



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

October 7, 2025

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Reilly Owens, Chair, Morry Galonoy (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Corey Hannigan, Randy Plemel (PV), Oumaya Saab

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Osman Chowdhury, Ryan Smith

Transportation Public Members – Present

Patrica Pan

Transportation Public Members – Absent

CB 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado, Community Coordinator

Elected Officials/Representatives

Stef McGraw, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez

Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianarus

NYC Department of Transportation

Guests

Tom Mituzas, Blissville Civic Association, Claudia Chan, LaGuardia Community College, Manuel Romero, LaGuardia Community College, Alice Mok, Wonton Food Inc.

Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comments – Comments by Community Members (1 Minute) up to ten minutes

Tom Mitzusas, Blissville Civic Association spoke about the following:

- He asked if any progress had been made concerning their request for Broden Avenue roadbed converted to a park under the New York City's Park Walk to a Park Initiative.
- Thanked DOT for hosting Biketober in Blissville with DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez. Conducted a ribbon cutting of the Blissville Greenway. It was a moving event hearing from the cyclists in Maspeth who have traversed this roadbed for 40 years. Thanked the Transportation committee for their work.
- Reported the DEP has repaired the catch basin.
- He is seeking help to convince the DOT to not use Green Asphalt. This company has now been, pursuant to an agreement they signed, admitted to violating pollution laws. The folks in Blissville and Greenpoint should not be breathing in contaminated air. DOT must find another provider. Tom Mituzas reported that Council Member Ressler has already contacted the DOT Commissioner to find a new company. On December 11, 2025, Green Asphalt must comply with the Consent Award that they signed, raising the smokestacks 90 feet and doing the emissions testing. They have not filed permits to put up the smokestack yet.
- On December 12, 2025, Tom Mituzas is asking members of the committee to join the residents of Blissville who are prepared to lock arms and lay down in the streets to prevent DOT from crossing into Green Asphalt.

Reilly Owens reported that CB 2 sent a letter, and that we received a letter from the Queens Borough Commissioner that they were committing to not using it.

Stef McGraw, Representing NY State Assembly Member Valdez reported their office is continuing to work with other elected offices and figuring out next steps going forward. They are working with Council Member Restler's office, along with Assembly Member Gallagher's office and some others to put together unified communications on what is going on.

A motion was made and seconded to request a study to be conducted to determine if the roadbed at the end of Borden Avenue to be given up by DOT and handed over to Parks. In addition; for New York City Parks to create a park at this location under the New York City Parks Walk to a Park Initiative, as Blissville is part of the 15% of New Yorkers who are not within walking distance of a park. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris, provided the following update:

- Concerning the Queens Bus Network Redesign, their office has had many calls concerning requests for reinstatement of bus stops, especially because they had a lot of disabled constituents to contact their office. Their office is continuing to follow up. She encouraged anyone with concerns to reach out to the Senator's Office.
- Their office has received many calls from constituents concerning the OMNY cards. There are concerns regarding getting a transfer even though the MTA says that you are supposed to get a transfer people are still being charged when they are going from bus to bus or bus to train. Mercedes Jennings provided an example, she said when you think you are only spending \$2.90 when you take the bus and transfer, you are not actually getting a transfer. What is happening is that you must spend \$34.00 in the week and then the rest of the rides are free up to that Sunday. There are many living on fixed incomes who don't always readily use public transportation but need it on certain days, and because of that they end up paying more. There is big miscommunication between the company OMNY which is a private company that MTA has.
- Announced the MetroCard will be retiring December 31, 2025. Their office is hoping to find some kind of resolution where OMNY cards are honoring the way the MTA said that OMNY cards are supposed to work. She encouraged anyone with concerns to reach out to the Senator's Office.

The committee discussed glitches with the new system.

The committee discussed the zoom bombing at the previous meeting.

Claudia Chan, LaGuardia Community College introduced her colleague Manny Romero, LaGuardia Community College

Manny Romero, LaGuardia Community College provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone that joined LaGuardia Community College for their ribbon cutting ceremony of the Greenway and the wonderful mural that was created by Fernanda Conteras. He announced that he hoped all would join them for future events in the months to come.
- Announced they are seeking CB 2's support for the renaming of 33rd Street/Rawson Street on the #7 Train subway stop. He stated that LaGuardia Community College is an anchor institution in western Queens. For over 50 years, they have proudly served thousands of residents of Queens and beyond offering more than 50 associate degree and certificate programs. Each year over 25,000 students come through their doors.

- A majority of their students rely on the #7 Train to get to campus. Renaming the station would not only provide clarity for riders but instill a sense of pride in their students.
- It would serve a lasting tribute to the college's enduring value and commitment to opportunity and equity.
- They are seeking a letter of support in renaming the station to 33rd Street, LaGuardia Community College.

