

**East Side Coastal Resiliency Community Advisory Group (ESCR CAG)**  
**September 29, 2022 Meeting #25**  
(via Zoom)

**CAG members present**

Dov Goldman Ditashiah Shah Martin Barrett Wendy Brawer Ayo Harrington Robin Schatell Dianne Lake Seth Coren	Trever Holland Shanique Sealy Richard Heitler Dina Elkan Charles Krezell Susan Steinberg Alberto Roldan
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**DDC Presentation of Updates**

*Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo*

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Hiring Compliance
  - A. ESCR Work with Us Events
    - 1. Henry Street Settlement’s Jobs Plus in-Person Job Fair
      - a) 10/4 from 2pm–5pm
    - 2. ESCR Quarterly Info Session: In-Person Career Pathways Event
      - a) 10/19 from 4:30pm–7:30pm
    - 3. 28th Annual 2022 Competitive Edge Conference
      - a) 10/31, 8am–3pm
      - b) More geared toward MWBEs
  - B. There are a few job openings currently available on online ESCR portal. The next hiring update will be provided in October.
    - 1. DDC held a “meet the team” forum geared toward MWBEs. The slides will be made available from that presentation.
- II. Construction Progress/Approach
  - A. PA2: Murphy Brothers work started 9/26
  - B. PC: Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued 9/13, but construction won’t begin right away.
    - 1. Construction is anticipated in Winter 2022. Presentations to community boards will happen when there is more information on that.
  - C. PA2 | Construction Progress
    - 1. Work in Stuy Cove Park is finishing up and is anticipated to open in November once planting is complete.

2. Presentation to CB6 is up on the website which has updated construction photos.
- III. Access/Signage/Safety
- A. PA2 | Greenway Access
    1. Just a reminder: upcoming change in greenway access once the northern part is open. Greenway between 20th and 23rd street will open mid to late October, which changes the detour.
    2. Access between PA1 and PA2 may be closed off so the contractor can finish work in the southern portion.
    3. This work is in coordination with DOT.
- IV. Construction Progress/Approach
- A. PA1 | October 2022 Construction Activities: work is progressing steadily and not much has changed. Please see the weekly bulletin and advisories for week-to-week updated construction activities.
- V. Environment
- A. PA1 AQM | August 2022 Update
    1. The PM daily value (24-hour TWA) did not surpass the PEL for the month of August.
      - a) PM 10 levels surpassed the PEL on 4 occurrences, but they were only for under 20 minutes or less, except one instance for 40 minutes on 8/26.
      - b) PM 2.5 levels surpassed the PEL on 7 instances, all for 18 minutes or less.
  - B. PA2 AQM
    1. Two occasions where the PM level surpassed the PEL for 15-min TWA:
      - a) On 8/12, ALP-S1 and S2 - PM2.5 and PM10 levels surpassed the PEL for 58 minutes due to staged trucks for asphalt paving operations. Flaggers directed the public away from the trucks.
      - b) On 8/18 into 8/19 PEL levels were surpassed after hours when there was no construction happening.
  - C. Access/Signage/Safety
    1. What We've Heard
      - a) Lighting: PA1 around track. The contractor has been working on the lighting within the park, around the track. It will take a bit of time for the contractor to fix, so there are 4 temporary lights installed.
- VI. Q&A:
- A. Wendy: Why did you stop including where the exceedances occurred in these updates?
    1. Desiree: We have so many monitors, and it would be a really long list to include them all. If that type of breakdown is preferred, we can include where the occurrence was in the park.
    2. Wendy: Are these exceedances occurring in the same spots?

3. Desiree: The contractor monitors where it's happening in the project area. Exceedances depend on where they're doing a lot of work currently, they are dispersed throughout the project.
  4. Wendy: My interest is how it's impacting people, so where people live or by the park. What about sound impacts?
  5. Desiree: There were some noise complaints near Montgomery St. during demolition, especially when it was night work. The contractor has really tried to limit the pile work they're doing at night. There haven't been a lot of noise complaints.
  6. Wendy: Can noise monitoring be included in the reports on the website?
  7. Desiree: We have received this request before, and we had responded that this type of information is not released for this type of project.
  8. Wendy: You said that PC now has its NTP; much of that work happens on Avenue D. I'm wondering what monitoring is planned and how the community is being notified about that?
  9. Desiree: There will be an in-depth presentation and more updates on PC once the team is more activated.
- B. Dianne: I walked through Asser Levy Park and saw that sadly some of the new trees didn't do well in the heatwave. What happens now and who is taking care of the new plantings?
1. Desiree: There is a warranty period for the plants; I can report back on what those specifically are. I believe there will be a replacement on trees that didn't make it through the heat wave.
  2. Damri: I can confirm that for you!
  3. Dianne: That'll be the same situation on East River Park?
  4. Damri: Correct. Any plants that don't make it through will be replaced. Unfortunately, the planting has to be done within the planting season, and when that species of tree is available. There is a chance we may cut them down right now, but they will be replanted.
- C. Dianne: In PA1 it looks like there's one section of flood wall standing in the lower half of the park. Is that correct?
1. Desiree: Yes, these are mockups; this happened in PA2 as well. The contractor has to do a mockup of the flood wall in the park to make sure the forms work; this will then be approved prior to constructing the wall. This is just temporary. The actual wall will be cast in place—it won't be moved from the park to the greenway.
- D. Dov: The last meeting we had a construction timeline saying how much work is going on. I liked that timeline better than the one from this meeting because it was more detailed. If the formats keep changing it's hard to compare and contrast.
1. Desiree: Moving forward for the presentation we are using the more graphic representation of the timeline. The other version is still on the website.

