



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, Transportation
Committee Chair**

DATE: July 22, 2020

**RE: NYSDOT Project PIN X228.69
Open Streets/Open Restaurants Initiatives
CB11 DOT Complaint Procedure**

On Tuesday, July 21, 2020, a meeting of the CB11 Transportation Committee was convened. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference. Present during the meeting were Michael Budabin, Board Chair, Christine Haider, 1st Vice Chair, Victor Dadras, 2nd Vice Chair, Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair, Board Members Laura James, Stephan Popa, John Kelly, Christina Scherer, Barbara Gillespie, Adriana Aviles, Lander Bravo, Ben Turner, Laura James, Eileen Miller, Rob Liatto, Mary Donahue, Allan Palzer, Joan Garippa, and Community Committee Member, David Schachner. CB11 District Manager, Joseph Marziliano and staff members Christina Coutinho and Jane Bentivenga were also in attendance. Representatives from our local elected officials joined the meeting as well: Susan Seinfeld from CM Grodenchik's office and David Fischer from AM Braunstein's office. Also joining the meeting was resident Joby Jacob. NYS Department of Transportation was represented by Thomas Bayer, Nasim Ghani, Glorimar Reyes,

Michael Budabin began the meeting by reviewing what would be discussed during this meeting. Victor Dadras then welcomed all present and updated everyone on the Open Streets and Open Restaurant initiatives that have been implemented in CB11. Mr. Dadras urged everyone to submit locations near schools so that streets are safer when schools open, in whatever fashion, in the Fall.

At this point, Mr. Budabin introduced Mr. Bayer, Assistant to the Regional Director, NYSDOT to discuss an upcoming project for the eastbound auxiliary lanes along Long Island Expressway (LIE) from the Clearview Expressway (CVE) to Springfield Blvd. Mr. Bayer shared his screen and introduced Glorimar Reyes, Acting Director of Design, NYSDOT Region 11, who reviewed the slides of the presentation in detail which includes replacement of the overpass at Oceania

Street. The project is in the preliminary design stage. It is expected to be in the final design stage by Summer of 2021. Work is anticipated to begin Fall of 2021 and take two years.

Community Board Members had the following concerns:

- Rob Liatto feels it will cause extreme congestion for the Oakland Gardens area south of the Long Island Expressway
- Adriana Aviles noted that the schools in the area need to be notified of this work and extra crossing guards be needed
- Eileen Miller was concerned about sound barriers being installed along this stretch of the highway which has been a priority for CB11 for many years
- Lander Bravo raised the issue of improvements for bike lanes with going northbound on Oceania Street as there is access to nearby parks
- Henry Euler inquired if there were any plans to redo the off ramp from southbound CVE to LIE. Mr. Euler questioned the EB and WB exit configuration. Rob Liatto added the congestion at this location has significantly lengthened the commute south from the Throgs Neck Bridge to 73 Avenue.
- Ben Turner added that widening projects have a short-lived advantage and congestion is inevitable. He questioned the strategy being proposed.
- Christine Haider said noise barriers need to be considered west of this proposal.
- John Kelly questioned the cost of the project and pollution that would be generated.

Michael Budabin asked Ms. Reyes to describe some of the measures that will be taken during the construction to mitigate issues for the surrounding community. She stated they are planning to keep the same number of travel lanes maintained on the LIE and its service road. There may be some disruption at Exit 29. The Oceania Street bridge will be open during construction. There will only be short-term closures when they will have to perform work on the girders. They will present further detail during the final design phase. During this phase, they will reach out to adjacent property owners for their input regarding the noise barriers. Ms. Reyes stated noise barriers are only installed as part of a project. Mr. Bayer stated further outreach will be done as the project nears commencement.

Victor Dadras requested all the comments and questions be put in a letter to NYSDOT so they can be addressed. Michael Budabin asked members to email their questions and/or concerns to the Board so they can be included in the letter. He thanked NYSDOT for their time and presentation.

Victor Dadras resumed this portion of the meeting by asking members for feedback regarding the Open Streets Initiative. Christine Haider commented that better enforcement needs to be done. Mr. Dadras stated that DOT has been working with DOB. They have started enforcement. Letters are being sent in advance of possible fines. He stated that the 111th Precinct should be involved. Mr. Budabin added that Joseph Marziliano has had contact with both Christine Silletti of the Bayside BID and P.O. Angwang of the 111th Precinct to ensure regulations are being carried out. Allan Palzer asked if the SLA could get involved. Mr. Dadras said the SLA has revoked liquor licenses of a few establishments in other areas. Mr. Marziliano added that he was told the SLA sends daily emails to licensees to remind them what is and isn't permissible.

Mr. Dadras and Mr. Budabin asked for any further comments or thoughts to be emailed to the office.

Mr. Dadras introduced the topic of open DOT complaints and requests. He explained how the complaints that are received via phone or email are forwarded to DOT and then logged onto an excel spreadsheet for tracking. The Board and the Committee would like to know the status of requests and how this procedure can be improved.

In an effort to make this process more open, transparent, and efficient, the spreadsheet has been forwarded to all Transportation Committee Members for review so comments could be made. Mr. Budabin added that it has also been distributed so that Committee Members can see the status of any request they may have made. Mr. Budabin asked the Members to be mindful that this is for their own information. If there is a question or comment about a particular issue, Mr. Budabin asked that it be brought to the attention of Mr. Dadras, Mr. Marziliano or himself. He also expressed they want to make our approach to feasibility studies more consistent and be more comprehensive and cohesive as some requests that may have already been done in the immediate vicinity. Moving forward, requested items will be put on the Transportation Committee agenda unless there are exigent circumstances. Mr. Dadras added that the Committee will decide the priority of received requests.

Victor Dadras raised the issue of better access for bicycles and pedestrians and the way CB11 connects with other transportation hubs. He stated that there will be an upcoming Bike Workshop in the Fall. He suggested that the Members work on ideas for this the same way they did with the Bus Redesign Plan. Mr. Budabin stated that DOT advised the best way to affect some of our ideas is through this workshop. We need to prepare in advance. It will probably take place in October or November.

Ben Turner raised the issue of proposed bicycle lanes on Utopia Parkway which would connect with the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway all the way north to Joe Michael's Mile to Little Bay Park. Safe cycling infrastructure is needed, and he feels Utopia Parkway make sense.

John Kelly questioned the procedure with requests for DOT and how and when they will vote on the items and when they will be listed on the sheet. The staff will present all the requests for DOT via the meeting agenda. The requests that are approved for a feasibility study will be sent to DOT and recorded on the sheet. Mr. Kelly feels that all requests should be on the sheet so that there is a history of certain requests/locations.

Henry Euler stated he will send his comments to the Board office.

Victor Dadras stated there will be a meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted 7/23/2020