

## **Community Board 1, Queens – Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**

**June 20, 2023**

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali, at 6:30 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:**

Daniel Randell, Assistant Director, Government & Community Relation, and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) engineers presenting on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Direct Fixation track project. E, M, F and R trains will have service changes and track replacement. Queensbridge-21<sup>st</sup> Street and the Queens Plaza Station will feel service change impacts. Shuttle service will be provided. Allyson (Ally) Bechtel Director, Rail Network Planning & Operations Improvement in attendance. (Presentation attached).

Daniel Randell Everyone thank you for having me here today. My name is Danny Randell and I'm, an Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations for MTA, New York City, Transit and I am joined here tonight by my colleague, Ally Bechtel, who is from MTA our Rail Operations Planning Team and tonight we're going to present on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street direct fixation project. Long story short: this is a project that's going to repair the tracks along the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street line the tracks run through the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street tunnel, and they are different than many of the other tracks in our station because they are directly fixated onto the track bed, whereas in other places you see the wood planks and they're clipped on and they go along like that. These are directly built into the track bed, which is a standard practice now in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street tunnel, is a newer tunnel, so that's become standard throughout our system with any new tunnels, but it's time for us to replace these tracks along a certain segment. I wanted to kick it over to my colleague, Ally Bechtel, who will be able to deliver a presentation regarding this.

Allyson Bechtel gave presentation.

### **Question and Answers:**

Daniel Aliberti I have two two-part question. One is the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street tunnel, the shuttle that's running through there where does it terminate on the Queens side, does it terminate at 21<sup>st</sup> Street, or did you say it terminates at 36<sup>th</sup> Street. The other part of the question is there are cracks in the roadbed you're going to affix the track directly to the road bed, putting some a shock absorber thing in there, so it doesn't crack the concrete again and how long will that repair last?

Allyson Bechtel I can start by speaking to the service. The shuttle train will operate to 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge between Lexington Avenue and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street makes a stop at Roosevelt Island and then terminates at 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge, it's just going back and forth on the track that's available for service. The work extends beyond 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge Station, but in terms of the service, the train will terminate at 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge, but there is some track work that's going on that extends beyond the limits of the station, 36<sup>th</sup> Street will have the R train.

Daniel Aliberti The roadbed is cracked, now I assume from the vibration from the train going through there. When you repair it, are you putting the track right on the road, better you're going to be putting some shock absorbing substance or device to limit the pressure banging whatever it is vibration on the roadbed, so that cracks don't appear so easily? How long will this repair last.

Allyson Bechtel I think the question about how exactly the tracks are fixed is really one for the engineers I'm not sure of the exact materials used. The cracks are there because the track is due for replacement. It's reached the end of its youthful life and I also think it's probably also a question for the engineers as far as whether this track will last longer than the previous life span, that I can't answer either.

Daniel Randell I think it's fair to say that the last go-around that we did for this lasted over 40 years before needing to be replaced. We are confident that our engineers are going to seek to not need to come back so frequently. That's why we do direct fixation. They are more reliable, they do last longer. It creates less day-to-day maintenance needs, I don't know about 40 years specifically or are there specific means and methods, but I would be pretty confident in the ability or the desire for this team to make this last as long as possible as long as the technology and the construction methods allow it for because you know we got this first time last of 40 years, so it's at a pretty high standard, so I think we would hope to meet that. That's not an exact quote, but this is not the kind of work that we want to come back and do frequently.

Kathleen Warnock We've had some changes because of construction over the last few weeks on the N train and I found this time in pretty much all other times that having personnel there is the best way to get people from one place to the other and explain what's going on. Some people they won't even look at the signs that are taped to the pole at the entrance of the subway, so I'm, hoping that, as you apportion the funds you keep people on the street, at least rush hour every day, that there is that the service is changed in this major way.

Daniel Randell There's recently been a fundamental policy shift in the role that station agents play in our system. The folks who have typically sat behind the booth are out of the booths, so they are talking to folks. They are doing exactly what you're saying troubleshooting directions, making sure people know where they got to go. No matter what, independent of this contract itself, that's a policy that the MTA is implementing at almost every subway station that has a booth attendant, They are getting out of the booths and they are conducting in-person face-to-face customer service. That will definitely be happening on this project and at the stations along this project. There will absolutely be folks out there clearing up any confusion. That was exactly why we wanted to do this policy change to make sure what you're talking about takes place.

Kathleen Warnock Between the M being out of service in Queens during this time and the R which generally stops running about midnight. This puts the people who live along that line in worst place for transportation after midnight, is there going to be anything like shuttle buses along the lines?

Allyson Bechtel Not running the M on Queens Boulevard is certainly going to inconvenience people. I did I hope I mentioned, but I might not have that during the day there will be increased R service in part to compensate for that. When we get to overnights the R overnight is typically cut back it doesn't run on Queens Boulevard in any case. Overnight the E runs local, so the night service will actually be less of a difference because overnight the R and the N do not run on Queens Boulevard. But yes, during the day, we recognize that it's going to be very inconvenient to not have the M, that's why we're looking to increase our service to impart compensate for that.

Dominic Stiller Quick question for clarification. It says: shuttle train every 20 minutes. Does that mean each way or does that mean you're waiting 40 minutes if you miss one?

Allyson Bechtel No, it's a 20-minute cycle. If you miss one, it's 20 minutes until the next one going in the same direction.

Dominic Stiller To clarify, the F will stop at Queen's Plaza?

Allyson Bechtel Correct, yes.

Dominic Stiller When do you think it'll be all finished and back on the stopping at 21<sup>st</sup>?

Allyson Bechtel We are estimating six months so that will be sometime in February.

Doreen Mohammed Six months is a long time and honestly, MTA service has been pretty unreliable and problematic for a while and the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge stop specifically, serves as a hub for the largest public housing complexes, and there are a lot of people who depend on it. Can we not give folks there free transportation or something, a compensation for all the stress that's going to be caused. Six months is a really long time. We saw

how the station closures in Astoria negatively impacted businesses and communities. I wanted to hear what the thinking is, if you guys are going to do with all this money and resources and outreach, why not that make it free like the way buses were free, as with the pandemic. I feel like there needs to be something more than just "oh, this is inevitable."

**Daniel Randell** We do this kind of work all throughout the City of New York at a pretty constant basis. Living in the community, not directly at a 21<sup>st</sup> Street Queensbridge, but living in Western Queens, myself, I completely understand the lifeline that serves. I will be very frank with you: I don't expect for there to be some free transportation service other than the shuttle bus that will operate between 21<sup>st</sup> Queensbridge and Queens Plaza. I'm happy to look into that and raise that concern and see if it is a possibility, but I would not want to set the expectation for you that is something that could happen, but I appreciate that, like I totally understand so I will look into it, but I can't promise anything.

**Doreen Mohamed** Okay. I appreciate that, maybe a voucher or something to help residents, especially folks of extremely low income, this is really going to be horrendous.

**Daniel Randell** What I could recommend for folks, especially for low-income New Yorkers, is to take advantage of our reduced fare and Fair Fare programs that literally cut the fares in half for folks who make under a certain income level. I would encourage everyone who's able to sign up for that. We recently announced that ID NYC participants-if that is your only form of ID, that you can apply to Fair Fares and you can apply to the paratransit and reduced fair programs that the MTA has to offer. I would highly recommend folks looking into those as well for any relief from the fares, it is totally valid. They're run by the city. You can apply through The City of New York for Fair Fares directly for reduced fare. You can call 511 if you're a senior citizen or have a qualifying medical disability. But if you're looking for strictly relief on transportation fares based off income, then the New York City Fair Fares program, which your Council Member and the Community Board have worked together to get these applications going. There's over a quarter million New Yorkers who take advantage of the fare program and so we're hoping to expand that number. This could be a prime opportunity to expand that program to expose folks to this opportunity that they may not know about, and I think that's a very good call.

**Doreen Mohamed** That should definitely be in the outreach, but I also don't think people should have to pay anything for non-existent service. That really needs to be an intentional effort from the MTA to make sure people can get to and from work, hospitals, health fairs. We will do what we can, but you know not everyone can qualify. People are undocumented, there's so many other barriers that honestly just taking the public transit, free and accessible would make a huge difference.

**Daniel Randell** Fundamentally, I understand exactly where you're coming from. For undocumented folks I highly recommend they look into the ID NYC program. If you know folks who are of that community, I highly recommend they look into the ID NYC program. ID NYC has ways for folks who are undocumented to have access to bank accounts, to city services, to different things and to reduce fare MTA programs. I agree with you Doreen. That will be something that when we do outreach for this and in this area we will heavily promote to get as many folks signed up as we possibly can. So.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you Daniel for that information. Does anyone else have a question? No one, thank you, MTA for this great presentation and giving us all the information, so we're prepared to travel.

**Daniel Randell** Yes and thank you Marie and thank you to Florence and everybody who asked questions to Ally for her excellent presentation. Everyone have a good rest of the evening.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION:**

##### **Adoption May 2023 Minutes**

**Motioned by Amy Hau; Seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva**

##### **Chair Report:**

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** My report is simply to remind everyone that we will be meeting in person at The Astoria World Manor. I'm sure Florence will send that info out bright and early so we'll be there in person. It would be great to see everybody, it's been a while in person. I also want to inform everyone on the Community Board, especially maybe Kathleen, I didn't have time to mention this-that the Frank Sinatra students have completed their mural today in the municipal lot and I think everyone should go and look at it. It's unbelievable, the creativity, the work, the enthusiasm it is just phenomenal and it's a great asset and they did a wonderful job. So take a walk, go to the municipal lot on Steinway and see what these kids have accomplished and that's my report and have a nice summer. Thank you.