Reilly Owens provided an update on the history of who Rawson was and that Pat Dorfman led the charge many years ago to bring the names back to the stations.

Stef McGraw, Representing NY State Assembly Member, stated she would discuss some of the concerns with the Assembly Member

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Vehicles illegally parked on sidewalks throughout district, especially in front of automobile businesses

Reilly Owens reported that CB 2 continues to hear from members of the board and people in the community that vehicles illegally parked on the sidewalks throughout the district are a major problem, especially in front of automobile businesses which are on streets that connect us to our transit, schools, and shops.

He would like to see a resolution where we ask the 108th Police Precinct to fully enforce throughout the district against illegal sidewalk parking. As a matter of the ADA as well as the quality of life which they now have the Q-Team for.

Reilly Owens made a motion, and it was seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos to request the 108th Police Precinct to strictly enforce the laws against illegally parking on the sidewalk, with special emphasis in front of automobile businesses throughout the district.

All were in favor of the motion by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Corey Hannigan made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos to request the 108th Police Precinct to strictly enforce the laws and to focus on illegal parking in bike lanes on key corridors such as 43rd Street, Queens Blvd. Greenpoint Avenue, 48th Street.

All were in favor of the motion by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

The committee discussed the issue of sharrows, as they offer no protection and they should be a Kermit-type of green paint.

Corey Hannigan made a motion, and it was seconded to request the 108th Police Precinct to strictly enforce parking and idling in all bike lanes.

All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos discussed safety issues as she traveled from Queens Boulevard to Skillman Avenue and stated the sharrows are unsafe and believes this should be addressed at some point.

Corey Hannigan discussed the Queens Borough Bridge approach at Queens Plaza when you are coming on the Queens Boulevard Bridge where the construction site is.

Corey Hannigan made a motion, and it was seconded to request enforcement of the city ordinance that requires the developer to make a separate protected bike lane and a separate pedestrian space and remove these unregulated standard, non-standard speed bumps.

A motion was made and seconded to ask them to do a traffic study to see if taking one car lane away and give it to bikes so that pedestrians can have the full sidewalk.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos made a motion, and it was seconded by Corey Hannigan to ask the DOT to inspect the speed bumps and bring them into compliance with DOT project status. All were in favor by a show of hands with one opposed and no abstentions.

Corey Hannigan made a motion, and it was seconded to send a letter to DOT. In alignment with city rules requiring construction projects that obstruct a protected bike lane to create a temporary new separated bike lane. We are requesting the same be done at that intersection so that pedestrians and subway riders and bus riders can have ample space and safety. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Morry Galonoy discussed some of the issues that are brought up month after month seem to remain on the agenda and never seem to be resolved. He discussed the issue of a broken sidewalk on 46th Street and Greenpoint Avenue.

He requested the DOT Commissioner be invited to a future Transportation Committee Meeting.

REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT

Reilly Owens provided the update sent by Joseph Patti, NYC Department of Transportation as follows:

- Blissville Greenway (Phase II: Borden Ave): We have substantially completed the first phase of our Borden/Review Aves SIP. Some minor signal work remains.

- Last week we hosted a [press event](#) with local stakeholders to kick off DOT's Biketober. We wanted to thank the local electeds and the Blissville Civic Association for attending.
- This month will feature several bike-related events around the city to highlight the expansion of our bike network, especially in western Queens, and to encourage residents to bike throughout the month.
- We are working directly with several businesses involved with the project regarding outstanding concerns after installation and are working to correct.
- Signal Study - 60th St at 37th Ave – Open and active
- Multi Way Stop Study for 50th Ave and 64th Street – Not approved
- Request for All Way Stop Signs at 54th St and 39th Ave – Open and active
- Markings and signage on QBB Bike Path: Team is continuing Street Improvement Project work at the base of the bridge and is aware of the markings issue. Unit will continue current work and move towards correcting the condition.

Corey Hannigan made a motion, and it was seconded by Morry Galonoy to send a letter to the DOT to expedite the process of remarking the bridge which has been changed by law for months, but markings have not been changed. It is creating conflict and danger on the roadway. We are distressed that a timeline has not been provided. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

- We want to thank the college for their partnership and CB2 for attending. We also want to thank the local electeds for attending, including CM Won who has been a strong advocate for making this project happen.

The Committee discussed sending a letter to the MTA to investigate the glitches in the OMNY System where transfers are not being processed correctly and particularly with regard to seniors and the people with half fares. We are very concerned about double charges where the system is not working as advertised and which fare remains. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Corey Hannigan made a motion, and it was seconded by Reilly Owens to send a letter to DOT to request to better coordinate the milling and paving and striping work to happen in quick succession. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

