dianne: I saw they responded to questions about emergency preparations should a storm happen. That's something we didn't get into today, but moving into the Fall I think that is something that people get more and more anxious about. And we've had heavy rains in the past in August. So that's something that we should talk to them about.
  - i. Paula: So their response was too general?
  - ii. Dianne: Yes.
- g. Michael: Have we come to a conclusion about meeting next month?
  - i. Paula: No. We didn't get a very big response from the CAG. For the people here today, is there enthusiasm for an August meeting?
  - ii. Michael, Dianne: Yes.
  - iii. Michael: We should potentially send a message to CAG members who have stopped attending meetings if there is someone else in their organization who can attend in their place.
  - iv. Tara: We've been doing that, and we've had a few conversations about this. I do think a lot of it has to do with summer. If there was an alternative way in which information could be distributed between DDC and the contractors and not have it be a full-on CAG

that might be better. To have all of these agencies come when there might not be 10 CAG members, it's a bit of a challenge.

- h. Martin: Is the north part of Stuyvesant Cove Park supposed to be open and done by then? I would like to hear from them at the end of August to see if it's done, and if not, why not.
  - i. Dina: I strongly do not want them to open it until September because we do not have the staff to clean and maintain it. Solar One will advocate strongly for them to wait.
  - ii. Martin: I would just like some communication.
- i. Christine: I don't think low attendance should be a reason to not meet in August.
  - i. Michael: I think we should follow what CB's do and kick people off the committee if they miss an excessive number of meetings.
  - ii. Dov: Everyone is a representative of an organization; it should be the organization's responsibility.
  - iii. Paula: We are still working out if every organization that is on the CAG should remain on the CAG.
- j. Dov: The meetings and strong attendance are very important.
- k. Paula: Dianne, I'd like to ask you about the notes you took at the walk-through. Do you still want to open that up to the rest of the CAG?
  - i. Dianne: Yes. I feel that some of the improvements we asked for happened very quickly, but others are moving very slowly. We shouldn't be afraid to ask for periodic walkthroughs. People are staying in the park after dark without adequate lighting. I'm fine with sharing my notes, but I think we should have another walkthrough to let the city know that there are still issues that need to be addressed.
  - ii. Paula: And they have indicated that they're okay with having another walkthrough.
  - iii. Dianne: I haven't seen a lot of new issues so maybe another walkthrough isn't exactly what we need, but putting some pressure on them to fix these open issues.