##### **District Manager Report:**

**Florence Koulouris** Thank you, hi, good evening, ladies and gentlemen, it's wonderful to see you all here tonight. We have two new amnesty centers in our district for new immigrants seeking amnesty here. We have no new homeless shelters this month. There were no additions to the homeless shelters that we already have. Parks department is going to be doing several renovations. The handball courts at Halletts Cove are delayed and the renovations will not be completed until November, but Halletts Cove Park is open and operating. The Van Alst Court must close due to a neighboring construction. Jets need to be installed and the fitness area will be closed for four months for safety of the community, but to be determined on dates due to weather permitting. 16 Oaks Grove is working on storage issues due to a sewer project and other work in the area. Our office will follow up with DDC (Department of Design and Construction) regarding that spot. Astoria Park will have work done by Champlain Hudson Power Express this summer. There will be several boring holes created and it will not impact other events scheduled in the park or the holidays. The RVs between 19th and 20th Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> streets to 49<sup>th</sup> Street, there were two separate actions. The first action was at six o'clock in the morning action, that action was to offer services. The second action was 24 vehicles were removed. People who are on this meeting will later under Elected Officials will give reports on this. It was a multi-faceted event that took a lot of coordination and I'm very grateful to those who took care of this. An issue has occurred with Boulevard Gardens and Hell's Gate Bridge use. Our office has put the Board of Boulevard Gardens in touch with the MTA to resolve the issue. Senator Gianaris's office was already working on the situation. Our office had a conversation with them, and Senator Gianaris's office is working with other elected officials for over four months to come to a common ground with the MTA and Amtrak. We requested Senator Gianaris's office to attempt to have an MTA and Amtrak meeting. They will report on this during Elected Officials' report. I wish you all a wonderful summer. We will be sending you all the calendars and all the updated information for our fiscal year 2024 and a Happy New Year. Thank you for being here and thank you for everything you do. Have a great summer.

##### **Committee Reports:**

###### **Consumer Affairs Committee Dino Panagoulas**

If we can open up the June 2023 liquor license cover that Florence sent over to us. There are 25 sites that are requiring a renewal or issuance. There are three sites that we entered stipulations with to ensure that they are doing a couple of things; they are working concurrently with NYPD to make sure that any concerns that they may have are being addressed and then another stipulation where they are getting an additional security guard to help, especially during the summer months where we typically know that there are more folks out and about enjoying their time to ensure that folks are in fact safe in that particular business. There were no huge flags or huge concerns or anything of that sort that were raised to us or by the numbers that we were looking at. At this point in time, I'd like to make a motion to approve and move forward with the 25 that are currently on that liquor license list.

**Motioned by Jean Marie D'Alleva; Seconded by Antonella DiSaverio (No one opposed.)**

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you any objection? Seeing none, the motion, carries.

**Consumer Affairs Committee** Dino Panagoulas Thank you. I appreciate it and just really quickly again because we're entering into the summer months and there's a lot of businesses that are there. We're trying to ensure that they are in fact going to be good neighbors, because we will not be meeting what I would advise folks, if there are issues with kind of any of the businesses not being good neighbors call the District Office, Florence will be great at making sure that she stays in contact with me so we can address those particular items. Phone number to the District Office is 718-626-1021 and just put and place your concerns with Florence, who will then be able to communicate that with myself and if we need to meet as a committee, we can do that. I wish everyone an amazing and wonderful summer and I cannot wait to see everyone in person.

**Land Use and Zoning Committee** Elizabeth Erion You all should have received a letter that is proposed to be sent to City Planning, which outlines all of the issues that you brought up that were zoning related and also the recommendations, and we tried to put them into the recommendations from the Land Use Committee. After you met on the 16<sup>th</sup>, we had a meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup>, and we tried to integrate all of the issues and concerns that we had with yours and this month we came up with the letter that was actually going to be sent to City Planning, pending your ratification of its changes. You'll see in the first paragraph of the letter that the Committee basically supported the movement and the text amendments towards carbon neutrality, and we support what City Planning is doing with a couple of tweaks and suggestions for things that they can do through zoning that would help residents and also help the city. There was a motion proposed in the letter to support with recommendations the proposed text amendments. If we can put that on the floor and discuss it and then, have a vote on the motion.

Motioned by Gerry Caliando; Seconded by Tom Ryan (No one opposed.)

**Land Use and Zoning Committee** Gerry Caliando If I may I want to give a lot of credit to Liz. You have to understand, this is a very complex Zoning Resolution Amendment and Liz dissected it she asked for comments, comments were given, and there are two more segments to this Zoning Text Amendment for The City of Yes, which still have to be gone through with the Committee, but this is obviously a very strong and powerful push in the right direction for carbon neutrality for the city and I strongly think that everybody should vote for it. Thank You.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Elizabeth I want to be clear that the Committee voted yes with just suggestions, not stipulations.

**Liz Erion** Not stipulations. However, the Department of City Planning interprets that, whether it's a conditional approval or just a straight approval is up to them. I don't think the Committee wants to stand in the way of any of these going forward. Except with some suggestions, how they should be changed, which were very minor. It was an extensive piece of work and I must warn you that when the housing component comes, it's going to be more controversial and more technical probably longer, a lot more text amendments involved.

**Antonella DiSaverio** I know that there were some comments made about the health impact regarding converting solar energy and then also someone made a comment about costs of electricity. That's not part of this right? Those considerations will be part of another iteration of comments that we would make well in the future.

**Liz Erion** Let me just explain that they're not within the purview of the zoning text amendments and it's not something that City Planning or the City Planning Commission will dictate in terms you know, just as they won't dictate aesthetics or what building dig, what kind of building supplies to use etc., but there are issues that they really should be looking at that we told them in the first part of the letter, which were just statements from the Community Board about the concerns which had to do with the cost of utility service and producing the service, bringing it to the household and also the whole dirty electricity issue that you brought up. These are things that I think have to be followed up in a separate action by another Committee in the Board. Perhaps it should be brought up to the Council Representative as part of this may there, but as far as I know it's outside of the purview of the zoning amendments and anything that City Planning can dictate, we can only suggest which was done a couple times that they perhaps sit down and think about how zoning can affect, for instance, the placement of bioswales they work well in some places and not in others. That was one of the issues that came up in the Committee. We said, think about it, is there something that zoning can do to help make them better with respect to water retention, etc., we can't mandate that companies use certain systems. We can only suggest that City Planning allow, you know an incentive of some sort through zoning and that's as far as we can go, which is what we did a number of things there do suggest exemptions or additional for things that they do. Your points were well taken and they were included in the letter to perhaps get them to think about it, but they weren't part of the suggestions for the zoning text amendment.

**Antonella DiSaverio** I think what we could do, the Environmental Committee and Consumer Protections, maybe we could get together and do an additional follow-up on those points and send another letter. Hopefully we can do that.

**Liz Erion** It's not City Planning's purview.

**Antonella DiSaverio** I understand it would have to be another avenue where we would get these considerations onto the docket, but okay, thank you. Elizabeth!

**Liz Erion** That's a really great job for you and Marie to discuss, if the Board wants to do it that way.

**Brian Hunt** I actually just want to follow up on that, I second that, whether there may be even a creation of a subcommittee that discusses it. It is new technology. It's new ideas. It doesn't necessarily fall into the purview of what we're discussing tonight and it or zoning and land use, but the whole creation of this new energy and clean energy and maybe there's parts of it that are a bit outside of the Environmental Committee and also the Land Use Committee and maybe more readily addressed by some sub labor committee or something along those lines. I follow up on what she says and second that as well down the road.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you for that Brian, if you could put that in an email to the Board Office, so we can follow up. Anyone else have a question? Any other discussion? We have a motion on the floor.

**Amy Hau** Conducted roll call (for Text Amendments for Carbon Neutrality). We have a total of 32 in favor and one abstention. Thank you very much.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** The motion carries. Thank you and once again, I want to reiterate with Gerry, Elizabeth makes it look easy, she writes it so we all understand it, and so we thank you Elizabeth.

**Elizabeth Erion** You're welcome, you're very welcome and thank you for what you said.

**Transportation Committee** Dominic Stiller We had a meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, where we saw the presentation by the MTA that we just saw now. It was very much the same. Secondly, we continued the discussion about the resolution that was proposed by one of our committee members, Adam Fisher Cox, regarding daylighting as a standard installation. An installation intended to support the DOT in their installation of these traffic calming devices as standard practice. The resolution was emailed to everybody in the same email with the liquor license email that Dino mentioned from Florence a few days ago. After continued discussion, the motion was a was made by Tom Ryan to approve it, it was seconded by Huge Ma, and the Transportation Committee voted unanimously to approve it six to zero, and now we bring to the Full Board for a vote so that we can send it to DOT.

Motioned by Gerry Caliando; Seconded by Tom Ryan

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Any objections, no one? Any questions, no objections, the motion carries. Adam put a lot of work into this and did a lot of investigation and kudos to him, but also making this clear to us exactly what it was so we didn't panic when we heard daylight, so thank you, Adam.

**Environmental/Sanitation Committee** Antonella DiSaverio A recent national toxicology report showed that fluoride, at any level, is a neurotoxin. I'd like to explore that in a future committee meeting to see how that impacts our drinking water in our area so more to come on that and happy summer everyone. Thank you.

## **BUSINESS SESSION:**

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES – Announcements:**

**Anthony Iuliano Director of Community Affairs unit of the Mayor's Office** I wanted to give an update on what the city has done with regards to the Industrial Business Zone (the IBZ) and within your community board that had a chronic condition of RVs that parked there. Originally it was brought to our attention here at our office from Florence the District Manager and she had done a couple of walkthroughs with one of our Borough Directors, Ido Shargal. We were aware of the problem, and we were able to coordinate thanks to the 114 Precinct. I see Police Officer Tovar is on the call, and also Sergeant Huang, to go out there. Along with the Chief of Patrol's Office Chief Chell along with Inspector William Glenn, have formed, what's known as a Community Link Program. A Community Link Program takes various chronic conditions that sometimes the local precincts have a problem getting a grasp of. This was one of the locations that we decided to roll and fold into the community links program, and we also have Sergeant James Lazada on the phone who also give an update on this. From a community end perspective, the NYPD did a really a good job, considering the logistics that are involved in this type of an operation. They were out there last Thursday and the recap that we had received from Inspector Glenn's staff and, like I said Sergeant Lozada will give you more information on that, and also with the 114 Precinct that they were able to tow away 24 Vehicles during that operation. Ten were consider derelict vehicles, which was really coordinated and handled by the DSNY (Department of Sanitation). The other 14 vehicles that were towed were rotation tows within the 24/7 happened to be RVs recreational vehicles. Just to give you an idea, the RVs are problematic, not just in the Astoria section or within Community Board 1, but this is a problem that we're seeing throughout the five boroughs. Part of the problem that we have as city agencies, and here at the Mayor's Office is when you tow these vehicles there were also occupants within the vehicles and they're using them as their home in most cases. Even if you can remove the person from the vehicle, you now create a homeless condition that we're going to have to deal with and coupled with what's going on with the asylum seekers it is a little bit of a perfect storm. Quite honestly, however, the NYPD was successful, along with Sanitation to tow seven of the vehicles. Six of the RVs were considered derelict vehicles they've been destroyed. One, they could try to reclaim it, but we don't think that that's going to be the case and they also issued summonses to the remaining vehicles as well. I think if I if Sergeant Losada is on I would like him to maybe jump in.

