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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

Revised

February 4, 2025

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members - Present

Reilly Owens, Chair, Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos (PV), Oumaya Saab (PV), Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Transportation Committee Public Members – Present

Corey Hannigan (PV), Patricia Pan

Community Board 2 Public Members

Fanny Chang

Community Board 2 Staff –

Debra Markell Kleinert (PV), MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Julissa Garcia, Representing Council Member Won

Department of Transportation

Joseph Patti

Guests

Thomas Mituzas

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

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

Thomas Mituzas provided the following update:

- Was astonished and disappointed that he and a number of folks had to testify against DOT selling public land at the entrance to the Midtown Expressway at Van Dam with the intent of the purchaser to bulldoze over trees and land that exist in the heart of CB2's heat island and especially following the full board's vote against it. He was grateful to those from CB 2 for their testimony against such an environmental travesty. He hopes that DOT will not repeat such an environmental injustice.
- He stated that we have long sought a comprehensive review of our streets in Blissville by the Department of Transportation that will consider the safety of all roadway users of all ages and abilities: including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders and motorists and while we are grateful for what is hopefully coming with the Review, Starr and Borden Avenues – aka Blissville Greenway that was unfortunately put on hold with a court injunction. There is so much more needed and he invites the TC Chair to tour Blissville so he can see first hand their needs.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Reilly Owens provided a report from the 108th Police Precinct:

- The 108th Police Precinct and Sanitation now have the Interagency Task Force to address vehicles parked on the street with no license plates or improper license plates.
- The Community can report these types of vehicles by reporting them to 311. The PD and Sanitation will investigate. The resolutions can be either a summons issued or removal if deemed necessary.
- For the Year 2024 they have removed 145 vehicles from the streets.
- For the Year 2025 they have removed 78 vehicles from the streets so far.
- They will continue to investigate and get the information from 311 complaints. It may take a week or more for the unit to respond and investigate.

Motorcycles/Mopeds:

- The 108th Police Precinct is also aware of the problem with parked and driving motorcycles/mopeds.
- The Precinct has seized 2 motorcycles/mopeds for the last 28 days.
- The Precinct has seized 354 motorcycles/mopeds in 2024.
- There have been 223 moving violations issued to motorcycles/mopeds this year so far.
- Complaints of blocked driveways or sidewalks by two-wheel devices can be reported via 311 or calling the Precinct.

Parking on Sidewalk:

- The 108th Police Precinct knows this is an ongoing issue and you must still file complaints via 311.
- Year-to-date there have been 49 summonses issued for parking on the sidewalk.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos reported that Paragon Honda, a business on 37th Avenue at 53rd/54th Street as well as on Broadway utilizes their sidewalk.

Reilly Owens reported that CB 2 will continue to follow up on this matter.

Fanny Chang, Public Member reported vehicles are parked on the sidewalk on Hunters Point Avenue from Greenpoint Avenue to 29th Street.

Joseph Patti, Department of Transportation provided the following update:

- DOT is looking at some of the right turns on 43rd Avenue – there is an active conversation with the Bike Unit. They are taking an area-wide look at both Skillman Avenue and 43rd Avenue as to which turns can be updated. The DOT is hoping to get to it this year.
- There is an active study on 60th Street and 37th Avenue – this is a longer-term study. All Way Stop sign was installed.
- 50th Avenue and 65th Place – this is still an active study.
- 54th and 39th Avenue – this is still an active study.
- 39th Avenue extension is with the Bike Unit. It will be a street improvement project for the summer.
- DOT reported the narrow pedestrian path and bike path on Queens Boulevard approaching Jackson Avenue and Northern Boulevard. Have been working with DOB and the developer to get a better marking and signage plan. There will be more news on this in the next few weeks.
- DOT reported the Blissville Greenway – hoping to get this done this year. No major updates.
- Queens Borough Bridge south outer walkway will be done at the end of quarter one.
- DOT reported the traffic Light on 49th Street and 43rd Avenue is still open.
- Lighting under the trestles at 43rd and 48th Street, Woodside Avenue. DOT will check to see if a letter was submitted.

The committee discussed the following:

- 59th Street and 37th Avenue. DOT will investigate seeing if there are active cases.
- Overnight commercial parking on 43rd Street.

