

**ESCR CAG Meeting Summary -- February 4th, 2021
via Zoom**

CAG Members Present

Anthony (Tony) Rivera Camille Napoleon Charles Krezell Chris Collins Christine Bookin Christine Datz-Romero Damaris Reyes Daphne Williams Dereese Huff Dianne Lake	Don Hartley (sub for Michael Marino) Dov Goldman Felicia Cruickshank Francine Jean Frank Avila-Goldman Freddina Fulton Jasmin Sanchez Jeff Gillers Martin Barrett Mercedes Harvell	Mike Arnon Kyle Athayde Nancy Ortiz Paul Burke Peter Davis Richard Heitler Sam Moskowitz Seth Coren Susan Steinberg Trevor Holland
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DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

Link to slide deck: [COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP \(CAG\)](#)

I. Project Updates

A. Overview of Contracts

1. Project Area 1

- a) Bid opening extended (to next Monday) to address questions from the construction industry
- b) Marginal impact on the overall timeline
- c) East River Park is open through Spring 2021

2. PA2

- a) In construction on Phase 1
 - o Asser Levy Playground & Stuyvesant Cove Park Solar One Area.

3. Parallel Conveyance (PC)

- a) Bid opening early 2021
- b) Open bid - no prequal list
- c) CCL onboard mid-2021

B. PA2: Anticipated Activities

1. In progress:

- a) Submittal Review: Environmental and Construction Plans
- b) Solar One construction fencing

- c) Greenway routing signage
 - d) Continue test pits and demolition activities
 - e) Engineers Field Office
 - f) Night work on FDR west service road between E 23rd & E 25th St.- test pits and water main & sewer work.
 - g) Greenway rerouting - this will go through various phases.
2. Upcoming:
- a) Excavate sidewalk and pedestrian walkway on the north side of E 23rd St., and median at the intersection.
 - b) Sewer work on the FDR east service road
 - c) Utility relocation misc. Area
 - d) Erosion control
- C. PA2 Construction impacts:
- 1. Traffic closures
 - 2. Noise
 - 3. Greenway and bike lane detours
 - 4. All transportation services to be maintained
 - 5. DSNY collection will not be impacted
 - 6. Access to buildings and schools maintained
 - 7. Park areas (outside of construction) will remain open
 - 8. Coordination with all required agencies
- D. PA2: MPT, Night Work Detour
- 1. Night work detour will head west on 25th street and up to 2nd avenue
- E. PA2: Greenway Detour / Solar One
- 1. It will remain in place till mid-February.
 - 2. Only closed when construction is in progress.
 - 3. A new detour goes in place on February 15th, 2021 see slide 9 for a map of the route.
- F. Communications
- 1. Community advisory includes updates on the project such as the greenway detour map.
 - 2. Construction bulletin highlights day and night work.
- G. Construction Fencing
- 1. Phase one- project information and education on construction fencing.
 - 2. Phase two- call for art and community engagement.
- H. Q&A
- 1. Susan: What happens to the trees that get cut down and will there be a replacement upon completion of the park?
 - a) Desiree: They will be replaced - DDC has design plans to replace those trees in Asser Levy Park.

- b) Jeffrey (DDC): There is a very strict restitution policy for trees.
 - c) Susan: What happens to the trees that get cut?
 - d) Desiree: We can take that back to NYC Parks.
2. Susan: There was a homeless encampment near the Solar One site, what is happening with these people?
 - a) Desiree: There have been ongoing conversations with the City about relocating those people to a safe location.
 3. Frank: When will we get more concrete details re: art for PA2?
 - a) Desiree: First part of construction fencing will not have community input. The second portion will be the public open call for art from community artists and children from schools which will then be printed on panels moving forward.
 4. Mike: Have you been coordinating with the United Nations International School about the impacts of transportation and travel?
 - a) Desiree: Nadine is in constant contact with these families, but not sure if there is any impact to the school from this project. If there are impacts, they will be communicated.
 - b) Mike: Specifically, I am referring to bicycle traffic.
 - c) Ahmed (DDC): Nadine is in constant contact with the schools to make sure they are aware.
 5. Dianne: To clarify starting the 15th pedestrians will have to leave the waterside at 20th street to go north?
 - a) Desiree: If you are walking you will have to cross Ave. C and walk along the sidewalk to E 25th Street and then cross back over Ave. C. No access to Stuy Cove Park where the Solar One site and asphalt begins.
 6. Dereese: Asser Levy to 18th street why isn't work being done?
 - a) Desiree: We are in Phase I of PA2 now. The work for Phase I terminates at the Solar One building area, then when we get into later phases then the remainder of Stuy Cove Park will be completed in two phases. Murphy Brothers Playground is part of another phase.
 7. Dereese: South of Solar One, throughout the rest of Stuyvesant Cove Park is where all the water came in during Sandy, why isn't this area being completed first?
 - a) Desiree: The flood wall is a system, and the flood wall has to be built in a certain phasing process based on discussions with the contractors.
 - b) Ahmed: It's an approach for phasing - there is no partial functionality of the wall depending on where they start

construction. The wall is only effective once the entire wall is built.