**Sergeant James Losada NYPD** The six vehicles that were derelict there were no occupants in them at the time. We were able to take them that night, Thursday into Friday. I wasn't there for the operation. Sergeant Huang of the 114<sup>th</sup> Traffic Safety lead it, and one of my officers, Officer Husch, who covers Queens North and Queens South for our Community Link Initiative. He is actually on the call; he could speak more to it. Just a quick synopsis if they're not occupied then they're truly derelict, because there's no one claiming ownership to it so we took those. When they're derelict they're not removed by us they're removed by DSNY. I will let P.O. Husch speak to it, he was on scene, and he did a lot of good work he was there very late and then back in the early in the morning.

**Police Officer Husch** We went out there about 7 P.M and we started with Sanitation. We did an outreach operation with Homeless Services a week before and when we did that outreach operation, the 114 Traffic Sergeant Huang who's, been very instrumental in making all of this happen. He took note on which of the RVs were abandoned, which RVs people didn't answer, and took note of which ones that would be the easiest to take because it looked like they hadn't been lived in, in a long time. We had a list of ones that we could go after first. I went with Sanitation. We went over, we started on 43<sup>rd</sup> (Street) between 19<sup>th</sup> (Avenue) and 20<sup>th</sup> (Avenue), and we took a whole bunch on that block and moved off of the block. I personally spoke to two occupants on that block, who moved them, and I was there from 7 P.M until 8 o'clock in the morning, 13 hours straight and I didn't see them come back while I was there. I don't know where they moved it. Some of these people that I spoke to are not necessarily living in them. They work in some of those businesses there and they're using it to sleep. I explained to them that that's not acceptable that there are other people that work over here and need the parking. It's also quality of life, condition between whether it's them or some other people dumping sewage in the street. All the things that you guys have complained about. We towed we made about I ended up moving about three of them. Those were the ones I would answer. Throughout the whole night, three people answered that were able to move them, others answered and couldn't move them or claimed them hook them up to their cars. And unfortunately, if it's an attached trailer, then I can only have them move on so I wanted to focus on the ones that I could definitely get out. I had sanitation mark them. We removed seven to eight like I said, I moved three, and then we violation-towed one of the trailers. We were in the middle of violation-towing another one and the owner came and moved it. I guess that would make four that moved. I contacted multiple people while I was there. I made it explicitly clear that it was neither the city, the NYPD's, nor the community's goal to make any of them homeless for those that are living them as their primary home. We have to figure something out. I want you to know that between City Hall, the NYPD Chief Patrol's Office, the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct that we're on top of this. We are doing the best we can. It's not going to be something that we're going to be able to go in and do in one night. We are going to try and slowly chip away at the issue, get the people that need services and then deal with what the remainder is from there. Thursday night was not the end. We have another outreach operation coming up either this week or next week. It is going to be a continuous thing.

**Anthony Iuliano** Just a dovetail on that for a second, thank you Officer Husch for that and all your cooperation and your efforts there in that area. We also want to thank the Community Board for flagging this and bringing it to our attention. It was something that was put on to the radar screen very early by your District Manager and the team there. We would like to thank you for that, and for also inviting us for the walkthroughs to get a better sense of what's actually going on. Thanks again to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct for assisting big on this one. As Officer Husch mentioned this is something that we try to tackle we try to educate and warn at first Then at some point there has to be some enforcement and we're folding in the proliferation of RVs that are happening throughout the city, with the overnight truck parking task force that we created that the Mayor's Office under the Mayor's Office of Operations. We sent out a survey to try to address these conditions. It's not just the box, trucks and trailers and the cabs that are left overnight on many of the city streets, but the RVs as well. So again, thank you to Community Board 1 for flagging that. Thank you.

**Dominic Stiller** I heard that there may be an attempt to increase the cleaning regulations in this industrial zone. Is there anything moving on that with the Department of Sanitation putting up a once-a-week alternate side.

**Anthony Iuliano** To the best of my knowledge after some of the discussions we had, there is no leaning towards or creating any type of ASP rule at this time in that area.

**Rosemary Yelton** I wanted to clarify. Do you have someone from DHS or Coalition for the Homeless or Breaking Ground or BRC with you when you are conducting that outreach prior to towing?

**Anthony Iuliano** Yes, there's always the initial outreach to try to educate and say this is something that's going to be enforced. Police Officer Husch can you touch upon the first education outreach that you did?

**Sergeant James Losada** I could speak to that I'll jump in on that Sergeant Losada here. We had a morning outreach operation on June 6th. We sent out 114<sup>th</sup> accompanied by DHS Outreach Officers. The outreach agents who visited 30 of the RV trailers in the area and they interacted with nine individuals and offer them services, all of whom refused. We understand that because we're dealing with this city-wide, so we want to make sure we're reaching everybody. We currently as we're having this meeting right now, the 114<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Huang, is out there I believe with three to four DHS agents as well conducting an evening outreach. In case we missed anyone who may have been at work in the morning or been away, we're connecting with the evening outreach. We are trying to develop a regular cadence of outreach so that we offer services to anyone in the area who may need it. However, what we have seen is that most people do not consider self themselves homeless in that situation, but regardless we start trying to make sure that they're getting services offered with our partners in DHS. The second operation is happening tonight and we're going to try to develop regular cadence with outreach and also with tow operations in that area with our partners in DSNY.

**Richard Khuzami** Following up on what Dominic said, do you think that using ASP would be a tool in the future to control the situation? Second question is how often are these units being used by Airbnb?

**Anthony Iuliano** For your second question being used as an Airbnb, it is not a very high percentage, though it does happen, but it's a very small percentage. To your first question regarding the alternate side rules, because the area that we're looking at is really an IBZ, by incorporating any type of alternate side requirement in that area will probably hurt what the intention and the focus of an industrial business zone is to really let the businesses and the manufacturing that are there already be able to utilize those parking spaces because there's an operation in some cases the operation does run late into the night. So the ASP is more of a regulation that you don't want to really implement to prevent people from parking, but it is a street cleaning rule, so the sweepers could go down there and right now the DSNY tries to get to the ASPs that are already in existence within community board one because you have your one two family homes, but you also have your high rises within the Community Board 1 confines and it's getting the streets clean. So that's part of it. I don't know if NYPD wants to add anything on to that.

**Sergeant James Losada** I think you covered the part with the street cleaning signs very well. As far as the Airbnb aspect of it again, like you said, there hasn't been too much of that at least the little bit I've looked into it. I saw one advertise on Airbnb and one on Facebook Marketplace. I did actually today reach out to the Office of Special Enforcement to see, if there's any other avenue we can go down to address this. From that perspective of an illegal Airbnb I'm not as familiar with the rules. That's why I'm reaching out to the Office of Special Enforcement to see what their take on it is, and if it's an avenue we can go down to help address the issue. We will keep you guys posted on that.

**Kathleen Warnock** When you get right down to it, an RV is a home. It has a toilet, it has kitchen, it has beds and a living area and therefore making people give up or leave the RV means creating homelessness. I wonder if you reverse engineered this. If the city has thought about or is trying to consider designating certain areas as RV places for people who can't live anywhere else, if they had the ability to empty their tanks and were near food and stores, this would actually take a burden off putting people into the homeless system.

**Anthony Iuliano** Yes and it's a very good point, excellent point you're bringing up-and that is something that we did fold into our overnight truck task force-that we had that we convened-and this is one of the things we're considering. If you travel throughout the United States, when you go into other states, they do have designated area for RVs, but for camping and recreation type activity. This is a little different here in the city. Part of the problem is really identifying locations where you can have the space to do it, because it is the city of New York and we are lacking space, but it is something we considered. What we find sometimes the RVs they try to find the quiet areas where no one really would probably put a complaint in for those conditions. If you ever travel around the city and you go by especially the areas where the cemeteries are that's where you'll find many of the overnight truck parking conditions for tractor trailers and cabs that are dislodged and left there and RVs, which is very common. We are trying and that's one of the things we considered, and we appreciate that Kathleen excellent point.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Anyone else have a question? (seeing none) I thank you Sergeant Losada and Anthony for being here and bringing us all this information. Like Kathleen points out there's two concerns: yes, they're disrupting business up there, but it is a home, and I am not Solomon. That is up to you people on how you need to address this problem but thank you for being here.

**Isaac Blasenstein Office of Council Member Julie Won** We are still collecting new and gently used items for shelter residents until Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also have a number of movie Nights coming up. I'll highlight two on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Ravenswood Park, Spider-Man No Way Home and on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Queensbridge Park, Turning Red those movies start at 8:15 p.m. There'll be free popcorn, face painting, balloons and other resources. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office for anything you might need. We want to hear from you and thank you very much.

**Emily Lemmerman Office of Zohran Mamdani** As usual our office can provide support for folks who have any need relating to Department of Labor concerns. If you're late in receiving unemployment, if you need assistance related to a housing or a landlord issue, or even a variety of consumer issues, you can contact our office or you know tell your neighbors to contact our office at 718-545-3889-718-545-3889 or you can email us at [ad36@nyassembly.gov](mailto:ad36@nyassembly.gov). Please also feel free to call us again at 718-545-3889. If there's something in the community that you would like to discuss or have concerns or thoughts around and most of our ongoing work is that today the State Assembly is in session. Some of the things that are on the table include Sammy's Law, which is related to allowing a lower speed limit in New York City. That's not mandating, but it's allowing a lower speed limit in New York City and another is coverage for all which is expanding Medicaid, Medicare coverage to undocumented folks. So please, let me know if you have any questions. I'll also drop our contact information in the chat thanks.

**Brian Straub Office of Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams** Last month, the New York City Council voted to pass the public Advocate William's Worst Landlord Law to help prevent fraudulent repairs by bad landlords and increase accountability. The bill is part of The Worst Landlord Accountability Act. A two-bill package which comes out of the Public Advocates annual Worst Landlord's Watch List. The legislation and The Worst Landlord Accountability Act will help tenants get the repairs they need, make the worst landlords pay for their negligence and deception and show that there are consequences for the conduct that puts landlords on said watch list. Aside from that, just a quick update that the public can turn into tune into News 12, Bronx, Brooklyn or on line, watch the office's monthly segment- Ask the Advocate: live every third Monday of the month from 7 to 8 PM, where the Public Advocate will answer questions from callers live on air and I'll be put some contact information for our office in the chat should anyone wish to reach out with any questions or concerns.

