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# Community Board No. 2

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*Lisa Deller*

*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*

*District Manager*

**October 5, 2021**

**Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom**

## **Transportation Committee Members Present**

Lisa Deller  
Sheila Lewandowski  
Thomas Mituzas  
Osman Chowdhury  
Jake DeGroot  
Kristen McGowan  
Laura Shepard  
Mary Torres

## **Transportation Committee Members Absent**

Steven Raga  
John Vaichunas

## **Community Board 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert  
MaryAnn Gurrado

## **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Aileen Sheil, Representing Council Member Van Bramer

## **NYC Department of Design and Construction**

Jerrick C

## **NYC Department of Transportation**

Nicole Garcia  
Gretha Suarez

Irene Figueroa-Ortiz  
Samantha Dolgoff

### **108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct**

Sgt. Pak

### **Guests**

Jinelle Thompson MoMA  
Kate Fowle, MoMA  
Jose Ortiz, MoMA  
Molly Kurzius, MoMA  
Jack Radley, MoMA  
Sam Denitz, MoMA

Sheila Lewandowski and Tom Mituzas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **UPDATE BY 108<sup>TH</sup> POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

#### **Sgt. Pak provided an update on the following:**

- Discuss enforcement need from parked cars and warehouse south of Wynwood Gardens and Mt. Zion Cemetery. Provide an update

Sgt Pak reported that he inspected Tyler Avenue between 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Maurice Avenue. License plates and registrations were check and everything is up to date. There are no stolen vehicles in the area. The PD needs more feedback from residents of the area. If a vehicle is parked for more than several months, then they will go out to chalk the tires

- Request for Enforcement and discussion of wrong One-way conversion of 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Review Avenue and Bradley Avenue. Provide an update

Gretha Suarez discussed follow up with the street light unit.

- Drag Racing – Woodside, Sunnyside

Sgt. Pak reported that 911 calls has decreased by 85% and 311 calls have been reduced by 77%. Drag racing is reduced

Sheila Lewandowski discussed motorized vehicles such as e-bikes zipping through lights, going in the bike lanes in the park and on the streets.

Sgt Pak reported the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct is conducting enforcement at the Queens Borough Bridge and distributing educational flyers.

If there are any locations that need to be addressed to notify them.

Laura Shepard spoke about a fatality that occurred on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. She stated there was an individual delivering food utilizing a motorized scooter which involved a driver making an illegal U-turn. She asked if the driver was summonsed and if PD are doing any enforcement. She also asked DOT if they are doing any street design changes to reduce speeding and reckless driving in this area.

Sgt. Pak stated the driver was making an illegal u-turn. He did not see the motorized scooter and there was a head on collision. It is still under investigation and are waiting for the highway unit to see what happened.

Lisa Deller discussed that she has reported complaints concerning two abandoned vehicles in front of 39-40 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Sgt. Pak will investigate this matter.

#### DOT TRANSPORTATION - PRESENTATIONS

12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza Proposal - Presentation will be provided at the November Transportation Committee Meeting

46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Plaza Proposal - Irene Figueroa-Ortiz provided a presentation on the Proposal.

Tom Mituzas asked how many parking spots will be lost? The response was none. Tom Mituzas stated this is something that should be highlighted next time as it is something important for the community to know.

Lisa Deller spoke about the DOT survey and asked if it was sent for distribution outside of pedestrians who could pick up a flyer with a QR code, and did it go to the Community Board 2 office so we could share it more widely. The response from DOT was yes. Gretha Suarez stated that it went to the Community Board and the area elected officials. A flyer was shared and the social media post so it could be easily distributed. Lisa Deller asked if they had any geographical analysis of the respondents. The response was that they made the survey anonymous.

Lisa Deller stated that not everyone is as literate when it comes to QR codes and responding and people still need to be asked or physical surveys and she is sensitive to this and there are older people in this community who are underrepresented in a lot of the communication since the pandemic occurred.

Lisa Deller stated it has been over 10 years since this Community Board has been advocating for PS 1 since the wall was been put to take down the wall and that is unconscionable that MoMA PS 1 administration right now is giving no time line for when they are going to open up that wall and providing additional space on the street for them to utilize is like a expansion of their space. It doesn't make it all that interactive with the courtyard and welcome people to the

courtyard. She is opposed to PS 1 being the steward of the space as they are not being a good and open and equitable steward of the courtyard for neighbors

We need a time line for when the wall is coming down they have been stalling and hedging and postponing for so many years now and it is unconscionable the behavior of the administration protecting this space and there has to be a way to open it up.

Kate Fowle, MoMA PS1 stated they can create a clearer timeline as soon as they get a clear time frame from the City as the wall is City owned. She stated that she cannot speak for the administration before them and that there isn't anyone on the call from PS 1 this evening that would disagree with what she was saying, the fact is that use value of that wall and that kiosk is still perceived by the city as to still be in within the amount of time that they don't want to change it. They are currently working with the City to see what they can do and they can't give a time scale that would be misinformation until they get the information themselves.

