

ESCR CAG Meeting -- September 28, 2023
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Frank Avila-Goldman Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Dianne Lake Michael Marino Sandra McKee Robin Schatell

[Link to September 12, 2023 CB3 presentation re: ESCR](#)

DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

1. Hiring compliance
 - a. Save the date for November in-person quarterly info. session with GOLES. More information including the date as various local organizations confirm their participation.
2. PA1 – 2023 Construction activities¹ (*see slide 7*)
 - a. PAIR Art installation – Artist spoke at CB3 meeting a few weeks ago. As more information about meet and greets/artists talks becomes available we'll share that.
 - b. Ongoing ConEd asbestos abatement work
 - c. Pedestrian detour shift at E. Houston St.
3. PA1 – Construction work sequencing
 - a. We're still where we've been; things are moving along, especially the fill.
4. PA1 – FDR Ramp shift and ConEd asbestos abatement
 - a. The ongoing ramp shift is moving along well, and the traffic has taken well to the shift in alignment.
 - b. The ongoing asbestos abatement of utility lines along the Greenway is common for ConEd work all over the city.
5. New access pattern for E. Houston St. overpass (*see slide 10*)
 - a. Starts around October 13th. Pedestrians will walk on the FDR on-ramp, separated from it by a barrier and chain-link fence. Similar set-up for the southern ramp.

¹ Photo galleries of ESCR's three main components (PA1, PA2, and Parallel Conveyance, or PC):
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/pa1-gallery.page>
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/pa2-gallery.page>
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/pc-gallery.page>

6. PA1 – Construction photos & video
 - a. Fill placement – Two types of it: lightweight fill against the bulkhead to reduce pressure/load; regular fill elsewhere. (see slide 11)
 - b. Construction video by DDC shows the fill process and construction more generally: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NN1IVhbbgg>
 - c. PAIR art installation at Corlears Hook temporary bridge
7. PA1 - What We've Heard
 - a. South Street / Montgomery Street Intersection: the ESCR team is scheduling a site visit with NYC DOT to review
 - b. Hurricane season / Coastal storm protection of construction site: IPC has been building out a Storm Readiness Plan
 - c. East River Park drainage inquiry: in progress; we'll provide the response before the next CAG meeting.
8. PA2 – Construction progress
 - a. Gates 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 have been installed. Gates 7, 8 (closer to the ConEd facility) are scheduled to be installed this year.
 - b. Stuy Cove Park
 - i. Area #1 –Open! Northern entrance at E 23 St at Solar One building is closed for upcoming Solar One construction work. Greenway remains open.
 - ii. Area #2 –Greenway and park below E. 20th Stret scheduled to reopen Fall 2023
 - iii. Greenway connecting to East River Park will open with Stuyvesant Cove Park South (Area 2).
9. PA1 – Air quality monitoring
 - a. Monitoring locations have not changed since the last presentation
 - b. August 2023 update
 - i. PM daily values did not surpass the PEL for this month
 - ii. Montgomery St. to Jackson St. area is where we're seeing the most activity on the monitors – most alerts are short, and dust suppression techniques are applied.
 - iii. PA2 numbers came in very late to us, so we'll have to issue them next week in an amendment to this presentation.
10. Lead discovery, notification, and mitigation
 - a. Elected officials asked us to prepare a slide (*see slide 21*) on this for stakeholders to better speak to the notification process when soil tests readings are greater than 5 mg per liter.
 - i. Throughout construction, soil samples are collected to analyze soil conditions and determine disposal methods.
 - ii. When the soil tests return with a lead reading greater than 5.00 mg/L, the Local Law 72 procedure is initiated.
 - iii. Generally, soil is left in the ground, undisturbed, and away from the public. Much of the soil in the park is NYC typical urban fill from when the park was created. Typical urban fill is found all over NYC.
11. Parallel Conveyance – Construction Progress
 - a. Location 1 –Jackson St. & Water St.
 - i. Water main installation on Jackson St. between South St. and Water St.

- ii. Water main installation on South St. between Jackson St. and Gouverneur Slip E.
 - iii. Utility relocation on Water St. between Jackson St. and Gouverneur Slip E.
 - iv. Utility relocation on Jackson St. between South St. and Water St.
- b. Location 2 –Lewis St. & Delancey St.
 - i. Utility relocation
- c. Location 3 –Baruch Dr. & Delancey St.
 - i. Test pits and soil sampling
 - ii. To begin watermain upgrades
- d. Location 4 –Houston & Avenue D
 - i. Test pits
- e. Location 5 –Avenue C and E18th
 - i. Test pits
 - ii. Tree guard installation
- f. Location 6 –Avenue C, E23rd to E25th
 - i. Test pits
 - ii. Tree guard installation

Q & A

Wendy: There's almost not enough time to cross all the way over Houston St. so you're making pedestrians wait where the pollution from the roadway is really bad. I wish the cross light could be adjusted so people could be able to cross all the way over. I've seen someone nearly get hurt more than once. Also, there was no signage on the south side telling people they could only cross over on the north side. Please take a good look at it, and think about the people who may not be able to trot across the street.