**Dolma Lama Office of Assembly Member Steven Raga** I am the Director of Community Affairs at Assembly Member Stephen Raga's office. We cover District 30, which covers good parts of Maspeth, Woodside, Elmhurst, Astoria and Middle Village. Our Assembly Member Stephen Rag recently introduced and passed a resolution honoring Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, I can send more details to the Community Board 1 if you would like more information on that. Our district service and events: in the past months, we have successfully held a rain barrel giveaway, in partnership with DEP where we were able to give nearly about 100 rain barrels. We also hosted a shredding event in partnership with AARP at Big Six Woodside. We also hosted a job search clinic, where 20 plus constituents were able to get help with different jobs with screenings. We have some events that I would like to update you all. We are hosting a Legal Tenant Clinic with Community Resist on Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup>, it will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We're also hosting a Pride event on Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Queen's public library in Elmhurst from 5:30 to 7:30. We will be hosting a second rain barrel giveaway that will be sometime in the late August. If you would like to make an appointment, feel free to call our office at 718-651-3185. We did receive feedback from CB1 during our Cabinet Meeting because we had received heavy numbers of flooding issues and a lot of sewage problems. We are in touch with DEP and planning a walk through in the district to address the issues and also to distribute flood barriers once DEP has received it. We'll be distributing it to our constituents. Those are some of the updates from our side, but you can always reach us at the phone number that I have provided 718-651-3185 and I'll be putting more my details in the chat. Thank you so much and have a wonderful summer.

**Angela Sherpa Office of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** Our office can assist constituents with any casework requests regarding federal agencies that includes Immigration Department of State IRS, Social, Security Department of Education things like that. Our Hunts Point office is located at 1231 Lafayette Avenue and we're open for walk-ins from Mondays through Thursdays, between 9 to 5 PM on Fridays. We're also available by phone at 718-662-5970, and you can also just reach out to me directly. If you ever have any issues or if any constituents come by with any federal casework requests. Additionally, we have our 2023 Congressional App Challenge, which is open for pre-registration. Currently, regular registration will go until November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and students can register as individuals or as teams of up to four. I will have our team lead reach out to the Community Board with more details about this App Challenge. Just for your awareness, last month, the congresswoman held a town hall in Corona where she addressed questions from the community and discussed funding for local projects. If you're interested in watching the full recording for This Town Hall, you can visit our YouTube Twitter or Facebook pages @Repaooc. We also hosted our mobile office hours at the Council Member Cabán's office last week and we'll continue to plan more regular monthly mobile office hours in the Astoria area, just to make it easier for folks until we secure a queen's location. If you have any questions, please let me know and I'll share the information with the Board afterwards.

**Melissa Correa Council Member Tiffany Cabán's Office** I am the Director of Constituent Services for Council Member Tiffany Cabán. This week the City Council passed legislation to help New Yorkers avoid or move out of the city's shelter system by reforming the city's Rental Assistance Voucher Program, City FHEPS. Some provisions would remove shelter stay as a precondition to City FHEPS, expanding eligibility, reducing length of stay in the shelter system and preventing new shelter entrants. Removing certain criteria determines eligibility for City FHEPS and gives people the ability to demonstrate risk of addiction by presenting a rent demand letter. We have a couple of District updates. Please reach out to us to schedule an appointment for our next service date for CUNY citizenship. Now this will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We have an immigration lawyer on site who can



answer questions for Asylum Seekers, even though they're not taking those cases but they're helping people get a run through of what that process will look like you can reach out to us at 718-274-4500. We have our Potluck and Poly Ed series. We had our first event in the Potluck and Poly Ed series focusing on resisting Anti-Semitism and Hate Violence. We release the resisting anti-Semitism and Hate Violence Program in Astoria. The next tentative event will be on July 11<sup>th</sup>, hopefully shooting for the first Tuesday of every month. We have some Transportation updates DOT to follow state law and install raised curb extensions at all intersections starting out, but not limited to intersections between a one block, radius of any school senior center or facility for the disabled DOT to include pedestrian safety improvements and any future construction by adding raised curb extensions as standard components at any intersection affected by a resurfacing or sidewalk reconstruction, slash, repair project. If and when DOT installs daylighting without casting concrete, curb extensions. They protect that space with physical immovable barriers that would physically prevent a driver from entering the space such as Granite blocks, Planters Bell, bollards and standard bollards feel free to reach out to us at [d22@Council.NYC.GOV](mailto:d22@Council.NYC.GOV) for more specific details on any of these updates. Thank you.

**James Mongeluzo New York City Comptroller's Office** Hi, everyone James here from the Comptroller's office I have a few updates.  
New York City Banking Commission Votes to Approve 26 Depository Banks for Two Years, Limits New Deposits at Capital One and KeyBank : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander (nyc.gov) Capital One, which held \$7.2 million in City deposits at the end of April across 108 accounts, and KeyBank, which held \$10 million in City deposits at the end of April across three accounts, outright refused to submit required policies. Representatives for Mayor Adams and Department of Finance Commissioner Preston Niblack joined the Comptroller in voting to freeze new deposits in Capital One and KeyBank for up to two years.  
Immigrant Advocates, New York City Comptroller Lander, and Council Member Hanif Rally for \$70M+ for Asylum Seeker Legal Services in City Budget : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander (nyc.gov) The Comptroller Office's report, Accounting for Asylum Seekers, estimates that over 99% of money spent has gone to emergency shelter-related services and less than 1% for other services, including legal assistance. The rally highlighted the pressing need to allocate additional resources for direct outreach and legal representation that will enable asylum seekers to obtain jobs and permanent housing.  
The City of New York Announces Successful Sale of \$1.56 Billion of General Obligation Bonds and Strong Results from Tender Offer : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander (nyc.gov) The City of New York ("the City") announced the successful sale of approximately \$1.56 billion of General Obligation Bonds, comprised of \$1.41 billion of tax-exempt fixed rate bonds and \$151 million of taxable fixed rate bonds. Proceeds of the bond sale will be used to refinance outstanding bonds for savings. The transaction achieves over \$108 million in total debt service savings, spread primarily across Fiscal Years 2024 through 2027. To achieve additional savings, the City also conducted a tender process to purchase back certain outstanding bonds from bondholders. The City received nearly 1,200 offers from bondholders during the tender process for a total of roughly \$454 million, or 40% of the outstanding principal of the relevant bonds. This level of bondholder participation makes the City's tender one of the most successful tender solicitations to-date in the municipal bond market. Tender Explanation Video - Facebook: <https://fb.watch/dtVPAAl1PP?mbextid=YCRv0i> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtmC4s9uGI-/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nyccomptroller/status/1670059658885881856>  
NYCHA Miscalculated One-in-Five Rent Increases, New York City Comptroller's Review Finds : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander NYCHA miscalculated one-in-five (19%) sampled rent adjustments in the Red Hook East and Red Hook West public housing developments in 2022. Of the 102 apartments sampled, NYCHA overcharged three households by a total of \$439 in monthly rent and undercharged 17 households by a total of \$1,395 in monthly rent. NYCHA's data management platform generated incorrect public assistance amounts on rent notices sent to the tenants. Auditors were unable to verify rent calculations for nine apartments due to a lack of supporting documentation.  
Spotlight: What Risks Does the Office Market Pose for the City's Finances? : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander (nyc.gov) The stakes are high – the City typically draws more than one-fifth of its property tax levy, and [roughly 10% of its total taxes] from office buildings alone. Table S.1. shows that office Class A buildings make up 7% of the total property tax levy. Even in our "doomsday" scenario, we find that the estimated revenue shortfall relative to our current projections of \$1.1 billion in FY 2027 constitutes only 3% of the total property tax levy, or 1.4% of City tax revenues, and 1.0% of total revenues, which include state and federal grants. To put this amount in context, it is slightly smaller than the amount of tax revenue "offsets" estimated in the Comptroller's most recent forecast for FY 2027—i.e., the amount the Comptroller expects tax revenue to exceed the Mayor's tax revenue forecast. While not a small amount, it is well within the range in which tax revenues can ordinarily vary.  
NYC Comptroller & Public Advocate Appoint to the Independent Budget Office Advisory Board : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander The Comptroller and Public Advocate's appointments include: Nationally recognized expert in budget theory and the budgetary process: Melanie Hartzog Former director of NYC Office of Management and Budget; Dean Fuleihan Dean of a graduate school of public policy in NYC; Darrick Hamilton Dean of a graduate school of business administration in NYC; Paquita Y. Davis-Friday Officer or former officer of, or economic advisor of, a labor union; Henry Garrido. If you need me for anything in the summer you can reach me at 646-689-6509 again, James Mongeluzo from the Comptroller's Office, 646-689-6509 I hope everyone has a wonderful summer starting 10:57 a.m. tomorrow. Thank you.

**Senator Kristen Gonzalez** I just wanted to give you all some important updates. Since the last time we spoke, we've finished our legislative session in the Senate, at least because we have our Assembly Members actually back in Albany today to finish their legislative session. We finish it as of last week and have some really exciting updates. We passed important pieces of legislation like Clean Slate to help folks who are formally incarcerated and serve their time coverage for all. We also were able to take action around climate pass some important programs-it's not only through the budget but post to really support a just transition. So we're excited about the progress we made there, but I also wanted to flag for all of you that, although we spent the lion's share of our time trying to negotiate around a housing package but not only supported development. So, for example, this package included tax incentives, for real estate developers but important tenant protections. We weren't able to come to a consensus and pass any legislation on housing and that's a really big deal, because we kicked it out of the budget because the governor was not coming to the table to negotiate to do it outside of the budget. By the end of the legislative session, our governor threatened a veto. If we passed this package, that included compromises on both ends, and so we ended without any action on housing, while we're in a housing crisis, so incredibly disappointed and we'll need everyone here and also a lot of organizing effort into next year to ensure that we actually meet the crisis and meet New Yorkers, where they're at which is struggling to just keep up with the rising cost of living. So that was a really important update. From my own, I was able to carry I think over eight bills this session, both in the budget and outside of the budget, around important issues like cyber security. I passed new cyber security standards for the state government able to pass Wi-Fi for all shelters across the state. Able to pass bills around increasing access to information around economic abuse? For those of us who live along the river I also passed a helicopter and sea planes Bill to reduce the amount of noise pollution that we have so very excited about our legislative wins, though, as an office at the end of session.  
As far as legislation moving forward in the second half of the year as Chair of Internet and Technology, we'll be focusing on artificial intelligence and privacy. We did pass the New York Privacy Act. I think there was someone on this board who had asked a few times if we're going to do that, we finally passed it, but we'll be continuing to work on it for the rest of this year. On a district side, we are fully up and operational. Our office is right near Grand Central, because we have a Triborough District and we are continuing to organize around street safety. That is a priority. I'll be touring a lot of our nature complexes I'll be at Astoria Houses this week. I have also spent time at Queensbridge and Ravenswood, and then we'll also be doing additional events this summer in partnership with our City Council Member's office, to get our Department of Transportation survey or up and continuing to get responses from all of you, so that we can again get the investment that we need in Astoria to protect our pedestrians, our bikers and, of course, even those who are driving, who are dealing with traffic violence, so I will stop there because I think that's a lot of information but I'm happy to answer any questions. I know you have a tight agenda. If we don't have time now for questions, please reach out anytime, we are here. My Community Affairs liaison is also here and available to answer questions. Thank you cheers.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

**Justin Embrey OCEM** My name is Justin Embrey I'm, a Forensic Biologist at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, specifically in the missing persons unit. I wanted to tell you about an event that we're going to be hosting at the end of the week on June 24<sup>th</sup>, this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is our Annual Missing Persons Day Event where we invite any New York City resident, who is experiencing a missing loved one, to come down to our offices, to conduct an interview and to provide DNA samples in the hopes to and try to make that identification. It's important to note, too that our office is independent of the NYPD. Finally, a report with us is not the same as filing a report with the police and it is no inherent connection to that at all, anytime, on Saturday nine to three. If you or anybody that you know is dealing with a missing loved one. Have them come down to our offices and we'd be happy to help them out any way we can.