- c) Dereese: When does this happen?
 - d) Ahmed: For PA2 this is a four-year project. As we move along, we will give you the schedule for the whole project. A lot of work has to be done first removing the utilities for the wall to get installed. It's a process.
 - e) Dereese: Why is ConEd not piggybacking on what you are doing as well?
 - f) Ahmed: We are working with ConEd and they are a part of this project.
8. Charles: Can you speak about the traffic disruptions along 23rd st and the exit off FDR?
- a) Ahmed: FDR access will always be maintained. The detour will be in place from 10 pm - 5 am in the morning where you have to use the 25th st detour. This shouldn't be a problem because traffic is very low during this time period.
 - b) Charles: When you get off at 25th it takes you to 2nd ave? Is the entrance on the other side always open?
 - c) Ahmed: Yes, it will always be open.
 - d) Jeff: Also have to keep access to Waterside as well.
 - e) Charles: Are you always going to be able to go up north on Avenue C?
 - f) Ahmed: Yes, correct. This will be on and off.
 - g) Charles: Will there be signs on FDR?
 - h) Ahmed: We notified the state DOT and it is up to them to decide if signs are needed.

II. PA2: Floodwall

A. Phase I of PA2:

- 1. Rendering for floodwall found on slide 13 and slide 14
- 2. Utility relocation
- 3. Concrete foundation
- 4. Concrete floodwall
- 5. Site elements and materials

III. What We've Heard

A. Section 3 M/WBE: planning in progress for 2021

- i. Ongoing conversations with EDC and groups currently to prepare for this.
- ### b. Environmental Monitoring
- i. Monitors have been installed for a month -- which have been somewhat of a baseline.

- c. Project Budget/Reporting
 - i. Scott Stringer has a website: <https://www.checkbooknyc.com/> that if you put in the project ID you can look up current projects throughout the city, including ESCR.
 - ii. EDC will send the project ID to the group as soon as possible.
- d. Value Engineering
 - i. Process done through OMB. Value engineering studies are common for large projects like this, we want to make sure we are meeting the goals of this project -- the number of goals with this design is to protect the residents of the city, as well as spend money appropriately. For ESCR, this was not in the form of a report, but a conversation, and the City hopes to release as much information from this exercise as possible.
- e. Pier 42
 - i. Pier 42 is managed by EDC - they have an updated website for Pier 42 with all relevant contact information. Visit: <https://edc.nyc/project/pier-42>
- f. Q&A
 - i. Damaris: In regards to Section 3 and M/WBE there are ongoing conversations about this from a CAG sub-group that want to and we look forward to coming back with further questions.
 - 1. Desiree: We look forward to continuing conversations on this.
 - ii. Dianne: There was a constructability review that revealed flaws in the plans? Is that part of the value engineering review and is it represented in the FEIS?
 - 1. Jeff: Not sure about the flaws you are referring to but they are one and the same. Constructability review is tied into the value engineering study.
 - iii. Charles: We had talked about the need to alert the public about air quality issues, smells, scaffolding and we're only being advised about it quarterly, which is not responsive to the public.
 - 1. Desiree: The reporting will happen at a minimum quarterly, but if there are immediate issues those will be made public as they occur.
 - 2. Charles: If something happens on-site how will the public be notified if they need to evacuate?
 - 3. Jeff: OEM has a protocol for alerting communities and agencies should an emergency happen during construction, would rely on government partners.
 - 4. Ahmed: That is an action that has to be taken immediately.
 - 5. Charles: How will that be handled?
 - 6. Ahmed: OEM leads those efforts with NYPD, FDNY, and other emergency agencies.

