



Sharon Lee
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REVISED

June 1, 2020

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

THIS MEETING WAS TELECONFERENCED USING WEBEX

Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski
Bessie Cassaro
Osman Chowdhury
Jake DeGroot
Jordan Levine
Kristine McGowan
Thomas Mituzas
Steven Raga

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Denise Keehan-Smith
Sanitago Vargas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

NYC Department of Transportation

John O'Neill
Gretha Suarez

Elected Officials/Representatives

Aileen Sheil, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office

Ms. Lewandowski welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the meeting was teleconferenced using WebEx.

Gretha Suarez, NYC Department of Transportation

Ms. Suarez provided the following update:

- Operations are starting to return to normal, and they still have some field units that are working to get back to full capacity.
- Milling and paving is being done
- Sidewalk is doing inspections for houses.
- Traffic studies have some delays as traffic counts are not back to normal. There are some delays on traffic studies
- Street lighting field work is being done.

Ms. Lewandowski requested that DOT share updates with CB2 as they are completed.

Provide a follow up the bulkhead restoration at the end of Vernon Blvd

Please provide an update on the letter DOT was to do to EDC and Skanska.

- Ms. Suarez reported that DOT is in the process of finalizing the letter.
- The DOT was asked to look further into Harbor Labs concerns and are working on this and have a call scheduled to discuss the concerns.
- The DOT is looking further into boat lounge access.
- DOT reached out to Willis Elikins at the Newtown Creek Alliance and will be having a call with him to discuss other issues he requested.
- With regard to the funding issue, DOT stated this information has been requested in the letter to Skanska and EDC.

Blissville

Blissville Flagpole continue discussion. – next steps – DOT stated in conversation with parks. CB 2 is awaiting a conference meeting with DOT and Parks. CB 2 would like to see the contract for the transfer of responsibility to maintain what was there.

Ms. Suarez stated she will follow up.

Ms. Lewandowski reported that this is a repair and that it was the responsibility of DOT and before that it was Parks. The repair should become the responsibility of DOT.

Ms. Suarez reported that DOT has spoken to Parks and they revealed that they do not have any background information about the flag pole and any additional information and that they do not have any records of owning the flag pole.

The flag pole is on DOT property and that DOT does not have the money to be allocated to build the flag pole.

This is DOT property and we are asking for it to be fixed

Mr. Mituzas stated that when DOT did the project to replace the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge that is when the DOT replaced the wooden flag pole with the aluminum flag pole. DOT did the work at that time.

Ms. Lewandowski is requesting that this falls back into the responsibility of DOT. Ms. Lewandowski discussed the issue of a Civic Association that does not have the funding. Ms. Lewandowski requested follow up on this matter.

Previously approved Conversion of 37th Street to a one-way between Review Avenue and Bradley Avenue/Greenpoint Avenue. Please provide status of installation. Schools are now closed; can this work be done sooner. No work has begun as of prior meeting. Please provide a time frame.

This has been flagged for prioritization this year. One-way conversion have been delayed.

John O'Neill reported there are limited crews and that DOT is doing the best they can to insure the safety of the crews and that they are engaging in social distancing practices.

Ms. Lewandowski reported that this will be our last official meeting until September.

Mr. Mituzas reported there has been a crew all week installing the traffic light on 37th Street.

Sunnyside

- Barnett Avenue and 43rd Street. Foundation Repair. Remains active with DOT Lighting (Case number assigned to this is 4101158) Please provide an update.

DOT reported this remains active with DOT Lighting and DOT will follow up.

- 44th Street and Barnett Avenue. Foundation Repair. Remains active with DOT Lighting (Case number 4645443) please provide an update and Con Edison should be repairing light.

DOT reported this is a foundation and pole were replaced on February 25, 2020. Will follow up with Con Ed.

- 43-15 58th Street. Foundation Repair. Remains active with DOT Lighting (Case number 4021652) Please provide an update.

DOT reported the foundation was completed and has not been fully completed due to the contractor ran out of poles. DOT will follow up and provide an update.

Woodside

- Request for signal at Woodside Avenue and 62nd Street (intersection near LIRR entrance) DOT-438539-K3C0. According to DOT this signal investigation is due May 2020.

DOT reported this is still an active study. Traffic conditions have not been back to normal due to the Pandemic.

- Request to DOT for a One-Way Street conversion on 51st Avenue Between 65th Place and 61st Street.

DOT requested that CB 2 submit a request letter for a feasibility study to request a one-way conversion on 51st Avenue between 65th Place and 61st Street.

Mr. O'Neill stated that if the engineers think it's feasible then they will come back to the CB 2 to make sure it is the right option and they will come back to make the case for it.