2. Dov: Can we get the other construction timeline updated and presented quarterly, because it really conveys more detail and information?
  3. Damri: That timeline is for construction and internal use and it is not intended for the general public. I believe this more graphic timeline will suffice for the community needs.
  4. Tara: This is something the CAG members specifically asked for though, so maybe we can figure out how to maintain both?
  5. Damri: We will look into it and will let Desiree both, but we're not foreseeing providing that detailed timeline; if there is a need, the one on the website is still current.
- E. Dov: I'll just restate what was said about PC (Parallel Conveyance)—where the trucks are going to be prepping is going to be in our backyards and front yards. I think it's very important that prior to construction starting we have a handle on it from our end as well.
- F. Robin: We know that the project is completed in sections—if there's a delay in one end, does that affect the other?
1. Desiree: So, 42% of the park will remain open at all times. It's not a clean division of "finishing one half, starting the other.". We have received several questions about, why is there overlap? We tried to break it down to show that there are subphases to the two main phases. This follows the overall construction approach.
- G. Robin: I still don't see much signage about what's open vs. what's not. On Delancey Street where the footbridge used to be, it's very dangerous; people are still crossing north and south at that point but there's no pedestrian crossing. If that could be looked at that'd be helpful.
1. Desiree: Yes, we can bring that up again with DOT.
- H. Charles: I was just over at East River Park and I noticed at least a dozen cars and trucks for construction with just one person in them while people were walking and running by. Is it possible to have them reduce that traffic somehow so they could ride with each other?
1. Desiree: At around 3 or 3:30pm, I believe that's when the ConEd workers go home. Were they construction trucks or personal vehicles?
  2. Charles: Some were pickup trucks, some were personal. They didn't have signs on them.
  3. Desiree: I believe that work is supposed to wrap up this year, but we can pass that along. I think people do come in with their own vehicles there. They're supposed to be driving 5mph with their flashers on, so we can do another reminder.
  4. Damri: We will ask the construction team to look into that.
- I. Wendy: I want to respond to the Gant Chart not being for the public. All of us commented on it, and I thought it was such a useful chart. I encourage it to stay on the webpage and encourage you to add a QR code that links to it on this presentation. Can you say where it is on the website?

1. It's on the [Project Updates](#) page. (Here is the [link](#) to the detailed PA1 Construction Timeline).
- J. Wendy: Does the dewatering and the asbestos removal add to the overall budget for this project?
1. Desiree: No. The dewatering is included in the original bid amount.
  2. Damri: And the asbestos removal was not in the original bid amount, but the contingency money covers it. We don't have a dollar amount approximation.
- K. Wendy: Are the numbers ready for PA1 regarding where the employees are coming from?
1. Desiree: We hope to have that ready for October since that's the next quarterly update.

### **CAG-Only Portion**

- I. Paula: Before we get started, I want to welcome Shanique Seeley, she represents Waterside Plaza Management, although I don't think I see her anymore.
  - A. It's been relatively quiet for the last few weeks, so we assume there aren't too many hot topics. The floor is open to raise any concerns or questions.
- II. Robin: I noticed there's only one wheelchair accessible entrance at the southern end of the park in Corlears Hook. I think there used to be another, but it must be roped off. I also notice that there really isn't a lot of signage about how you can enter the park. They need to figure out an accessible ramp on the entrance closest to Grand Street Corner. And again, I have concerns about Delancey Street and signage.
  - A. Wendy: I forwarded the response that Tommy got from FOIL; it's a 133-page report. Does this group want to get an independent expert to review it? It's important information that impacts community health. Or maybe there's an expert in this group.
    1. Tara: If there's an appetite for this, please email us!
  - B. Wendy: How are we doing regarding attendance?
    1. Paula: We're having trouble reaching the people who rarely attend the meetings, but I do think we're making progress. I see some people today who I haven't seen in a while. We had a vacancy for the Peter Cooper StuyTown management, and there is a replacement, Ray Moya, who was not able to be here today.
  - C. Tara: We know that the governor didn't extend the emergency orders which allowed for remote meetings. Community boards seem to be moving toward in-person meetings. Right now, we are going to continue to meet virtually for logistical reasons, and we are still in a pandemic. In trying to pinpoint attendance issues, there's a possibility the time may change, but for now we'll continue to meet virtually.
    1. If you have strong feelings about meeting in person, please let us know. (Later in the meeting: it seems many of you are still interested in meeting virtually).

- D. Wendy: Army Corps of Engineers put out a new plan for Harbor Wide Storm Protection. Can the CAG have a presentation about this—how does ESCR impact this and vice versa?
  - 1. Paula: We can take that back to DDC.
- E. Wendy: Somebody responded that they still had a FOIL that they haven't gotten a response to. How many of us have FOILs related to this project that they haven't received a response from?
  - 1. Tara: If there are long-outstanding FOILs, feel free to send us those numbers if you want us to intervene and we will follow up with DDC.
- F. Martin: What Desiree mentioned about 42% open at all times—certainly not 42% of Stuyvesant Cove Park has been opened. Maybe 10% that allows people to walk to the ferry. Take it with a grain of "sand."
  - 1. Dina: Because they had reopened Asser Levy Park and Murphy Brothers was still open, that contributed to the 42%. Closing Stuy Cove Park is not what we wanted, but that's the rationale.

Meeting adjourned approximately an hour early.