**Christine Yearwood** I wanted to comment on the resolution tonight and Melissa's update. There's a lot of pedestrian safety topics on the agenda tonight and I've been an Astoria resident for 15 years. I have three young kids and I walk around the neighborhood every day. I'm also the founder

and leader of Upstand. We work on accessibility for pregnant people and families, so I'm here today, just to say that this was such an important topic to so many people that I represent. We had a survey that we sent around in the community and had more than 120 people fill it out immediately really concerned about pedestrian safety. I have met with DOT and elected officials, and I just wanted the Board to know that you have the community's support to take traffic calming measures and I really wanted to thank Adam and Dominic, and each of you as board members for taking a step in the right direction tonight for your community and just wanted to let you know that I'm available in here-and so many of us are here tonight to support you in that.

**Carolyn Townsend** I'm, here from The Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens. I'm their new Community Energy Advisor and I just wanted to mention one of our programs. It's a partnership program with the City of New York Kinetic Community, Consulting and Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island. It's called Electrify NYC is a free program that connects New York City homeowners in one to four unit family homes, with a variety of Energy Efficiency upgrades to help them save money on their utility bills, make their homes more comfortable and improve indoor air quality. Essentially, what we do is we're kind of like the middle people in between customers like homeowners and the variety of Energy Efficiency programs that exist through Con Edison, the state and the city. We help get people access to heat pumps, solar panels, other energy efficiency upgrades. We help folks with converting from oil and gas boilers to clean energy for a safer, healthier and greener home. We also provide services for air sealing and insulated roofs, doors and windows, to increase energy savings and comfort, insulating pipes to save money on heating, your water, as well as capturing incentives, financing and vetting the wide variety of contractors. So, if anyone's interested in learning more, please send me an email, [c@townsend.nhsfqueens.org](mailto:c@townsend.nhsfqueens.org) or go to our website <https://nhsfqueens.org/> I can put it in the chat and then lastly, I wanted to mention our Workforce Development program, where, if anyone is interested in employment at LaGuardia Airport, you can email your resume to my colleague, Carlos and I'll put his email in the chat as well.

**Angelica Hart** I am from the Long Island City Partnership, just a small update, as you guys go through Long Island City. In the summer we just installed an exciting public art piece to Rafferty Triangle right outside of Court Square, there's four interactive pieces and you can twist the thing on the outside and it plays music from local musicians and has pieces of local art on the outside. These artists are all from a story on Long Island City. It's very exciting, we'll be there throughout the summer. We also have another art project that we worked on and we'll be fully installing tomorrow, at P4 Skillman School, Long Island City, it'll be a wrap on the fence. I urge you guys to check that out as well and just an update since I know this board doesn't meet throughout the summer, but we are still working on our bid expansion process and we are hoping to move into the legislative, a phase at the end of the summer, so probably around September time we're happy to meet with CBI anytime in between then, but we once we go into the legislative phase. It follows the same thing as the ULURP process. Really so CBI and CB2 will get an official vote during that process, but that's all my updates for now.

**Alex** I have a few questions I will try to keep a brief, I don't know if 114<sup>th</sup> is still on here. It's great that they're towing vehicles, but you're towing vehicles from 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, there's not that many homes and stuff There is a body shop off Astoria Boulevard West that has forklifts, boats, RVs. I know people in the neighborhood have cool separate time. Nothing gets towed. Second of all, we keep talking about closing these streets to cars, but we have so many bikes and delivery drivers and I know you can't chase them, but they're blowing red light after red light. At stop signs they're putting pedestrians in danger. What is being done about that? To all the officials: Everybody keeps talking about worst landlords and bad landlords. How about bad tenants that don't pay the rent? What kind of services are the politicians offering landlords that work hard? Have their houses in tip top shape and have tenants living there for six, eight and ten months and maybe a year without paying rent? It seems like all these politicians want to help tenants. You're against car drivers. You want to close the street you're taking away parking spots, I mean what happens to those kind of people. What happens to honest landlords that getting jipped, because somebody doesn't feel like paying the rent, because the city protects them. What kind of services are you offering to those people? All you guys keep talking about, is worse landlords and worst landlords, there's a lot of good landlords out there that are getting screwed.

**Matthew LaBanca** I'm a resident of Woodside Queens I live at the Boulevard Gardens I've been here for 23 years I'm also, a teacher at PS 151. I'm invested in my community, so I just wanted to leave the listeners tonight informed that Penn Station access, New York City's, new Rail Project plans to add MTA commuter trains to the Hellgate line, the Amtrak line, which runs directly through Northwest Queens, and the increased traffic is going to total 160 trains per day, which will quadruple the current train count and severely impact thousands of citizens living in Northwest Queens near these tracks that are already noisy and already outdated. Four commuter stations for the MTA are being built in the Bronx, but Queens will receive little to no perceived benefit from the project, and many of us in Northwest Queens have become aware of the project and have become aware that our property values, our quality of life, will be severely affected. The petition that's been circulating with over 425 bona fide respondents and counting who live in the area and who will be affected, is a clear indicator that Queens residents are hoping for appropriate, sound and vibration mitigation along the Hellgate line throughout our neighborhood to protect our property values to protect our quality of life against this increased train traffic. The main source of the noise and vibration are two switch tracks that are located along 57<sup>th</sup> Street between 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenues and those switch tracks allow the trains to maneuver from inbound to outbound. Already they unfortunately react very loudly to the trains. So when the train load quadruples as planned, the noise level will become completely overwhelming. There's no sound barrier, especially along 57<sup>th</sup> Street, between 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenues. The MTA is currently referencing an outdated, sound study about 13 to 14 years old, to determine their funding targets and have determined that this particular area does not meet their criteria for mitigation, but hundreds of residents with common sense, strongly disagree. We are residents who are aware of cutting-edge technology, of sound dampening of sound, absorbing transparent plexiglass barriers, and we would hope that would give the residents the necessary mitigation that we're looking for. We don't want to just bear the burden of the project, especially since there's no train station, that's being built in Queens. We're hoping for the benefit of sound and vibration mitigation, so I'm, just hoping for the community to be aware of this transportation development and I can leave the link in the chat or in the QA for anybody who wishes to follow or to sign our petition.

**Nancy Perez** Thank you for the for allowing to comment on two issues. My issues are basically that the intersection and I'm assuming there's others in Astoria along 31<sup>st</sup> Street, but the one primarily on Ditmars and 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Street, all four corners have been filled in I guess from the '70s. I mean I was born and raised in Astoria, and the pavers have undone. I've taken pictures I've sent them in. They have paved like with asphalt right over some of them, but it's still breaking up. This is a big concern for our elderly population that walk around with walkers and canes, and especially in the winter, when there's ice and snow, those pavers are barely set in place. It's a trip hazard and that's my concern. The other issue is regarding the parking situation. I love the idea of blocking out the ends of the corners as people approach, and a particular Avenue to make the left or the right turn. However, another concept would be, for instance, in White, Plains and other Upstate areas they have lines that clearly mark parking spaces. I think it's 17 or 18 feet apart and that way you have a given parking space, for instance, there's 10 parking spaces where I particularly live from the alleyway to the corner. If one or two people do not park properly, those 10 parking spaces can be reduced down to seven or six parking spaces. That's my comment. Basically, it would be a great consideration if that were somehow to be done in the area.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** I know the pavers are being worked on by DOT. You have a little backlog, but we've been working on that for a couple of years. Why don't you call the board office to get an update or send an email?

**Nancy Perez** Are they just repaving them, or are they going to remove them? I mean repaving them or putting them back in is not the solution at this point.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** I believe they're going to be removed. For more of information contact, the board office 718 626-1021.

**Nancy Perez** Thank you very much, and what about the parking, designated parking areas?

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Quite frankly, I don't think that's going to happen.

**Rudy Sarchese** Good evening Madam Chair and members of Community Board One. My name is Rudy Sarchese. I was a board member of Community Board One for 23 years. In 1996, I started a civic association, The Astoria Homeowners Tenants & Business Civic Association and was president for over 23 years, and I am a very active member of the community. The Association's purpose is to keep Astoria a good place to live, raise children and do business. For over a year, businesses in the Industrial Business Zone from 20th Avenue to 18th Avenue and 48th Street to 37th Street, and by St. Michael's Cemetery, north and south of the BQE and 49th Street West, have been reaching out to us for help. There are many

abandoned cars with no license plates or potentially fake license plates in the industrial business zone. The streets are full of these cars and RV's which have negatively impacted the businesses. Their employees, customers, business partners, and nearby residents cannot find parking on these streets. The area is full of garbage, which has caused a rat infestation in the adjacent residential area, one- and two-family houses from 20th Avenue to 21st Avenue. In March we had a held a meeting with business owners of the Industrial Business Zone. Present at this meeting were: Iggy Azzara, Chief of the NYC Department of Sanitation, Michael Carlier, the Transportation Liaison for Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.'s office, and Florence Koulouris, District Manager of Community Board. All the people present at this meeting, including the representatives from local government, agreed to introduce night regulation street cleaning and alternate side parking signs, in effect once per week on each side of the street between 12:00 am to 3:00 am. Chief Azzara informed us that he needs a letter from Community Board One District Manager in order to request this signage. Two days later, I followed up with District Manager Florence Koulouris to ask if she wrote the letter with this request. She informed me that she was not going to write the letter. I then spent four days asking all the businesses in the IBZ area and some resident owners if they were in support of this signage. They do support this measure, indicated by the approximately 100 signatures from business and residential owners. I brought the petitions to the office of Community Board One, but Florence still refuses to write the letter. At this time, on behalf of all the signatures obtained from business owners and residential owners, together with our civic Association, we are urging Madam Chair and members of the Community Board One to write the letter to the NYC Department of Sanitation giving Community Board One's recommendation to install the requested street cleaning and alternate side parking signs in the areas discussed above in order to resolve this huge problem in our community. I thank you all for your understanding and support.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you for your comments. If you heard the rest of the meeting, you know that there's a task force on this and there was a rule that supersedes the alternate side which says mobile homes are not supposed to be parked on the street for more than 24 hours. So we're working on that Rudy. They removed I think eight yesterday, please keep in touch with what's going on with Florence and we're doing the best we can with limited resources.

