



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: May 30, 2024

Re: Phase II Bicycle Lane Network and
Various Traffic Safety Issues and Requests

On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, the CB11 Transportation Committee met to discuss and review NYC Dept. of Transportation's (DOT) Phase II Bicycle Lane Network (BLN) implementation and several traffic issues and requests.

Committee Members

Victor Dadras, 1st Vice Chair and Committee Chair

Paul DiBenedetto, Board Chair

Henry Euler, 2nd Vice Chair*

Eileen Miller

Laura James

Jena Lanzetta

Joan Garippa

Benjamin Turner*

Christina Scherer*

Non-Committee Board Members

Ralph Ruiz*

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator*

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate*

*Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order. Mr. Dadras stated the topics that will be reviewed at the meeting.

The first topic Mr. Dadras introduced was that DOT has notified CB11 of the implementation of Phase II of the BLN in the CB11 district. Phase I was completed in 2023. Mr. Marziliano screen-

shared the letter and reviewed the locations that will be addressed in this phase of the BLN. (Please see attached letter for details.) Mr. Marziliano said there will be a net loss of zero parking in Phase II of the plan. The angle parking adjacent to Lakeside Towers will be relocated.

Mrs. Miller read a letter from Bayside Hills Civic Association (BCHA) opposing the inclusion of 56 Avenue between 211 Street and Springfield Blvd. into the record. She noted that they also had a petition from the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs. Mrs. Miller cited vehicles have been damaged due to the narrowing of the roadway. She also stated that since the bicycle lanes were implemented on Oceania Street, there are traffic jams every morning through Bayside Hills (from motorists avoiding Oceania Street) creating unsafe conditions. Mrs. Miller and the BHCA are opposed to this poorly planned bike lane segment. Mr. Euler stated that this treatment extends into Auburndale on 53 Avenue. It is not good. Something better could be done. Ms. James asked if there is accident data regarding cars being hit. Mrs. Miller will get that.

Discussion ensued regarding if there is parking allowed or not (no parking signs do not seem to exist) on the stretch of 56 Avenue (211 to 217 Street) where there are center, grassy medians. Between the medians, parked cars and a bicycle lane, there will not be enough room for through traffic. If parking is allowed, this treatment will not work. Mrs. Garippa asked if there is photo documentation showing the absence of no parking signs. Mrs. Miller will investigate that. Mrs. Miller also discussed an analysis from a BCHA member who is a regional administrator for New York State DOT; she also said some sidewalks are marked with arrows. Ms. Scherer said there are also some sidewalk markings on Northern Blvd. in the vicinity of Corporal Kennedy and Oceania Streets. Mrs. Miller was asked to submit the correspondence she cited to the CB11 office so that an inquiry could be made for clarification of this proposal. She will ask the church for a letter as well.

Ms. Scherer questioned the treatment of 46 Avenue between Springfield Blvd. and Cloverdale Blvd. DOT is going to make a protected bicycle lane on the westbound side and a shared bicycle lane on the eastbound side. It does not make sense. After some discussion, it was decided that Mr. Marziliano would also inquire about this location with DOT.

The second topic discussed was a request from Andrew Buck for "School Crossing" and "School Crossing Ahead" signage on Horace Harding Expressway South Service Road (eastbound) and Marathon Parkway. Mr. Dadras said this is a very busy intersection and there are two schools in the vicinity. Mr. Buck sent a letter to CM Lee and copied CB11. Mrs. Miller said this has also been discussed as part of this Committee's school safety initiative. It was the consensus of the Committee to send a letter of support for this request.

The third item was a request by the CM Paladino's office on behalf of the PTA for study for a one-way conversion on 211street between 47th and 48th Avenue near P.S. 376. The direction will be determined by DOT. It is a narrow street that ends at a T-intersection at 47 Avenue. The consensus of the Committee was to support this request for a feasibility study.

