



The City of New York

## Queens Community Board 11

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

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members

From: Victor Dadras, Committee Chair

Date: October 25, 2021

Re: Various Transportation Issues

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On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the CB11 Transportation Committee met via Zoom to have a bicycle network development presentation from NYC DOT and to discuss several other transportation issues.

### Present

Michael Budabin, Board Chair  
Victor Dadras, Committee Chair/1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Christine Haider, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Henry Euler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Joan Garippa  
Albert Galatan  
John Kelly  
Eileen Miller  
Stephan Popa  
Laura James  
Lander Bravo  
Robert Liatto  
Wendy Pelle-Beer  
Sam Wong  
Jena Lanzetta  
Benjamin Turner  
Christina Scherer  
Paul DiBenedetto  
Mary Donahue  
Lindsey Mayer

### Guests

Albert Silvestri, Dep. Borough Commissioner, DOT  
Craig Chin, Borough Planner, DOT  
Samantha Dolgoff, DOT  
Craig Baerwald, DOT  
Gretha Suarez, DOT  
Allison Murphy, Principal, St. Kevin's Academy

### CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager  
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Mr. Marziliano began the meeting by introducing the Chair of the Transportation Committee, Victor Dadras. Mr. Dadras thanked all who were present for attending. He reviewed the four items that were scheduled to be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Dadras introduced Mr. Silvestri of the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) who then introduced his staff that were in attendance.

Mr. Silvestri stated that the NYC Department of Parks has launched the Destination Greenways Project. DOT has partnered with them to create a better network of bicycle connections to the amenities in northeast Queens. Mr. Silvestri gave the floor to Ms. Suarez who screen-shared DOT's Bicycle Network Development presentation; a copy of the presentation is attached for your information. She also added that no significant parking will be removed as a result. Mr. Silvestri stated that a lot of time, consideration and work went into these proposed locations. After the presentation, Mr. Marziliano remarked that oftentimes, what DOT presents is not what the outcome is after the lanes are installed. Mr. Marziliano also added that implementation is crucial, and CB11 will notify any affected civic associations of the proposed lanes.

Mr. Dadras confirmed that this is phase one of the development. Ms. Suarez said yes, this is phase one of this development; eventually it will move east. Mr. Dadras expressed a strong desire to see DOT include the (completely underserved) neighborhoods of Douglaston and Little Neck, east of this area of study, and potentially connected through the Northern Boulevard Vision Zero corridor, which Mr. Dadras commented also still requires a promised re-design and upgrade/greenway improvement.

At this time, Mr. Dadras recognized audience members who wanted to comment. The consensus of most Board Members was that although the proposal for additional bike lanes is good, safety is paramount and protected bike lanes are needed. Several members cited that vehicles are often parked in standard bike lanes, which creates a dangerous situation. The safety of pedestrians was questioned; the need for additional signage and signals was pointed out. Mrs. Haider inquired if the existing safety improvement project required capital funding to move forward. Mr. Dadras asked if there would be an opportunity to revise these plans. Ms. Suarez stated that notes were being taken. Mr. Silvestri asked that any comments or requested upgrades be sent to DOT. Mr. Baerwald added that protected bike lanes require much more review, time, and coordination with internal and external DOT units. Mr. Silvestri stated that more intensive work is being done regarding the proposed lanes along Utopia Parkway. He added that protected bike lanes are challenging to implement in northeast Queens due to some street widths and disjointed street segments. Mr. Dadras commented that this Committee and Board should give DOT input as to what we feel is acceptable and what we feel is the best configuration for functionality.

The time frame for these proposals was questioned as well as the plan to move the project eastward. Mr. Silvestri stated that this proposed project is for 2022. The time frame may be affected by any changes or additions that are made via feedback. Mr. Budabin thanked DOT for the presented plan and echoed the desire of other members for more protected bike lanes. Mr. Budabin suggested that a sub-committee of the Transportation Committee meet about all the details of these bike lane proposals. Mr. Dadras requested any comments be submitted in writing to the CB11 Office.

The next item was a request from St. Kevin's Academy for additional traffic controls and a possible one-way conversion in the vicinity of 46 Avenue between 189 Street and 197 Street. Mr. Marziliano cited the receipt of the request and a petition Mrs. Donahue secured with 130 names. A copy of the requests is attached. Ms. Murphy, Principal of St. Kevin's Academy, spoke regarding an accident that occurred near the school that resulted in severe injury of a pedestrian; she feels if this involved a child, it may have resulted in a fatality. Ms. James pointed out that school zone speed limit signs have time restraints, and the Board

needs to be cognizant of that when considering number five on the petition, which is the removal of a “NYC Speed Limit 25 MPH” sign on 46 Avenue at 196 Place. Mr. Dadras said we should request that DOT better coordinate these signs to avoid confusion. Mr. Bravo remarked that they are still waiting for changes to be implemented at P.S. 94 that were requested a couple of years ago. Effective change needs to be made near the schools.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to support the requests for traffic safety controls as outlined by Mrs. Donahue except for number five, where the Committee would ask DOT to examine clarification of the speed limit signs on that stretch of 46 Avenue. Mrs. Haider seconded the motion. Mr. Euler stated that the Auburndale Improvement Association is in complete support of all the requests made by Mrs. Donahue. He emphasized the problem with 192 Street and 46 Avenue and the need for “All-Way Stop” signs and the placement of the “Do Not Enter” signs. Mrs. Garippa suggested a slower deceleration to 20 MPH as motorists get closer to the school. Mr. Euler stated they do not want speed bumps. Mrs. Haider said all schools should have school zone/speed limit signs. Mr. Turner said that we should support the requests but remarked that NYC has unique transportation needs. Mr. Kelly also supports the signs but suggested that DOT study the entire area around St. Kevin’s for safety improvements.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in all in favor. The motion passed.

The next item discussed was updated signage around P.S. 390 located in Bayside Hills. Mrs. Miller stated that vehicles are being driven on the sidewalk and many motorists are not abiding by the laws. She spoke to the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct who sent officers to this location to regulate the traffic. The principal wants to have a meeting, that Mrs. Miller said she and Mr. Dadras could attend, to ensure that all safety measures are being implemented. Mr. Dadras said he would organize such a meeting. Mr. Marziliano read a letter from DOT dated October 8, 2021 which outlined the safety measures for a Playstreet etc. Mrs. Miller wants to meet with school representatives to ensure these are being followed. Mrs. Miller added that she would like to see all schools with these safety measures and would like to know how many safety officers are at each school. Mr. Marziliano stated that there has not been a replenishment of crossing guards, school safety personnel and officers due to Covid-19 budget cuts, attrition and the “defund” movement.

The last item discussed was a study requested by the Auburndale Improvement Association that DOT look into converting the avenues and streets bordered by Northern Blvd., Utopia Parkway, Station Road and Francis Lewis Blvd. to one-way operations. Mr. Euler stated this a higher-density area (R3 and R4 zoning) that is near the Long Island Railroad Auburndale station that has a high volume of vehicular traffic.

Mr. Euler made a motion that CB11 write to DOT requesting a feasibility study to convert the avenues and streets between Northern Blvd., Utopia Parkway, Station Road and Francis Lewis Blvd. to one-way operations. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. Euler added that many of these streets are quite narrow. Mrs. Scherer stated she has heard from several residents that turning onto some of these blocks has become even harder with outdoor dining shelters being constructed.

A voice vote was taken resulting in all in favor. The motion passed.

Before the meeting ended, Mr. Dadras again requested any comments regarding the bike lane presentation be forwarded to the CB11 office.

The meeting adjourned

*Respectfully submitted 10/25/21*