



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: February 16, 2022

Re: Various issues

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the CB11 Transportation met via Zoom to discuss an update regarding CB11's submission to the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding bicycle lane implementation, several street name/signage requests and issues the Committee would like to address moving forward.

Present

Committee Members

Michael Budabin, Chair, ex. off.

Victor Dadras, 2nd Vice Chair, ex. off

Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair, ex. off.

Paul DiBenedetto

Joan Garippa

Laura James

Jena Lanzetta

Rob Liatto

Eileen Miller

Stephan Popa

Christina Scherer

Benjamin Turner

Community Board Members

Jessica Burke

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Marziliano reviewed the topics that were slated to be discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Dadras informed everyone that DOT has advised CB11 that they are pleased with our recommendations and the resolution that our Board submitted to them regarding their Bicycle Network Plan. The response by their engineers and planners is anticipated around the first week of March. They would like to begin implementing it as early as Spring 2022.

Mr. Marziliano introduced the next portion of the meeting which was to review transportation-related requests that have been submitted to CB11. The first item discussed was a request by Mr. Liatto which Mr. Marziliano screen-shared regarding the following:

- Adding stop signs around the perimeter of the northside of Alley Pond park from Springfield Blvd. and 73 Ave to 233 Street and East Hampton Blvd (including P.S. 213) to give pedestrians the ability to cross safely
- Adding stop signs on the avenues (69th, 67th, and 64th), to help pedestrians move throughout the neighborhood safely
- Replace the “No Overnight Commercial Parking” signs (on the entire route from 73rd Ave. and Springfield Blvd. to 233rd St. and East Hampton Blvd.) that were removed years ago during a repaving project
- Replace “No Thru Commercial Traffic Except for Local Deliveries” (as this route is used as a bypass when the LIE East exit backs up onto the Clearview Expressway) which were also removed years ago

Mr. Liatto stated that he has been trying to get these changes effected for many years for the safety of all. He stated that currently, the only safe pedestrian crossing exists at 230 Street and 67 Avenue. The installation of bicycle lanes has exacerbated the issue. More options are especially necessary for schoolchildren. Mr. Turner made a motion to write to DOT requesting the installation of these suggestions. Mr. Popa seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken resulting in all in favor. The motion passed unanimously. Correspondence will be sent to DOT.

The next request introduced was a street co-naming for Corbett Road and 217 Street in Bayside to “Big Jim Corcoran Way” in honor of former, longtime resident James Corcoran. A letter of support and a biography was submitted by the Bayside Historical Society and screen-shared with the Committee. (A copy of the letter is attached.) Mr. Popa made a motion to co-name Corbett Road and 217 Street in honor of James Corcoran. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liatto. There was no discussion on the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously. This item will be scheduled for a public hearing and Councilwoman Paladino will be notified.

At this point, Mr. Marziliano informed everyone that we will soon be receiving a street co-naming request for Ann Jawin who was president of the Doug-Bay Civic Association and founded the the Center for the Women of New York.

Mr. Marziliano introduced the third request to be presented this evening, which was submitted by Board Member, Bernard Haber. Mr. Haber requested that the “No Parking Except with Press ID” signs be removed from the south side of 38 Avenue and the corner of Bell Blvd. These signs restrict parking for about four vehicles. The Courier newspaper office no longer operates from this location. Freeing up these spaces will allow the City to collect parking fees and provide additional parking for the Bell Blvd. area. Mr. Popa made a motion to have these signs

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removed. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to DOT.

The last item Mr. Marziliano presented was a request for All-Way Stop signs at the intersection of 192 Street and Station Road. Mr. Euler made a motion to have write a letter to have this signage installed. Mr. Dadras seconded the motion. Mr. Euler, Ms. Scherer and Ms. Lanzetta all agree this needs to be done. Mr. Euler and Ms. Scherer stated that this is a very dangerous location. Mr. Turner added that he often rides his bike here on his commute to work and concurs it is quite hazardous. Mr. Liatto commented that the streets in this vicinity are very narrow and crowded due to its proximity to the LIRR station. Ms. Scherer inquired as to the status of our request for the implementation of one-way streets in the Auburndale area. She also let the Committee know of an article that was in the New York Times regarding reckless driving and speeding since the advent of the pandemic. A voice vote was taken resulting in all in favor. The motion passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to DOT.