Desiree: We'll have to talk to DOT about the signaling. The last time I was there I saw plenty of signage, but we'll have to go back and make sure it's still there.

Wendy: Maybe put some on the ground and not just on poles.

Wendy: I'm hearing that the asphalt that's part of the artist installation is not sealed at all, and people and dogs are tracking the asphalt and taking it home with them. Also, I heard that the passive yard is closed; is that still the case?

Desiree: I was not aware that it was closed. They may have had to close it while they were installing the art, but I can get back to you on whether or not it remains closed. We can talk to the artist about the lack of sealing issue.

Wendy: I heard about the NY1 piece and the closing of the north part of the esplanade while the south hasn't opened. Is there any update on that?

Desiree: No, there isn't an update from the last CB3 meeting when we said that the contractor was reevaluating potential options about that. We received a lot of feedback about this from the community and the elected officials. If the contractor brings other ideas forward, it will be presented to the community and the elected officials before moving forward. As of now, we are not moving forward with that esplanade plan.

Wendy: I just want to reiterate the health concerns about our community members not having access to that waterfront.

Robin: At the Houston St. entrance there's one police barricade on the south side before you cross over. Could there be more barricades or a painted walkway? Also, when you're heading

north to go onto the fields the exit for the trucks to go onto the FDR is completely open; my dog almost walked in onto the highway. Is there any way to barricade that was well?

Desiree: We can bring that back. We had received some comments about that when we were on site, and we did add the striped pedestrian walkway.

Dianne: Do you know what size the pedestrian access lane on the FDR E. Houston St. on-ramp will be?

Desiree: I feel like it's comparable in size to the existing ramp, but we can get back to you with the dimension on that.

Dianne: The third phase of the art installation was to use sections of fence that had been removed. Do you know if he's reached that phase or when he will?

Parker: I think there's just one more piece of fence that needs to be installed, and the whole installation should be there by the end of next week.

Frank: I'm appreciative that the artist himself picked this neighborhood. Question: did you get any feedback when you pass the parallel conveyance noise complaint along and matching an 8 am start time?

Desiree: We won't be able to change the time of that. It aligns with the union schedule and several other items that need to stay at 7 am.

Frank: The specific ask for Gouverneur Gardens was to chop down some of our trees. I'm not having seniors walk down the long Water St. corridor with no shade. I don't want to be caught off guard with NYC Parks if they do want to chop down our trees and not replace them.

Desiree: It's my understanding that they're reviewing the availability of space for trees on that block. Parks has street tree planting guidelines that they use to plant street trees which is so many feet away from an active driveway, from underground utilities. Parks works with setbacks to make sure that when you plant a tree it doesn't conflict with existing features in the street as it grows.

Frank: OK, keep us posted in advance.

Frank: I would love to be involved with a walk-through of that horrible intersection at Montgomery St.

Frank: In another meeting where ESCR was covered, there were complaints made that there were piles of soil that did in fact have lead in them and that they were uncovered and the adjoining public was being exposed. Can you clarify what's happening in that regard? Are there uncovered piles with lead in them that are adjacent to any of the properties along the FDR?

Desiree: No. We've previously had a slide on this outlining that any hazardous or potentially hazardous material needs to be covered and kept a certain distance away from things. To my knowledge, anything on site that needs to be covered is covered.

CAG-only portion

Tara: Are there any concerns from this meeting that people want to follow up on?

Sandra: This isn't related to today's presentation, but I asked Desiree about the bioswales. I was wondering what the schedule is for that, especially with all this rain. Can we follow up about this? And how are they planning on distributing them between CDs 3 and 6.

Tara: Yes.

Christine: I wanted to report out that the Lower East Side Ecology Center indeed had a meeting with DDC, Parks, Sanitation, and the Mayor's Office. The conceptual design process for the compost yard will kick off soon, and it was a very productive meeting. I thank the CAG for supporting the request for the meeting because who knows if it would have happened without us pushing.

Tara: That's good to hear. Is it going to be a standing meeting as was also requested?

Christine: Well, let's see. They weren't promising standing meetings, but they definitely outlined where we are in the process and that they'll come to the Community Board and to us first to solicit feedback on the conceptual design. At least this process is starting, which is good. We'll keep everyone in the loop and let you know if the process isn't as good as we hope it will be.

Dianne: That's great, as is the news that the plan to remove the esplanade has been withdrawn. That was 2/3 of the agenda that we had come up with so far for the meeting we wanted with elected officials, so I agree that we need to keep a close eye on what happens next with those. I suggest that we regroup after we have the walk-through. If people who participate in that can brief the CAG on how that went and what we saw – I can help out with that. Then we should regroup about which concerns we want to share with the elected officials moving forward.

Tara: Yes, this does shift what we had planned to discuss with the electeds. I think it's a great idea to regroup after the walk-through. I do want to talk to Damaris about local hiring to see how she thinks it's going. GOLES is involved in the next hiring event, and that's promising.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:08 pm.