Mary Torres discussed the number of languages on the survey and the QR code. The response was they had a lot of limitations due to the pandemic. She also discussed the location of the flyers and where the QR codes were posted and suggested they look at other subway locations.

Sheila Lewandowski asked if the leadership was willing to make a commitment from leadership of PS1 to taking the wall down and making the courtyard a publicly accessible space again. PS1 never said they were working on new designs that would make it less imposing, with a greater sense of openness but they were clear that the wall is not coming down.

Kate Fowle stated that she would be able to show the plans.

Sheila Lewandowski stated we would like to see more of that courtyard be part of that open space. She said she did not feel the same kind of care from DOT, there are so many ways to reach people without using a QR code and it can be in different languages and asked why this was not considered, why not have a phone number so people could participate.

DOT stated they followed the process they have followed for other streets and hosted workshops and did a online survey and went the extra mile for projects in this area.

Tom Mituzas discussed his concerns about the survey that was conducted by DOT.

DOT reported 18 bike spots will be added.

Gretha Suarez, DOT Provided the following updates:

A discussion about the DOT Survey that was conducted took place. Gretha Suarez stated it was

Kate Fowle discussed the programs at MoMA PS1

#### IS125 School Improvements – Presentation by DDC and DOT School Safety

Gretha Suarez introduced the following individuals:

Mark Work

Vita Soltani

Gretha Suarez reported this stated this presentation is coming from a consultant through DDC and is a joint presentation with DOT School Safety Unit for Safety Improvements around the school area for capital work

#### REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT - Follow-up on DOT Issues

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##### Blissville

- Veterans Memorial (Blissville Flagpole) awaiting installation by Parks
- Request an update on the Lamppost on 37<sup>th</sup> Street (work order #: 4111257). Replaced, Rewiring (Stop Tag Issued)
- The Blissville Greenway from K bridge to G bridge along Review Avenue connecting Laurel Hill and Blissville and the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Councilman Van Bramer has written a letter of support for this community inspired project that is also contained in the CB2s "Top 10" budget priorities. DOT-484255-K7Q6 – Request an update.
- B24 bus stop Greenpoint Avenue and Starr -North towards Sunnyside conversion of 3 car lengths to 5 car lengths – reference for change- please provide an update.

Tom Mituzas discussed the is a sign at the corner that got knocked down and now it went further back. The bus stop is ½ block long. DOT will follow up with MTA.

##### Court Square

- Ramps Project (DOT Property)- DOT provide an update. No update at this time.
- CB2 sent a letter to DOS regarding street cleaning regulations for 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (DOT Requested Follow up with DOS as they need to approve it, then it goes back to DOT)
- Request an update on letter from Court Square Civic and M. Wells sent regarding a study for Crescent Street. DOT is familiar with this case.
- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update.

##### Sunnyside

##### 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard

Gretha Suarez reported this will be discussed at the October 7, 2021 CB 2 Board Meeting. To hear and address concerns. They are installing missing markings and are addressing element that are missing. The DOT is trying to work as quick as possible.

In the discussion of the Bike Boulevard a number of us were quite effusive about how the DOT did not do their due diligence of meeting with and working with the local community to prepare them for the changes. We said they should have people on the ground helping people navigate the changes and we said it was rushed into place. We also pointed out that in their prior presentation they said there would be NO (zero) loss of parking whereas here they were saying it was a minimal loss of 20 parking spaces. At the meeting, they outright denied that they had ever said there would be zero loss of parking. This is important. Thomas and Sheila pushed back on the term “minimal”.

Tom Mituzas discussed that they should have done a better job of educating and communicating to people on the ground. Discussed the loss of parking.

Gretha stated there was minimal parking loss approximately 20 spots.

- Request an Update - Missing pedestrian signal at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (DOT stated this can be removed as it has been done)
- Provide an update on the 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Barnett Ave to Woodside Ave Bike Blvd Improvements
- CB 2 sent a letter of request for a feasibility study for a slow zone sign and a speed reducer on 38<sup>th</sup> Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue (10/14/ 2020) Neighborhood slow zone (DOT-478719-Q9P4) Speed Reducer (DOT-478711-P8D2). Request an update.  
DOT will provide an update

### Woodside

- Request for signal at Woodside Avenue and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street (intersection near LIRR entrance) DOT-438539-K3C0. According to DOT this signal investigation is on hold please provide an additional update? Traffic signals still on hold. (CLOSED DENIED)
- Request to DOT for a One-Way Street conversion on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue Between 65<sup>th</sup> Place and 61<sup>st</sup> Street. Provide an update. (DOT-464313-T7R8) Open and being evaluated, please provide an update?
- Request for feasibility study for a one-way conversion on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 69<sup>th</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Place. (DOT-483019-P9P2) request an update.