**Tanya** I am speaking as a resident and part I am also part of our community DOE district for our school system. I'm a school employee as well so I'm calling I might my situation is that we live in between the areas where these RVs are parked, and today I don't know, if everybody has heard there has been another incident, another stabbing so we've had within two weeks. We've had two stabbings on Ditmars (Blvd) between 47<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> (Street).. My concern is that we walk the perimeters down near 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, my daughter and my son actually currently driving so we're taking them down there to drive, and there has been on numerous for many months, we would say maybe a year of these RVs and I understand Florence I understand that the issue is being we have a task force, but this has been a long time and now as part of the civic association we have addressed this many of times. I understand that we waited this long for it to get rectified and some progress on it, and we have also deal with the commercial businesses down here and we've allotted them for many years to park their cars up our streets. I've never said one word, Empire has been here and it before was charmer has parked there with their vehicles here before they even had parking lots for their employees. My concern is that we need to rectify it. We have people live in these homes, even if they're homeless we have homeless shelters, okay and I understand business owners have concerns that they need parking and I understand that, but it's not going to come at my expense that they don't want the streets cleaned. I'm for the streets clean I know, there's regulation, but you have to understand the concerns of the people that live in the area. So that is my biggest concern, and we don't know who's living down there. If it's homeless people, we don't know what is living down there and if they are Airbnbs and they're renting them, that's another concern because we have small children, your local distance there are schools all around that certain that surrounding area those RVs are commercial vehicles and should not be parked there overnight.

**Arthur Breedy** I am a resident in Woodside I currently serve, as Vice President on the Board of Directors for Boulevard Gardens and as one of my eloquent share loaders came on and spoke to you before, Matthew La Banca. I just want to make it short, and let you know that we wanted to bring this to your attention, because a lot of people in the community around us, including Astoria, including you, know the district that you've covered or really just they don't know much about this Penn Access Project and they seem to only know the parts that affect the Bronx and they're not aware of the fact that they'll be using the Amtrak line out here and as he mentioned, it is definitely going to have an effect on all the communities. We wanted to come tonight to see if everyone here in Northwest Queens was also aware about the Penn Station access, although it has that name, it is not just affecting Penn Station and the Bronx. It is also going to go through all section of Queens, including Long Island City as well to the district office.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Can you send the signed petition to the Board Office, to keep us up to date, and thank you for being here we appreciate your time.

**Arthur Breedy** Yes, we can do that for you, no problem.

**Judy Chestnut** I'm from Woodside New York and following up to what Matthew and a couple of other people mentioned, we're concerned about the noise level that the Penn Station Access Project, will create in our area and then throughout Queens, actually and probably across the Bronx I recently read a New York Times article sent to me by a friend of mine which had come out in on June 9<sup>th</sup> talking about how excessive noise creates long-term health problems, not just the immediate annoyance of it that it could actually take years off of your life, which I found is disturbing. This is a study that was put together by collaboration of writers from The New York Times, and they interviewed over 30 psychiatrists, researchers, scientists, engineers, professors etc. It indicated that whenever you hear an ear-piercing chronic noise in your neighborhood, it is a health threat that increases the risk of hypertension, stroke and heart attacks worldwide, including for more than 100 million Americans, and we wouldn't like to be part of that. Even people who live in relatively peaceful settings can be affected can be jarred because there's a little ambient noise to drown out the jolt. It went on and on about what unpleasant facts noise can have on your body on your amygdala area, which is the area of your brain that measures stress and on your nervous system. Scientific recordings of passing trains from volunteers' homes found that the volunteers had higher adrenaline levels, stiffened arteries and spikes and plasma proteins that indicate inflammation like the next day, but a long-term effect of this would be arterial inflammation and within five years major cardiac events.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you for bringing that to our attention, and maybe you could put that in an email to the District Office, so we have it on file.

**Judy Chestnut** Absolutely I can send you the article which will go into it in more detail.

**Maroua Righi** I am the Deputy Director of Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). For those of you who may not know the CCRB is a city government agency that investigates police misconduct, so my announcement is actually about our July Public Board meeting it's going to be taking place at the Robert Ross Johnson of Life Center on Linden Boulevard in Queens. It's going to be on Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup>. I'll share all the information in the chat. I just wanted to let folks know that it's open to all members of the public. It's also going to be taking place virtually via WebEx, so anyone who cannot attend in person can always attend online. The point of these meetings is to just allow concerned members of the public to receive updates about the CCRB and share any concerns or complaints or suggestions that they may have on police community relations in New York City. I hope you hope folks can make it out to that event.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Maroua thank you can you put that info in the chat please.

**Maroua Righi** Definitely thank you.

**Melissa Sklarz** I live in Boulevard Gardens I'm the District Leader here in this part of the Community Board 1 area. My neighbors have been working with the elected officials now for about a year and a half, and one by one, we've been able to explain our point of view and perspective to the community in that Boulevard Gardens is 90 years old and never in a million years, never in 90 years did they expect the kind of train traffic going through this that we're looking at now. It is a 400% increase and there are a thousand families that live here. But it's not just us it's all of us, it includes you here. How do we get people engaged? I said you've got to go to Community Board 1. These are a great cohort of people they're used to dealing with community, and so today, instead of just 400 people on a petition, now we're going to engage you, AOC, Grace Ming, Mike Gianaris, Stephen Raga, Brian Barnwell. Now we have AOC and now we're starting with Tiffany Cabán. No one wants to take away this great opportunity for the Bronx. This is not us against them. This is a great opportunity to a billion-dollar project, we're talking one-tenth of one percent for sound mitigation, one-tenth of one percent of a billion-dollar project. So hopefully, after today we will send you all of our information and data. MTA and



Amtrak have treated us exactly like you think they would treat us, not respectful, like you all, and we will make sure that we send you all the information we have to Florence thanks for letting me speak.

**Kathleen Warnock** Happy Pride, I'm, quite surprised none of our council members mentioned that we are in early voting and the primary is next Tuesday, here in Queens. I'm just thrilled that we have so many free and low-cost Arts events happening right now, including Queens Rising, the relatively new LIC Culture Hub and also next Wednesday at Metropolitan Opera will be presenting a recital at Socrates, which has started its usual fantastic schedule of summer classes. So I think that Socrates is the best Park/Arts organization in the city and sorry that my voice is gone.

**Fred Murhammer** I have also heard about the presentation project, in the past, sound barriers were done by building up concrete walls. I did some research. You now have lightweight sound absorption barriers. They absorb the sound ready or then reflecting it off, and these absorptive barriers are usually put up by the train wheels, because that's where most of the noise comes from. On top of that, above that area, you put up the plexiglass which prevents it from having that tunnel effect where the people in the train look like they're going through a tunnel. Instead, they have the package, they can see out front I built a website that shows all these solutions, which I'm happy to share with you. In addition to that, this plexiglass can have colors and bird guards which will protect the birds so they're environmentally friendly, and, as my neighbor mentioned, This does affect people's, not just quality of life, but their health. You know, and one thing that I also researched was I looked at the Federal Transportation Authority and they said, because one time we had a meeting with the MTA, and they said well, it's already noisy in your neighborhood, but one time, I think the Federal Transportation Authority says you're not supposed to increase the noise in an area and also the sound study. They did not really consider sound at night. They said any sound, that's created you have to increase it by 10 at night, because people at night need to relax and sleep and we're going to have train noise there, not just trains going by, but that's when they do the train work. That's when they work on the tracks in the middle of the night and it's louder hearing of jackhammer at night is not pleasant. So if you'd like to see the simple website that I built that shows some of these simple lightweight solutions that can go on embankments, that can be put on overpasses I'd be happy to share it with you. Thank you for allowing me a chance to speak.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** Thank you Fred and please do share that with the Board Office.

**Pauline** I wanted to address the alternate street sweeping down on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Astoria and the campers. We've owned our business down on Steinway Street for over 50 years in the commercial District we pay a very large sum of tax. We have never had the streets as dirty as they are now, as we all work together as local businesses to keep everything clean and neat. The problem is not your commercial district. The problem is the campers that are not being moved that we've tried to address for almost two years. I'm going to say there was an effort that was just recently made, but I'm not seeing a follow-up to that effort. Tonight, these local businesses have been there far longer than most residents, so to have people say that our employees should not park on the street and park near their homes is a little ridiculous in my book. I'd like to know what the street sweeping is going to do. When you have cars with illegal plates that don't trace back to anything you're going to give them a ticket, it doesn't affect them. They're not going to move these cars. Are they going to be towed? Are the trailers with the plates that are registered to non-existing companies, are they going to be towed? Is there going to be enforcement, or are we just doing street sweeping for the fun of it? Well, we won't be doing street sweeping from what I understand. So what is the point of the alternate side of the street? We were told it was for street sweeping so you're, just putting alternate side of the street.

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** No, that is not happening, that was kind of the suggestion, but it is not happening. Okay, if you were on the meeting before you would have heard that there were the changes between the Mayor's Office and the Police Department and they've been talking.

**Pauline** Okay, I was just up 46<sup>th</sup> Street today and there hasn't been one camper moved. So what are they telling the abandoned ones, but letting the people still live there?