Woodside Speed Reducers

- Speed Cushion request on 58th Street from 39th Avenue to Woodside Ave. (DOT-433629-RSM3) –

DOT reported this study is active

- Speed Cushion request on 58th Place between Laurel Hill Blvd and 52nd Avenue (DOT-297802-W3Y6)

DOT reported this was approved and installation will take place when resources become available. Ms. Suarez stated that DOT would like to install speed cushions that are part of the community's priorities and requested those based on the previous approvals.

- Speed Bump request on 43rd Street 37th Avenue and Barnett Avenue. (DOT 367217-B4F5) CB2 approval requested.

DOT reported that a speed bump for 43rd Street between 37th Avenue and Barnett Avenue has been approved. They are requesting CB2 submit a letter. Do not have an adjoining letter of support for this from CB 2.

Kristen McGowan made a motion and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to send a letter of support to DOT for the installation of a speed bump on 43rd Street between 37th Avenue and Barnett Avenue. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

- Speed Reducer request on 50th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets (DOT-427192-D0P9, (DOT -430484-Z2V7) – Please provide update. Approval Requested.

DOT reported that this has been approved and will be completed when resources become available.

Ms. Suarez will check the system to see if there are any speed humps that have not been installed and will advise.

Long Island City

- 46th Road and Jackson Avenue – no left turn request (DOT 434607-G9J4) – Study due at the end of January. DOT rejected this original request. CB 2 is requesting a new study.

DOT reported that all the appropriate signs exist and if CB 2 would like to submit another request when traffic volumes go back to normal.

Ms. Lewandowski requested that this will be something to be put back on the agenda along with the other items that have been on hold.

Ms. Lewandowski asked about the removal of no parking signage on 48th Avenue between Vernon Boulevard and 11th Street. It was approved to have them removed.

DOT reported that this is in the queue and that they will follow up.

Old Business

New Business

- Please provide an update on the Open Streets Plan to allow for room for Social Distancing.

DOT reported that an email was sent to the CB 2 Office along with an informational flyer that explained more about what open streets are and to provide more information as well as the link to the DOT website.

Ms. Lewandowski reported that there is a push for Center Boulevard to be open.

DOT spoke about Center Boulevard, and that Hunters Point Conservancy may be a potential partner and that they are open to speaking to local organizations or volunteers that would like to take ownership and help with placement of the barriers.

DOT is aware that some of the barriers on 5th Street are not being put away and that they are speaking with the precinct to switch 5th Street and Center Boulevard. They have heard from the Board, constituents and conservancy and want to turn the attention to Center Boulevard and are looking to work with a local partner. They are also working with the Precinct.

Mary Torres discussed there is no enforcement of motorists and there is a lot of thru traffic.

DOT stated they have heard from everyone about 5th Street and are working on how Center will work now, and that they are in the middle of having conversations now with the Conservancy and the 108th Precinct.

DOT reported that they are trying to get signage for the open street on 50th Avenue between 44th Street and 48th Street.

DOT will provide an update on 5th Street once they speak to the 108th Police Precinct as they have urgent issues to attend to.

DOT reported the issues on 39th Avenue is a difficult grid. It has been difficult to limit through traffic. They had one barrier and add two extra and now there are three. The Board would like to see another configuration there and that FDNY truck was trying to get to 39th Avenue. They need additional information from FDNY and will adjust. DOT has not heard back yet.

Ms. Markell Kleinert discuss the issue of barricades in front of Phipps Houses.

Kristen McGowan requested signage that deliveries are allowed. DOT stated there is a bullet point that says that on the flyer to educate the public.

Ms. Lewandowski requested a vote to support the south lane on the Queens Borough bridge for pedestrians and leaving the North one for cyclists and as part of open streets.

Jordan Levine made a motion and it was seconded by Mary Torres to send a letter to support to DOT. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Ms. Lewandowski asks if consideration might be given to using part of 48th Avenue between 5th Street and Vernon Boulevard as an Open Street during the COVID19 crisis.

DOT announced there is a new traffic signal on Maurice Avenue.
Delineators are back on 51st Avenue and Tyler Avenue, in Maspeth.
DOT sent a link to the CB 2 Office for the new street design manual.
Ms. Lewandowski requested ideas for open streets.

Will discuss the possibility of an informal meeting and that the issue of speed humps on Center Boulevard can be placed on that agenda.

Ms. Lewandowski asked the committee to reflect on the protests and whether the committee felt comfortable using a simple statement. Jake DeGroot said let's gather around **#Black Lives Matter**. A motion was made and seconded to support the TC including that statement in our minutes. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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