



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Paul DiBenedetto Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

To: All Board Members

From: Victor Dadras, Committee Chair

Date: June 16, 2023

Re: Various Traffic Safety Issues and Requests

On Thursday, June 15, 2023, the CB11 Transportation Committee met via Zoom to review and discuss several traffic issues and requests.

Committee Members

Victor Dadras, 1st Vice Chair and Committee Chair

Henry Euler, 2nd Vice Chair

Fleur Martino, 3rd Vice Chair

Christina Scherer

Rob Liatto

Ralph Ruiz

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Dadras called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Mr. Dadras announced that the MTA presentation regarding the Queens Bus Network Redesign has been postponed until the Fall. They will be invited back for September. The item regarding safety issues around Francis Lewis High School will also be postponed as the principal was invited to this meeting. Unfortunately, he did not respond.

Mr. Dadras reported that additional lighting on Bayview Avenue at Shore Road has been approved by NYC Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Ruiz does not feel the additional lighting will deter cars from parking in this area. There are "No Parking Anytime" signs that are ignored. Mr. Dadras likes to think of the procedure regarding these issues as policy, design and enforcement. He asked Mr. Ruiz if he has contacted the precinct. Mr. Ruiz has spoken to the 111th Precinct. He feels that Bayview Avenue should be converted to a one-way operation heading toward West Drive. Mr. Marziliano stated that this issue was discussed at the last Transportation Committee meeting and a letter requesting this one-way conversion was forwarded to DOT. Mr. Ruiz said that the local security team is quite vigilant. Mr. Dadras also announced that additional lighting on Douglaston Parkway between Northern Blvd. and the Long Island Railroad has been approved. In addition to the Douglaston LDC's request, CM Paladino

requested this as well. Standard lighting will be installed near the LIRR station area. Historical lighting needs to be looked at by the NYC Design Commission and would be funded differently. Mr. Dadras said it would be good if more “pedestrian level” streetlights could be installed in this area due to the tree canopies that block some of the lights.

The next item discussed was a request by Michael Feiner, President, Bayside Hill Civic Association, for some type of bike lane warning signs on Northern Blvd. at the Cross Island Parkway (CIP) entrances and exits. Mr. Dadras asked if this was addressed in the last plan DOT presented to CB11. Mr. Marziliano said there is some confusion from DOT about this area (as well as 56 Avenue). They have said this request will be addressed in the future; but a new plan addressing Northern Blvd. east of Cloverdale Blvd./223 Street has not yet been forwarded to CB11. Ms. Martino recalled that CB11 also requested enhanced lighting near the CIP. She requested follow-up on both items as well as an approximate time frame for implementation. Mr. Dadras stated more improvements are needed and as soon as possible. Mr. Hadjiconstantinou made a motion to request bike lane warning signs and enhanced lighting around the area of Northern Blvd. and the CIP interchange. Mr. Euler seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. A letter will be written.

The next item considered was a request by a resident for “No Parking” signs on 35 Avenue from 215 Street east, parallel to Crocheron Park. Mr. Euler said more clarity regarding the location should be given. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty teachers and school personnel from P.S. 41 will encounter trying to get to work. Ms. Martino said this will create more illegal, double parking at drop-off and pick-up times. Mr. Dadras stated that to be consistent, this Committee wants to see that this type of request is supported by the local civic organization, or in this case, the school. Ms. Scherer made a motion that a letter be written to the resident requesting clarity as to the location for the “No Parking” signs and that the support of the local civic association be attained. Mr. Euler seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. A letter will be written.

A request made by a resident for a traffic safety study at the intersection of 43 Avenue and the northbound Clearview Expressway service road due to multiple accidents was the next item discussed. Mr. Marziliano screen-shared photos from the resident showing vehicles that ended up on his property. Parked cars have been damaged as well. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of a civic association that covers this area east of the Clearview Expressway. Mr. Euler offered to write a letter of support from the Auburndale Improvement Association. Ms. Scherer made a motion to request a traffic study of this intersection for safety improvements. Ms. Martino seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. A letter will be written.

The last agenda item discussed was an email received from QCC student, Emily Diana, who requested the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Cloverdale Boulevard and Kenilworth Drive. Mr. Marziliano read the email Ms. Diana sent to CB11, in her capacity as a member of the QCC student government, regarding the lack of safety at this location. Mr. Marziliano screen-shared a photo of the location which is a star-shaped intersection with a slip lane. Discussion ensued regarding the design of the intersection, the traffic volume due to the proximity to QCC and the need for traffic accident data. Mr. Euler made a motion to request a traffic study at the intersection of Cloverdale Blvd. and Kenilworth Drive. Mr. Liatto seconded

the motion. Ms. Martino remarked that due to a lot of pedestrians using earbuds, it would be beneficial to have a visual warning. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. A request for a traffic study will be forwarded to NYC DOT.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Dadras recognized Mr. Euler who wanted to follow up on his request for one-way operations between Utopia Parkway and Francis Lewis Blvd. and Northern Blvd. and the Long Island Railroad. Mr. Marziliano stated he has followed up on this request; he will do so again. He also explained the change in DOT's procedure regarding tracking numbers assigned to requests and the time it is taking for traffic studies to be completed. Mr. Marziliano will reach out via email for an update.

Ms. Scherer raised the issue of the difficulty pedestrians have crossing Francis Lewis Blvd. near I.S. 25. She received a suggestion from Sister Grace of St. Kevin's to lengthen the time of the pedestrian signals at Francis Lewis Blvd. and 35 Avenue. Mr. Liatto remarked that Francis Lewis Blvd. has the highest speed limit in the area that increases as you drive south. Mr. Marziliano stated that our representative at Queens DOT advised him that CB11's request for a one-way operation around I.S 25 has been denied. Discussion ensued regarding the benefit of longer pedestrian signal timing and the specific intersection which is 35 Avenue or a delayed signal allowing pedestrians more time to cross before vehicles can proceed. Mr. Euler again offered to write a letter of support from the Auburndale Improvement Association. Mr. Euler made a motion to request DOT either lengthen the time of the pedestrian signals or delay the green lights for vehicles at Francis Lewis Blvd. and 35 Avenue. Ms. Scherer seconded the motion. Mr. Dadras expressed his concern regarding the design and width of Francis Lewis Blvd. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion carried. A request will be sent to DOT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 6-21-23