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** That is correct, they're working on it, it's going to take more than one time out there I understand they're out there again tonight. Would you please stay in touch with the District's Office, so she can give you updates, as this goes, 718 626-1021. Are there any members of the public who wish to make a comment or a statement or bring a problem to our attention? All right stay, no one else with their hand, raise wishing to speak a motion to adjourn anyone motion I mean I want to wish all of you a very happy summer and to thank you for all you do all year round to make our community better have a great summer. (Seeing none.)

**Marie Torniali Chairperson** asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

**Motioned by Amin Mahedi; Seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.**

DATE 6/20/23

49

# 63 St Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation

**F** Line, Queens and Manhattan

***Revised Plan, Starting August 2023***

Subject to change



June 2023



# 63 St Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation

## What

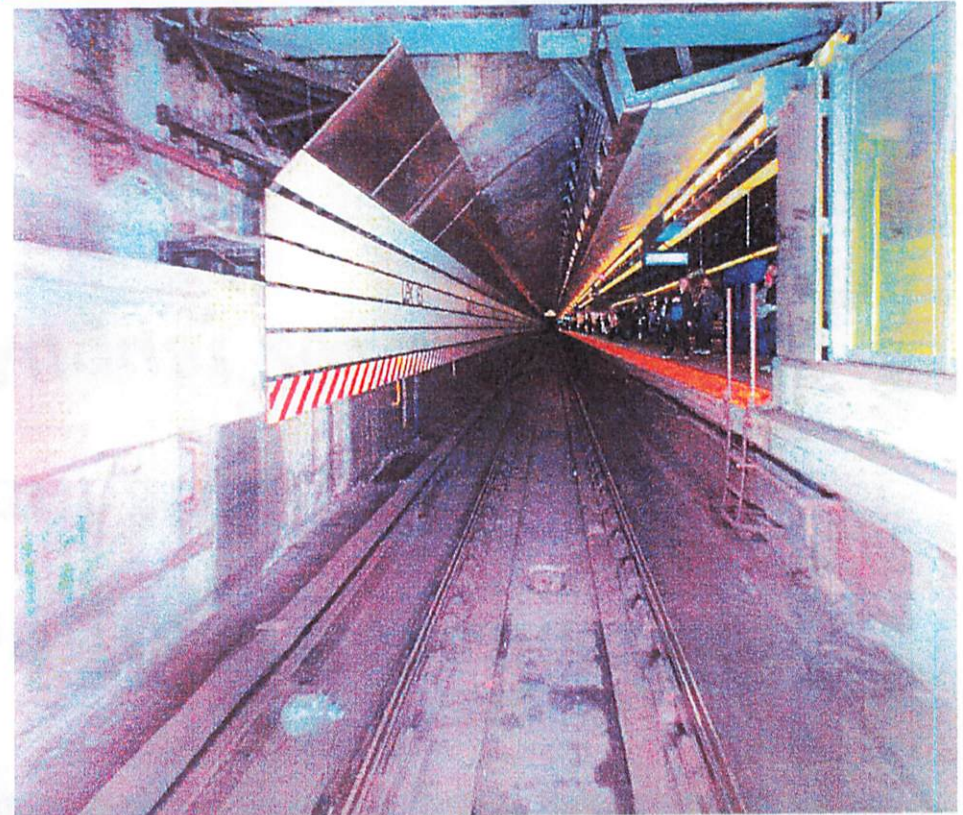
Replacement of Direct Fixation track  
Contractor: Railworks

## Why

- Track installed in 1981 – 63 St Line construction.
- 63 St Line opened for service in 1989.
- Sections of track replaced in 1998 and 2002.
- Approximately 192,000 customers—32% of **F** riders—traveled through this area daily in 2019. 2023 daily ridership is 132,500.

## Where

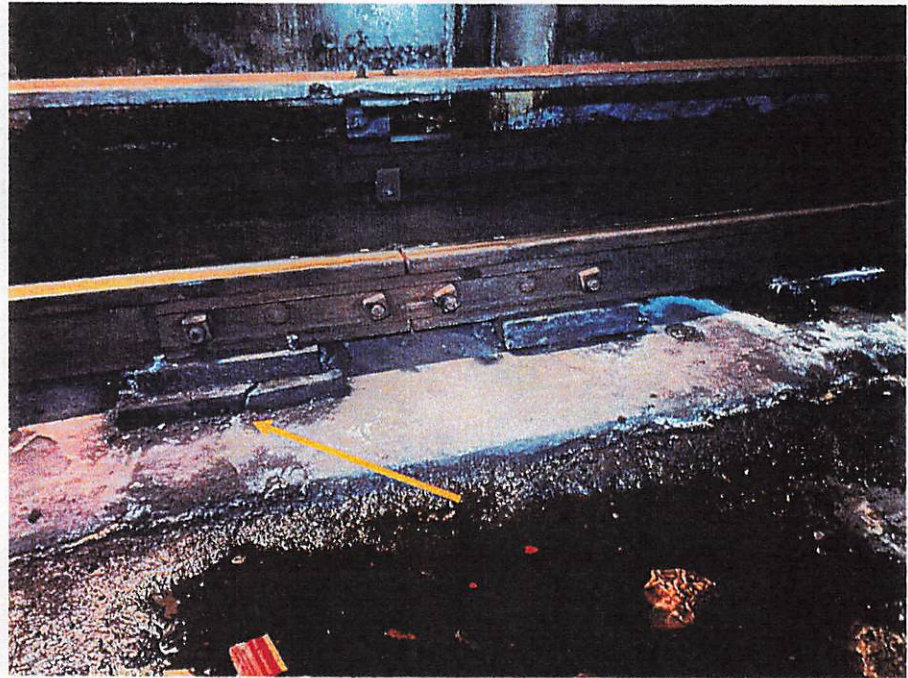
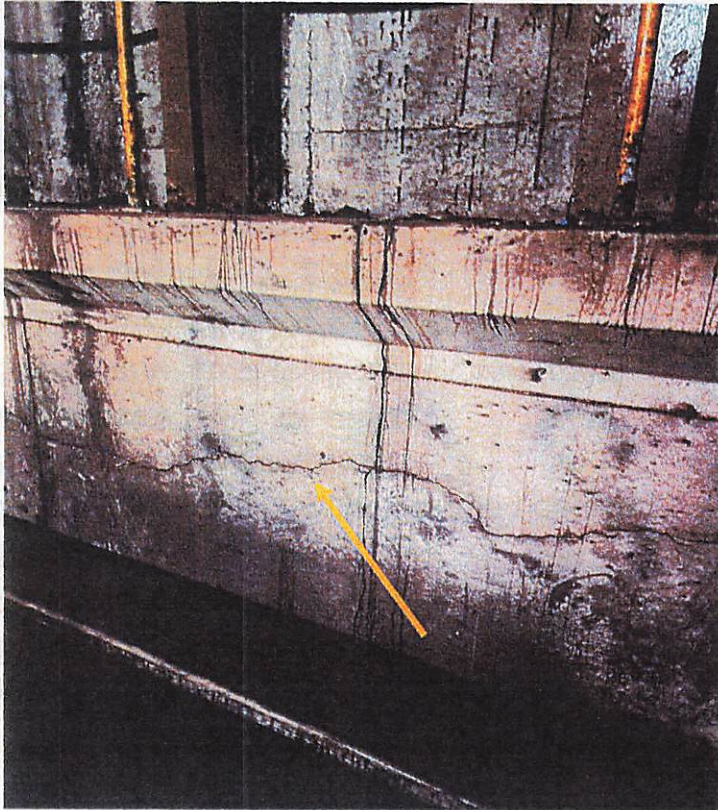
- 63 St (**F**) Line:
- 57 St/6 Av – 21 St-Queensbridge



Above: Deteriorated direct fixation track at Lexington Av/63 St



## Current Conditions



*Above: Deteriorated concrete plinth supporting rail on 63 St Line*

*Left: Cracked bench wall on 63 St Line*



# Project Scope

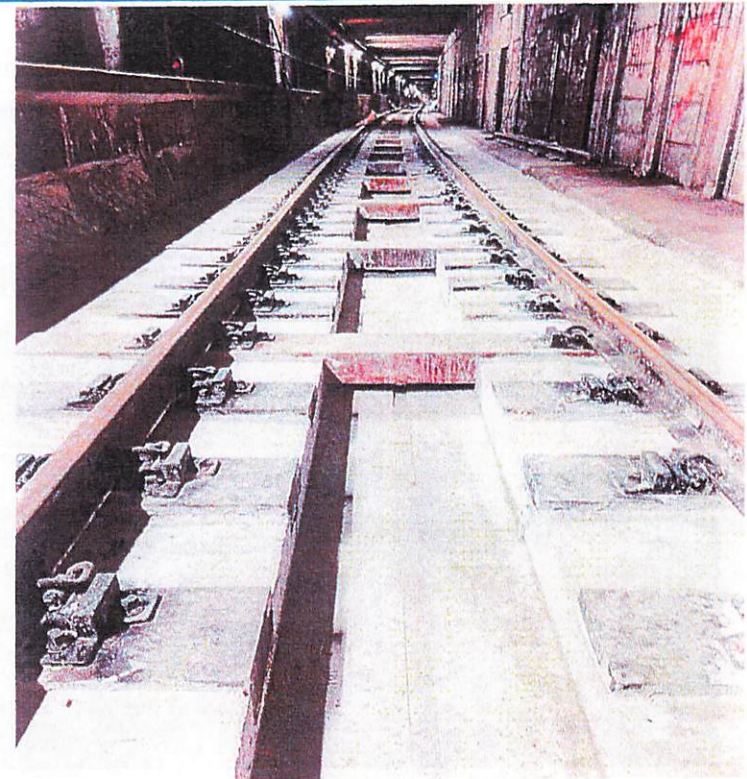
## Scope and Benefits

### Scope of Work:

- Remove existing direct fixation track and construct new concrete track and new direct fixation track
- Install new contact rail, protection boards, brackets and insulators
- Remove and replace cables
- Furnish and install new signal equipment
- Repair spalled concrete and cracks
- Seal active leaks by grouting

### Improving reliability by:

- Repairing age-related deterioration
- Mitigating leaks to prevent future corrosion and deterioration
- Extending service life of existing infrastructure