The next item discussed was a request for a One-Way conversion of 196 Street between 42nd Road and Northern Blvd. Mr. Marziliano said this request came from a resident, David Shim. Ms. Scherer stated that this street is very narrow. She said a lot of trucks use this road as there is a mason store near the corner. Committee members agreed to request a feasibility study for this request. Ms. Scherer and Mr. Euler also inquired if there has been any update regarding the

request for one-way streets in this entire area (Utopia Parkway to Francis Lewis Blvd. between Northern Blvd. and the Long Island Railroad. Mr. Marziliano will follow-up with DOT.

The next item on the agenda was a request to reduce speeding on Utopia Parkway between 47th Avenue and 48th Avenue. Mr. Marziliano said that this request came from CB11 Board Member, George Hadjiconstantinou. Discussion ensued about stop signs (which DOT does not use to control speeding) in addition to possible traffic calming measures. Mr. Dadras noted that the design of Utopia Parkway promotes speeding. Ms. Scherer said there are already speed cameras. Mr. DiBenedetto said the City will be lowering the speed limit another 5 mph. Ms. Scherer raised the plan to put bicycle lanes on Utopia Parkway in the future. Considering this, the request was denied as traffic calming measures will be implemented along with the bicycle lane.

Item number six on the agenda was an update on co-naming CW5 Howard Haider Way to be re-co-named Howard and Christine Haider Way. Mr. Marziliano advised that the NYC Council's general counsel has yet not replied if this change can be made. He will follow-up with them. Mr. Dadras inquired if calling it a revision would speed up the process. Mr. Marziliano said that when streets are re/co-named, it is a legal declaration. The existing one would have to be rescinded and a new one voted on again. A previously discussed, alternative location for Mrs. Haider would be 189 Street and 58 Avenue which is the corner near the house she lived in. Mrs. Haider's son has advised Mrs. Miller this location would be fine. Mrs. Garippa suggested to save time, CB11 can make the request for the location near her home. Mr. DiBenedetto made a motion to co-name the corner of 189 Street and 58 Avenue to "Christine Haider Way". Ms. James seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Item number seven was another co-naming request for Northern Blvd. between 234th Street and Cross Island Parkway for Patrolman Benjamin Bruno who died in the line of duty on January 30, 1956. Mr. DiBenedetto said that he is involved with the Newtown Historical Society who does a lot of co-namings for veterans and uniformed officers who have passed away. This request came through CM Paladino's office. Mr. DiBenedetto made a motion to accept the co-naming of Northern Blvd. between 234 Street and the Cross Island Parkway for Patrolman Benjamin Bruno. Mr. Euler seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The last request discussed was to co-name Thornhill Avenue and 244th Street for FDNY Lt. James Donohue, who died from 9/11-related illnesses on June 30, 2023. Mr. Marziliano read the request letter into the record. Mr. Dadras raised the issue of adhering to CB11's protocol, and for consistency, that the request be supported by a civic or historical organization. Mr. DiBenedetto said that since Lt. Donohue was a uniformed FDNY officer, a request was made from Newtown Historical Society to the Bayside Historical Society. The letter relays that the Douglaston Civic Association (DCA) supports this request. Mr. Marziliano will ask Sean Walsh, President, DCA, to submit a letter of support. Mrs. Garippa made a motion to co-name Thornhill Avenue and 244 Street for FDNY Lt. James Donohue. Mr. DiBenedetto seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The public hearings for the three (3) above co-naming requests will be held at CB11's September 2024 Board Meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Dadras asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. Mr. Dadras spoke about car racing noise late into the night. He believes it comes from the Cross Island Parkway. Ms. Lanzetta said she has the same problem from cars on the Clearview Expressway. Mr. Dadras said the City does have some devices to monitor noise and a task force.

Mr. Marziliano said some people modify their mufflers to be very loud. Mr. Marziliano said the CB11 hotspots for this behavior are primarily the Douglaston Shopping Center and Francis Lewis Blvd. (which traverses the 107th and the 111th precincts). Many of these vehicles don't have license plates to avoid identification. Mr. Dadras asked if this is a priority for the NYPD. Mr. Marziliano said due to the possible horrible outcomes, they do take it seriously. There could be trespassing, loitering or disorderly conduct violations written. Mr. Marziliano said he can follow-up with the 111th precinct.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted May 30, 2024