DOT reported they will come back to CB 2 to present to the Board and to get feedback.

- Request an update on traffic control study at 67<sup>th</sup> Street and Garfield Avenue:
  - Enhanced Crosswalks – Garfield Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT-499828-Z0H6)

- Speed Mobile Enforcement – Garfield Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street DOT-500207-P9J1)  
LETTER RECEIVED FROM DOT CONCERNING FIXED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.
- Request for traffic study on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street between and Laurel Hill Boulevard. and Tyler Ave.
- 58<sup>th</sup> and Laurel Hill Blvd – heading west. Complaint that the right lane now only lets you turn right onto 58<sup>th</sup> and now go straight. DOT will do research on this.
- Traffic Study 63<sup>rd</sup> between Laurel Hill to Tyler Avenue. DOT will do research on this.

#### Woodside Speed Reducers

- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> Ave to Woodside Ave. (DOT-433629-RSM3) – Request an update DOT states this is still an active study. No updates, open.

#### Woodside Completed Items

- Traffic signal approved at the intersection of 39<sup>th</sup> Ave and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street (DOT – 398882-J7N2), Work to be completed by Nov 30, 2021.
- 64<sup>th</sup> speed bump – happy to see it reinstalled
- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Place between Laurel Hill Blvd and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (DOT- 297802-W3Y6) –Approved. (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.
- Speed Reducer request on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets (DOT-427192-D0P9 (DOT -430484-Z2V7). Approved (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date
- Speed Cushion request Laurel Hill Blvd between 58<sup>h</sup> Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT - 508292-LOWO - new request) DOT Denied 9/7/2021 DOT reported this did not meet the criteria.

#### Long Island City

- Request for all way stop, cross walks and safety improvements on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Road
- 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Borden Avenue under the Pulaski Bridge Entrance and Exit to midtown tunnel requesting a turning lane and a left turn signal (DOT-497660 Z4G6).
- Request removal of the No Standing sign 7AM-7PM regulations on the North Side of 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets, (DOT-487817-H3R3. DOT completed field investigation and an order to remove the signage. Request update (COMPLETED WILL CHECK)

- 46<sup>th</sup> Road and Jackson Avenue – no left turn request (DOT 434607-G9J4) – Study due at the end of January. CB 2 sent a letter requesting a new study (DOT-487770-W4N0). Request an update. (DENIED)
- Center Blvd north of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update. DOT reported this is with the legal team.
- Request an update on the Vernon Blvd Bulkhead at 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vernon Blvd. (DOT reported Construction Started)
- Request for a one-way conversion on 31<sup>st</sup> Place between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue (DOT-497662-R8J2). (APPROVED) Does CB approve southbound direction change. Proposing southbound conversion Review and advise if we agree with findings. Sheila and Tom will visit the site. DOT will resend the letter.
- Request for a one-way conversion southbound – 5<sup>th</sup> Street between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Borden Avenue (DOT-509191-57R9 – Request update. DOT reported this remains open.
- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT 508287-VOB8 – Request update. DOT reported this remains open.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Street Pedestrian Food Bridge. A tour with the Council Member was conducted.

#### Long Island City Completed Items

Request for the return of parking spots on the south side of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Vernon Boulevard and 11<sup>th</sup> Street -DOT 442293J7J6. There is one “No Standing” sign up. Is this an error? CB 2 sent a letter (DOT-487825-L9M1) approved – changes made 8/25/2021 Letter received installation scheduled. DOT reported this can be removed as it was done.

#### OPEN RESTAURANT

- PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT OF OUTSTANDING COMPLAINTS.

Gretha Suarez provided an update on the Open Restaurants and discussed complaints.

#### CB2 District Wide Initiatives and other Agencies

- DOT
  - Renovation of 61<sup>st</sup> Street Station.
- MTA / NYC Transit
  - Station upgrades and increase accessibility
  - LIRR Service updates: Sunnyside station update
  - Access-a-ride
- Port Authority
- Bike Share / Car Share
- Scooters / mopeds
- NYC Ferry – provide regular ridership updates



- CB 2 sent letter of support for the Queensboro bridge pedestrian cyclist lane. Request and update on design and timeline.
- Provide an update on refurbishing markings on the east side sidewalk of the Queens Blvd Bridge approaching Northern Blvd.
- Provide an update on the Implementation of the Street Improvement Project on Northern BLVD. from Broadway to 114<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Provide an update on the clear markings along the Northern Blvd. Protected Bike Lane Path.
- Continue to follow up requests to review regulation changes for all 12/14-hour meters to 4 hours within CB 2. (DOT-481113-J7B9)
- Continue to provide an update on the Open Streets

Tom Mituzas stated for the November Transportation Committee Meeting the agenda would begin with the CB 2 District Wide Initiatives and other agencies.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
MA Gurrado

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