*Rebuilt concrete track on Archer Av Line*

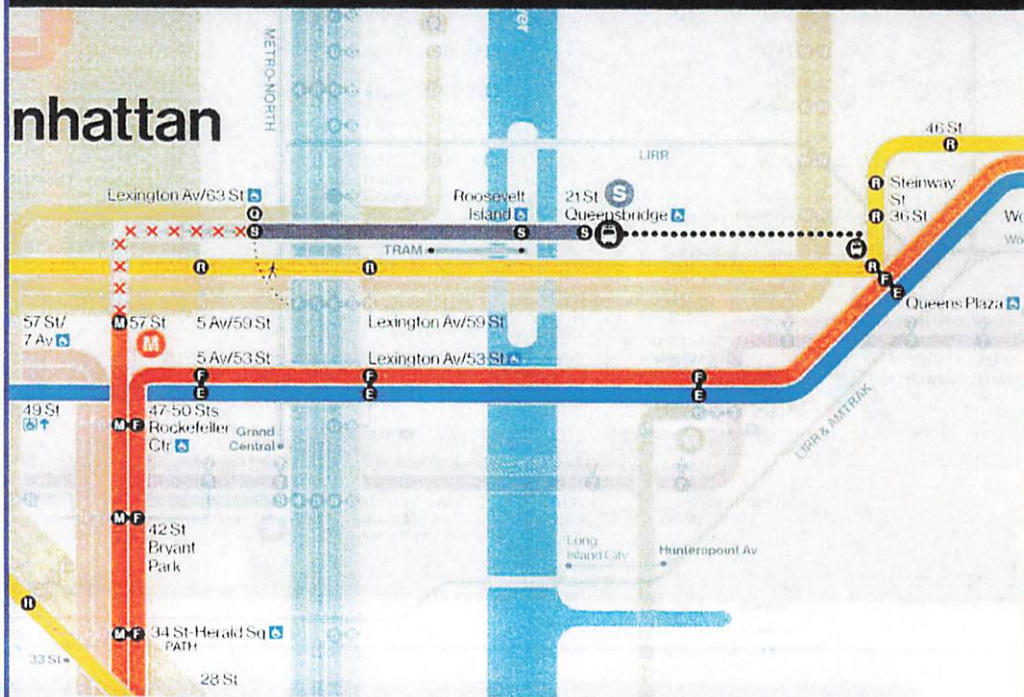


# Proposed Weekday Service Plan - Revised

## Service Plan

- One track out of service between 57 St/6 Av and 36 St
- **F** via 53 St (**E**) line in both directions
- No **M** trains on Queens Blvd
  - **M** from Ridgewood & Brooklyn terminates at 57 St/6 Av, 6 AM-9 PM
- Reduced **E F M** service rush hours
- Increased **R** service
- **S** shuttle train between Lex Av/63 St and 21 St-Queensbridge, every 20 minutes
- **Free shuttle bus** between 21 St-Queensbridge and Queens Plaza

## Weekdays

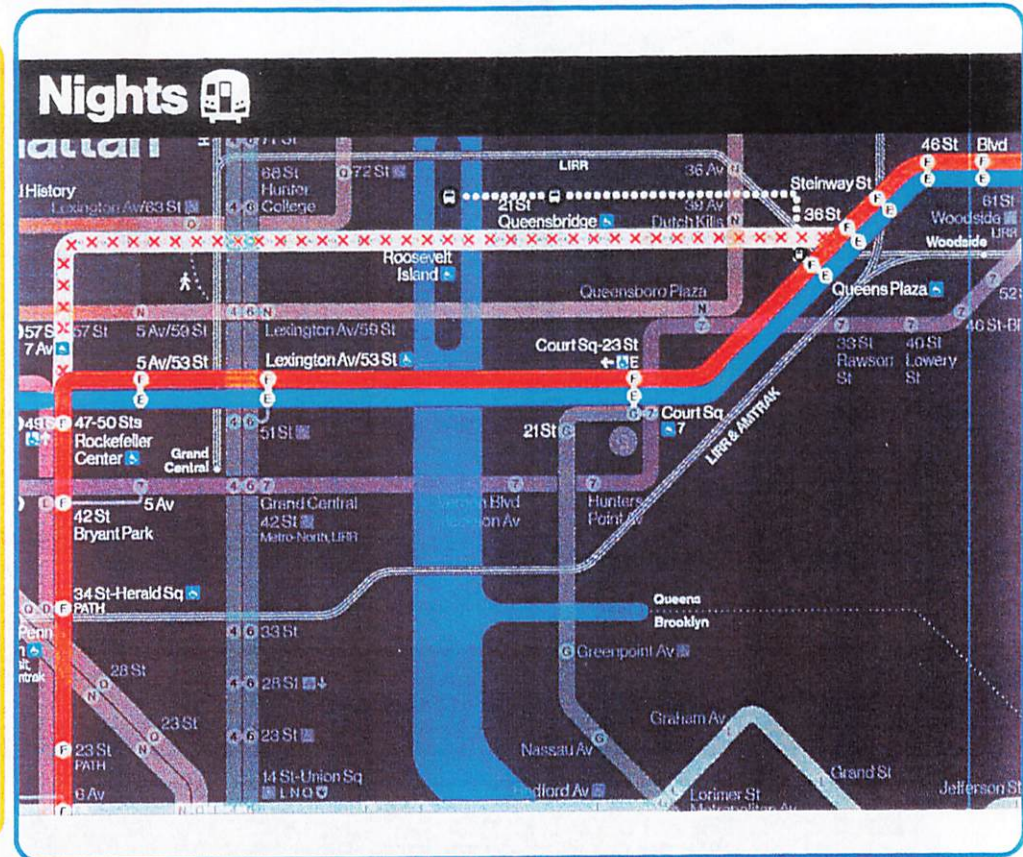




# Proposed Overnight Service Plan - Revised

## Service Plan

- Both tracks out of service between 57 St/6 Av and 36 St, seven nights per week
- Overnight service
  - **F** via 53 St (**E**) line in both directions
  - **S** shuttle train suspended
  - **Free shuttle bus** between Roosevelt Island, 21 St-Queensbridge, and Queens Plaza
- No service at 57 St/6 Av



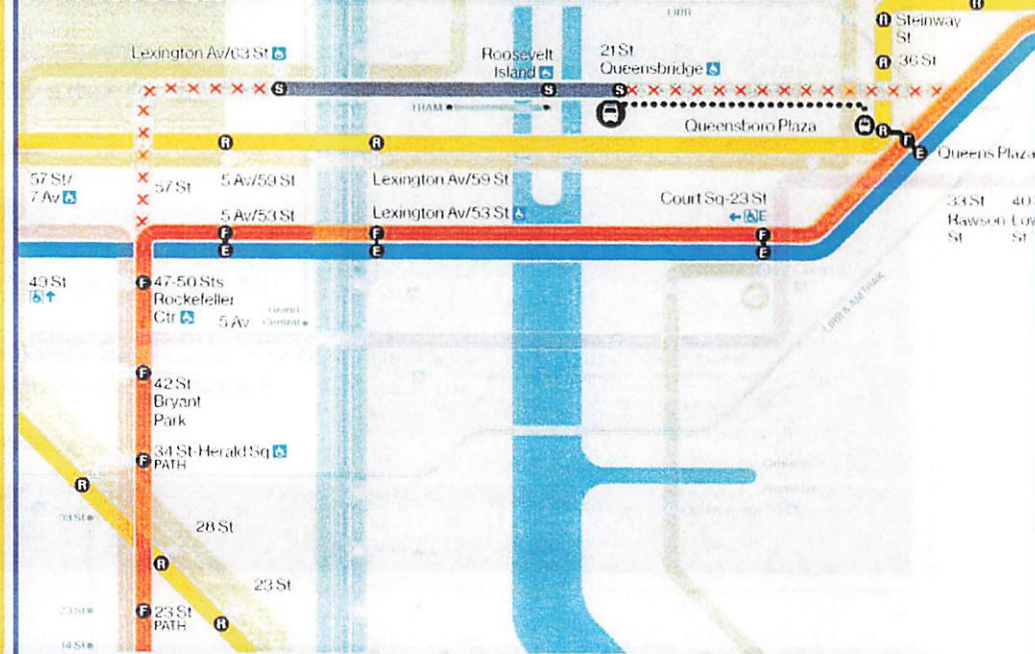


# Proposed Weekend Service Plan - Revised

## Service Plan

- One track out of service between 57 St/6 Av and 36 St
- Weekend service
  - **F** via 53 St (**E**) line in both directions
  - **R** normal service in both directions
  - **S** **shuttle train** between Lex Av/63 St and 21 St-Queensbridge, every 20 minutes
  - **Free shuttle bus** between 21 St-Queensbridge and Queens Plaza
- No service at 57 St/6 Av
- Selected weekends with both tracks out of service, shuttle buses provided, dates TBD

## Weekends Manhattan






## Station-specific Information – Roosevelt Island

### Service Alternatives


#### Weekdays







##### To & from Manhattan:

 shuttle trains run every 20 minutes to/from Lexington Av/63 St.

Transfer at Lexington Av/63 St to/from  trains or walk to/from Lexington Av/59 St for       trains.


##### To & from Queens:


 shuttle trains run every 20 minutes to/from 21 St-Queensbridge.

Free shuttle buses run between 21 St-Queensbridge and Queens Plaza, where connection is available to    trains and to    trains at Queensboro Plaza.


#### Weekends\*






##### To & from Manhattan:

 shuttle trains run every 20 minutes to/from Lexington Av/63 St.

Transfer at Lexington Av/63 St to/from  trains or walk to/from Lexington Av/59 St for      trains.

##### To & from Queens:





 shuttle trains run every 20 minutes to/from 21 St-Queensbridge.

Free shuttle buses run between 21 St-Queensbridge and Queens Plaza, where connection is available to    trains and to   trains at Queensboro Plaza.

#### Late Nights\*

##### To Manhattan & from Queens:

 shuttle trains suspended.

Free shuttle buses run between Roosevelt Island, 21 St-Queensbridge, and Queens Plaza station, where connections are available to   trains and to   trains at Queensboro Plaza.

\* Weekend and late night subway service is subject to change.



# Helpful Information Before and During Changes

## Distribution Channels

- **In-System** – digital and paper signage, PA announcements, on-the-ground outreach, brochures
- **Online** – project info on MTA.info, proactive social media campaign, online customer service (via Twitter, WhatsApp, iMessage, Facebook)
- **Community resources** – materials for elected officials/community groups to share with constituents
- **Press outreach** – releases distributed to local media



63 St Line  
Track Reconstruction

## Major track work in the tunnel between Manhattan and Queens beginning August

Be prepared for major changes to **E F M R**.



Visit [mta.info](http://mta.info) to check service for future travel and see how your ride might change.

We're replacing tracks and concrete on the **E** to make service more reliable.



This service change affects one or more ADA accessible stations.



## 63 St Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation

**Questions?**