The last topic Mr. Dadras discussed was what the goals and initiatives of this committee will be moving forward. He mentioned the bus redesign issue, that this Committee has worked on in the past, will be coming back for discussion after being tabled by the pandemic. Mr. Dadras feels that the issue of school safety is of the utmost importance. He would like to see this Committee form a working group that will address the needs of the 27 schools in our district by contacting them and asking how CB11 can help. Mr. Turner stated that I.S. 25 has reached out for our assistance. Mrs. Miller feels that all schools need to be contacted so we can garner feedback regarding safety concerns. Mr. Dadras pointed out that the Open Streets program, which can create public/pedestrian space, could help with the issue of school safety. He would also like to see the worst streets and/or intersections looked at closely for any suggested improvements. Mr. Dadras will share a link to the latest NYC Streets Plan from DOT which was published in December of 2021. Mr. Liatto stated that we need to be proactive, not reactive. Mr. Dadras would like to see a working group formed regarding bus redesign. Mr. Turner stated there was a lot of negative feedback to the bus redesign plan. Mr. Dadras said when the bus redesign happens, it will greatly impact the CB11 area. He also stated that DOT used a lot of CB11's input when formulating their plan.

Ms. Burke was recognized. She also mentioned the article about driving habits in the New York Times. Mr. Dadras added that, in an article he read, the amount of driving decreased, but the amount of accidents increased. She feels reaching out to all the local schools is a great idea. She also suggested reaching out to senior centers and the like regarding safety concerns. Mrs. Miller suggested involving CB11's Senior Citizens Committee. Ms. Lanzetta raised the issue of the removal of several crossing guard posts at some of our schools. Unfortunately, last week a child was hit by a car near Bayside High School. This was one of the posts where a crossing guard was removed. This post has been vacant for six months. Ms. James spoke about the chaos that ensues around most, if not all, schools at drop-off and pick-up times. She wondered if there was a standardized, safe way of doing this. Mr. Dadras agreed this issue should be addressed. He said he would share an article about how this issue to dealt with in other places. He also said several different things have been tried over the years; part of contacting the different schools can also include asking them what works and what does not when it comes to drop-off and pick-up times. Mr. Turner added that this is a catch-22 situation. Parents don't want their children to walk or bike to school because of all the traffic which, in turn, leads to more traffic. Mr.

DiBenedetto said that a request should be made to have the “missing” crossing guards reinstated. Mr. Marziliano stated that this may be an expense budget item. Ms. Lanzetta said that she was told there is a shortage of crossing guards and a lack of interest for this position. Mr. Marziliano said this is something the Board will have to advocate for in our next budget submission. Ms. Lanzetta stated that two posts were taken from P.S. 159 and Bayside High School and reassigned to other schools. Mr. Dadras said the Board needs to advocate for every crossing guard we are entitled to.

Mr. Liatto raised the issue of illegal commercial parking. He has been told many times over the years, that huge tractor trailers can’t be towed. He stated tractor trailers are often parked/stored in many areas that are not primarily residential. He stated this is a disruptive, quality of life issue and a safety issue as it impedes the sight of pedestrians and motorists alike. Mrs. Miller added that any fine the violators receive is less than the cost of storage for a night. Mr. Liatto said it is illegal for these large trucks to be parked on the street overnight.

Mr. Popa asked how members can sign up for a working group. Mr. Dadras said he will send out an email suggesting a few working groups, and he would appreciate feedback from the Committee members and their interest/intent to join. Mrs. Miller asked that any notifications of working group meetings be sent to all Board Members so that they can attend if they are inclined to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 2/17/2022