- A request was made for DOT to look at the intersection of 48th Avenue and 44th Street and Greenpoint Avenue. DOT will investigate seeing if there is a request for this. If not a letter to DOT should be submitted.
- DOT stated 48th Street and Queens Boulevard. Joseph Patti reported he will let the team know, as this is a way-finding issue.
- There is a broken sidewalk issue on 46th Street and Greenpoint Avenue. This location is a trip hazard, and enforcement is needed at the location. The address is 45-52 46th Street. DOT reported they may have issued a sidewalk violation. It was suggested that the Parks Department be contacted.
- There is a broken bollard under the #7 Line viaduct at 48th Street.
- A request was made for an update concerning 47th and 48th Avenue. This location is being looked at by school safety.
- A request for an update on daylighting was made. DOT will follow up.
- A request for an update on the implementation on Sammy's Law was made. DOT will follow up.
- A request for an update for dedicated bus lanes on Queens Blvd, Northern Boulevard, the LIE and the Queensboro Bridge. DOT is not aware and will follow up. Will take a fresh look at this.
- A request was made for 12-hour parking on Skillman Avenue and under the Queens Borough Bridge to be shortened. CB 2 would like to know what is causing a no response.
- People are concerned about congestion pricing and are concerned that there will be parking in Sunnyside Gardens. Is the DOT paying attention to this and finding answers. DOT will discuss this with the parking team to see if there are different parking patterns.
- The committee discussed the DOT rite of way and new public space. Joseph Patti reported that the DOT Public Realm Unit is looking into what can be done once construction is complete. They will have a conversation with MTA and there is more to come on this.
- Reilly Owens reported a visitor attended the Transportation Committee last month who requested metered parking on Queens Plaza South. Joseph Patti reported it can be a regular request to DOT, through a letter or webform. Metered parking is handled by DOT and if the request is for street cleaning, it would be decided by Sanitation, and these would be two separate requests.
- The committee discussed the amount of bike parking and if there is any plan or program for this. Joseph Patti reported that through their webform, bike racks can be requested, and it happens on a rolling basis. DOT installs them and they decide where they go.
- The Committee discussed a jewelry vendor that sets up a large space and they store all their material under the 7 Train at Bliss Plaza and block the thoroughfare. Joseph Patti responded that it is the DOT right of way. A conversation with DOS needs to take place.

Julissa Garcia, Representing Council Member Won's office reported that their office will investigate this matter and educate the vendors and thanked all for bringing this to their attention.

The Committee reported on three new stop signs on Dutch Kills Green on Queens Plaza that do not have the word new on them and asked why they are stop signs and not yield signs. Joseph Patti responded that these were installed by DOT and that this stretch is a work in progress and not completed yet. Joseph Patti will speak to the team on this to see if this is correct.

Fanny Chang reported that she drives down 44th Drive in front of 3 Court Square and that there are food trucks there with 6 propane tanks in front of the train station by the ADA elevator. She reported it is against the law to have food trucks in front of any entrances. They are not licensed and asked if there is any education for these food truck vendors. These people need to be licensed and need to wear a license that they attended a city course on food preparation. She stated this is the law. She asked if the Council is going to introduce people with food trucks to get city licenses so they can operate. There are three of them at this location.

Julissa Garcia thanked her for sharing this and reported that as of right now she is not sure of any specific legislation, but she will investigate this and follow up with her and will conduct further investigation.

DOT reported this is something that would likely be handled under sanitation for vending and having those propane tanks out.

The committee discussed the vendor issue as a larger issue. A recommendation was made for a task force concerning food trucks.

Reilly Owens spoke about hardening protected bike lanes Northern Boulevard and it needs to evolve to keep the vehicles out of the bike lane on the east bound side. Joseph Patti responded this is good to hear and they will investigate it. The location on 37th Street needs to be managed better.

Reilly Owens discussed the death of an individual on 43rd Avenue where someone drove through the pedestrian island, because the barriers were not very big. Joseph Patti is looking into this location.

Joseph Patti provided an update on milling and paving which begins in April, weather depending.

Reilly Owens provided an update in response to a question regarding a request for NYC DOT Proposal Include seniors, the disabled and those with different physical disabilities and needs.

Laura Shepard stated this was a resolution that was passed and that when DOT gives a presentation for a new project that they specifically state potential impacts on seniors and those with disabilities.

Fanny Chang suggested that we invite the Queens DOT Commissioner to answer questions and what the federal law is on this. Any roadways or bike lanes should be handicapped accessible. She is requesting within the next six months to ask him how he will help ADA people that need accessibility. There are bigger bike lanes in Astoria than there are in LIC. She requested that CB 2 write a letter to invite him to discuss this matter.

Oumaya Saab requested a review of engineering for those individuals who drive a car with handicap plates.

The Committee discussed reaching out to MOPD which is a special department for people with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned:

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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