



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: January 28, 2020

On Tuesday, January 22, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Chair, Victor Dadras, Board Chair, Eileen Miller, First Vice Chair, Christine Haider, Third Vice Chair, Henry Euler, Board Members, Mary Donahue, Albert Galatan, Barbara Gillespie, Laura James, John Kelly, Robert Liatto, Allan Palzer, Stephan Popa, and Benjamin Turner. District Manager, Joseph Marziliano was in attendance. Also, in attendance were the following representatives from Hunter College: Thomas Bardenett, Jason Brody, Kerry Goleski, and Carlos Martinez.

Mr. Dadras called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Committee had a tight agenda focusing on the priorities of increasing safety, traffic congestion reduction, and improved infrastructure design/implementation.

The Committee then reviewed the following items:

- 1) Report and update from Chairperson on progress of: School Safety, Complete Streets / Intersections, and Northern Boulevard Vision Zero Greenway requests.**

Mr. Dadras informed the Committee that he briefly reviewed the CB11 office spreadsheet of ongoing Department of Transportation complaints and tracked study requests. At this time there are no relevant updates of the projects requested by the Committee recently. Earlier in the month, Mr. Dadras, Ms. Miller and Mr. Marziliano met with State Senator Liu's staff to discuss funding of the Northern Boulevard Vision Zero Greenway. CB 11 leadership is currently working with the Senator's office to obtain an official capital project estimate, and project scoping, for the project -from the Dept. of Transportation.

Additionally, The Board will be co-hosting an MTA workshop to discuss and give feedback on the proposed Queens Bus Network Redesign. The workshop will be hosted alongside the various local Elected Officials on February 20th at 7:00 p.m. The Committee examined the draft redesign plan later in the Committee meeting.

The request of a proposed letter from the Transportation Committee and the Environmental Committee, to the Department of Sanitation, was raised regarding snow removal issues by Mr. Kelly and Ms. Donahue. The concern is that during snow removal, the DSNY plows the streets curb-to-curb. This covers recently shoveled sidewalks back with snow. It also generally preserves parking at the expense of space for pedestrians. When asked in person and via letter last year, the DSNY explained but doubled down on their policy. Mr. Dadras made a motion to send a follow-up letter to the DSNY, written by Mr. Euler, and signed by BOTH the Transportation Committee and the Environmental Committee, advocating for representation at a Committee meeting to discuss the issue further. The motion was seconded by Ms. Miller and passed unanimously. The issue will go before the Environmental Committee at the January 28, 2020 meeting.

2) Presentation by Hunter College Graduate Planning Students: Final Report: "Improving Livability in Northeastern Queens – A Vision for Complete Streets"

Mr. Brody (faculty), Mr. Bardenett, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Goleski gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding their final findings, conclusions, and suggestions, including: complete streets -to include a proposed, expanded bicycle network with locations within the confines of CB11, and connected to greater Queens sites (the sites chosen in their study were based on locations of interest, and the ability to travel within and without of CB11 more safely on a bicycle); comprehensive pedestrian safety improvements, throughout CB11, including specific safer crosswalks near schools; improved intersection designs -at key intersections in need of safety improvement; bicycle parking opportunities at railroad stations, and schools; and public education and wayfinding improvements. The full presentation, as well as the Final Report, is available at the District Office and was disseminated amongst the Committee Members.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Haider stated that a particular slide showed a very good solution to the current poor design of the crosswalks at the Cross Island Parkway exit ramp and Northern Boulevard. She also stated that she was displeased with the configuration of certain proposed protected bicycle lanes at 73rd Avenue in Oakland Gardens. Mr. Turner stated that the Board should take responsibility in making the road safe for everyone, regardless of modes of transport.

Mr. Dadras thanked the students and their Professor for returning (after their course had been completed) to share their findings with us, and for taking the time to let us know what they concluded, and recommended. He also reiterated that this was a purely scholarly study, and in allowing these students to receive our CB11 input, and discuss with us their progress, helped them as future urban planners to understand the concerns of neighborhoods in their careers moving forward. It was also acknowledged, by the Committee, that this effort also served to provide a very professional study for our Community Board 11 district, that began to study and promote discussion of many issues.

3) MTA Queens Bus Network Re-Design: Review and Discussion of Impact on CB 11 communities.

Mr. Dadras introduced the Queens Bus redesign plan, with maps of the Community District and all the proposed changes. The plan as it is now does not 1) Serve Westmoreland / Little Neck and makes it more of a transportation desert, 2) Does not service Little Neck Parkway between Horace Harding and Northern Boulevard, 3) Limits express bus service dramatically, 4) Does not actually improve trip time for riders.

Mr. Popa was recognized to go page by page and break down all the proposed service changes for the Committee Members. There were acknowledged gaps in service, in each neighborhood across the district, which were discussed in detail, and the Committee will make sure to attend the upcoming workshop, on February 20th, and encourage neighbors to do so as well. Mr. Dadras asked all Transportation Committee members to make every effort to attend this important workshop, and that he would coordinate the Committee's efforts to prepare (in advance) for this meeting, so that we could best represent the interests of our CB11, with specific, and detailed comments to the MTA, as well as our elected officials (who have specifically requested the same)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Joseph Marziliano
District Manager
January 28, 2020*

