



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

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

Eileen Miller Chairperson / Joseph Marziliano District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Transportation Committee
Victor Dadras – Chair
DATE: September 24, 2019

On Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 7:30 p.m., the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Chair Victor Dadras, Board Chair Eileen Miller, Second Vice Chair Christine Haider, Third Vice Chair Henry Euler, Committee Member Ed Doster, Board Members Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Bernard Haber, John Kelly, Robert Liatto, Allan Palzer, Stephan Popa, Jyothi Sriram, and Benjamin Turner. District Manager Joseph Marziliano was in attendance. Also in attendance were Cecilia Venosta-Wiygul representing the P.S. 98 PTSA, Jess Bravo representing the P.S. 94 PTSA and Westmoreland Civic Association, and the following representatives from Hunter College: Thomas Bardenett, Jason Brody, Jaime Cho, Kerry Goleski, Carlos Martinez, Jesslyn Moser, and Jenna Stein. Also in attendance was community resident Ravi Sriram.

Mr. Dadras called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Committee had a very large agenda and Mr. Dadras explained his commitment to meet monthly until the Committee catches up on outstanding work and requests. This will allow the Committee to focus on the priorities of increasing safety, traffic congestion reduction, and improved infrastructure design/implementation.

The Committee then reviewed the following items:

School Safety

- a. **Request from P.S. 98** – A request was received and reviewed from the Cecilia Venosta-Wiygul of the P.S. 98 PTSA including re-examining existing painted crosswalks for improvement and repair at the front and rear of the building, installation of traffic delineators or ‘Qwik Kurbs’ to prevent U-turns in front of the building, using “curb frontage” along Douglaston Parkway for pick-up and drop-off, street resurfacing, and installation of a speed camera. **A motion was made by Mrs. Haider to ask for a feasibility study of these infrastructure improvements for school safety, seconded by Mrs. Garippa. The Committee passed the motion unanimously.**

- b. **Request from P.S. 94** – A joint request was received and reviewed from Jess Bravo of the P.S. 94 PTSA and the Westmoreland Civic Association to make certain improvements to the area around the school. These requests included the one-way conversion of 41st Drive from Westmoreland Street to Little Neck Parkway, that the southeast side of the street be a No-Parking zone, that the northwest side of the street be a No-Standing zone for daylighting near Little Neck Parkway, that an All-Way Stop sign be installed at 41st Drive and Westmoreland Street, and that 43rd Avenue between Little Neck Parkway and Westmoreland Street be converted to a one-way operation. **A motion was made by Mr. Popa to ask for a feasibility study of these infrastructure improvements for school safety, seconded by Ms. Sriram. The Committee passed the motion unanimously.**
- c. The Committee is awaiting answers from the DOT for updates on requests made on behalf of P.S. 376. Mr. Dadras committed to reaching out to P.S. 203, P.S. 46, P.S. 67, P.S. 41, and P.S. 130 to proactively ask if they are in need of any street improvements in front of their schools.

3. Issue: **Rail Service – MTA/LIRR**

- a. **Metro Card use on LIRR by NYC residents** – Mr. Dadras introduced the topic and updated the Committee since the Comptroller's report calling for subway-swipe parity for LIRR commuters residing in Queens. There is a current pilot program in South Queens on the Atlantic Branch. **Mr. Popa made a motion to follow up on the Committee's letter by introducing a resolution in favor of One-Swipe Parity of the Port Washington Branch for Queens residents before the full board, seconded by Mr. Galatan. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. **Other rail improvements: increased service? ADA accessibility, etc.** – The list of suggestions made by Ms. Gillespie last year were briefly reviewed. Increased bus service between CB11 and the Flushing Main Street Subway was approved by the MTA, resulting in the articulated Q12 Bus Service. The DOT is still reviewing the letter sent for a possible bicycle lane on either 29th Avenue or 32nd Avenue. More bicycle racks were approved and installed at the Bayside LIRR station during reconstruction. Finally, as per the previous agenda item, Subway- Rail Road one-swipe parity is being escalated by the Committee to the full Board.

4. Issue: **Bus Service – MTA**

- a. **Q12 –New service (articulated buses), issues** – Ms. Sriram stated that she commutes taking the Q12 and the articulated buses have increased bus capacity but actually made service worse. The wait times are now longer and some of the buses have been bunching up and arriving all at once. Some committee members advocated for Limited Q12 service and others suggested Select Bus Service along the Q12 line. Mr. Dadras stated he will look into it further and Mr. Marziliano will notify MTA of the problem and ask for a quality control solution for now.

- b. ***“A Better Way Forward Improving Bus Travel in the World’s Borough” (257 pp. PDF) Report *Discussion on how to engage/contribute*** – Mr. Dadras introduced that Queens is currently under a complete redesign of the entire bus route system and believes that CB 11 should have its voice heard. Mr. Turner stated that he has looked into the report and that most of the Queens Bus routes are still based on the old Trolley Car lines such as the Q60 bus.

5. Complete Streets and VISION ZERO

- a. **Hunter College Planning Study: “Research to support future mobility improvements within the neighborhoods of CB11 / Bike & Pedestrian infrastructure”** – A group of research students from Hunter College led by Mr. Martinez briefly presented on their intentions to do an in-depth study as to the best possible improvements that could benefit the CB11 area including and utilizing alternative transportation to benefit the community by increasing safety and reducing traffic congestion. They will conduct their study and check back with the committee at a later time. Mr. DiBenedetto asked that they keep in mind that in doing their research, their conclusions as Urban Planners may impact actual residential neighborhoods with real families living in them. Mr. Martinez stated that their aim is to learn how best achieve that goal.
- b. **Review DOT request for input on issue at 230th Street** – Mr. Dadras introduced the issue of problems at 230th Street between 69th Avenue and 73rd Avenue. Due to the parking against the residential homes, two-way traffic, and bicycle lane, the DOT has notified the Board that the excessive narrowness of the street is a dangerous condition. They have proposed two potential solutions, either to restrict the parking with ‘No Standing Anytime’ regulations, or convert the stretch to a northbound One-Way operation. **Mr. Euler made a motion to write a letter to the DOT informing them that the committee needs more time to gather information and make an informed decision, seconded by Mrs. Haider. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Joseph Marziliano
District Manager
September 26, 2019*