7. Charles: If there is an ongoing air quality problem, the public will not know anything about it till a quarterly basis?
 8. Desiree: No if it is a concern the community board would be notified, building managements, and the other many ways of communication.
 9. Jeff: Furthermore, if air quality or noise monitoring are triggered the contractor has to stop and address it right away.
- iv. Tony: Is there an environmental specialist on-site? Do we have an ongoing list of prospective people/agencies who are being considered? What are the baselines of the air quality now, no insight or clarity on what levels trigger reporting requirements or action?
1. Desiree: We have environmental companies on board, so we will look into getting back to the CAG with updates. This project has an environmental specialist for the contractor but also on the DDC and City-side.
 2. Ahmed: There is one specialist but on the DDC side and construction side there is another specialist. Not solely relying on the company that works directly for the contractor but on the DDC construction side as well.
 3. Tony: There has been vetting for the environmental specialists?
 4. Ahmed: Yes, this information could be shared.
 5. Jeff: The names of our subcontractors are public record and have to go through the passport system and review them before approval. We can get back to you with those names.
 6. Tony: I would like to point out we have had two meetings now with limited clarity.

CAG-Only Portion

- I. CAG Updates:
 - A. Paula: Sub-group met on local hiring. Battery Park City and East Harlem also lack interim flood protection measures.
 - B. Tara: Outstanding questions on prioritizing questions moving forward. Wanted to continue regarding in-term flood protection and concerns over the timeline being proposed. Environmental consultant, we will get to the CAG once we get it. Any other concerns that people have in prioritizing.
- II. Feedback from CAG members:
 - A. Trever: Are people here comfortable with this format of getting information? Hoping to shift information to this meeting instead of at the community board level?

1. Damaris: For clarification, do you propose the structure of this meeting continue to be live on Facebook and open to the public?
 2. Trever: Instead of the team coming to the community board every month, results in duplicating the exact same meeting at CAG and at the community board meetings.
 3. Damaris: Community board is a good public meeting but I agree why do it twice and people can do it here.
 4. Trever: Might change the structure of this meeting.
 5. Tara: This meeting time is not accommodating to all.
 6. Susan: Not everyone gets to community board meetings.
 7. Damaris: If for some reason this comes up again, I would ask people to consider if it goes straight to the community board the CAG can't make considerations earlier.
 8. Frank: CB3 Parks meetings go long because ESCR dominates and other projects do not get heard.
- B. Tony: Are we satisfied with the pace of reaction from project managers? Is there a way Pratt Center can make a chart of key action items?
1. Tara: Valid concerns, please fill out the question log, or email us with direct questions so that we can follow up with DDC.
- C. Frank: I think it would be helpful to make requests to understand the layering for oversight for soil and air quality reporting. To know who is working on what and actions that will be taken. Also, add a reminder that soil and air quality monitoring will always be taking place.
1. Tony: Should be easy to back up with some information.
 2. Martin: Contract number can be found in checkbook NYC.
- D. Dianne: Budget and interim flood protection. How have we gotten together to talk about the budget and interim flood protection?
1. Tara: There is no budget or IFPM team as it is a bit outside of ESCR scope. If individuals want to work alongside please let us know.
 2. Dianne: I would be interested in IFPM, seems like there is a long period of time where there is no IFPM.
 3. Tara: Are there other folks who want to participate? Perhaps, Dereese? We will reach out to you separately.
- E. Damaris: Confused by the structure of this meeting, agendas are only for presentation not CAG portion. Maybe with a structure meetings will be more efficient.
1. Tara: We have done meeting summaries, sent follow up emails, and will send a more detailed agenda for this portion of the meeting. Invite people to reach out if they want to be included in special interests groups.

- F. Dianne: Back to the budget asking for two things. One, what money is being spent? Also the budget plan, where are they thinking they will spend money, when, and on what?
 - 1. Tara: In addition to what is being spent, where it will be spent. We can continue that conversation.
 - 2. Martin: The website with budget is not frequently updated.
 - 3. Dianne: Would be great if someone who understands budgeting helped us understand this too.
 - 4. Martin: Funding from a variety of sources with hundreds of items.
- G. Martin: I am concerned about security, individuals to get out of Stuyvesant Cove park have to walk back to 20th street. Could be problematic to some individuals and frightening for others, should have coordination with the NYPD.
 - 1. Chris: They are clearly moving into the northern portion of the park already which will make the park uninhabitable.
 - 2. Tara: We will talk to them about this.
- H. Chris: I am surprised that OMB has not updated their budget and is tracking it. They have to be watching this money somehow.
 - 1. Tara: We will follow up on this.
- I. Tara: Recap on all action items discussed:
 - 1. Next meeting will have a better formulated agenda.