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# Community Board No. 2

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*Lisa Deller*  
*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

**June 1, 2021**

## **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom**

### **Transportation Committee Members Present**

Sheila Lewandowski, Chair  
Thomas Mituzas, Co-Chair  
Osman Chowdhury  
Jake DeGroot  
Steven Raga  
\*Laura Shepard

### **Transportation Committee Members Absent**

Jordan Levine  
Kristen McGowan  
Bianca Ozeri  
Mary Torres  
John Vaichunas

### **CB 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager  
MaryAnn Gurrado

### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

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

Sgt Pak

#### **NYC Department of Transportation**

Gretha Suarez

*“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”*

## **Guests**

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos  
Teal Delys  
Carol Antunez, Revel  
Lucille Songhai, MTA  
Howie Levine, MTA  
Steve Kim  
Molly Kurzius  
Craig Dor  
Alan Begha  
Seth Slade

Mr. Mituzas welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

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

- Discuss enforcement need from parked cars and warehouse south of Wynwoode Gardens and Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Sgt. Pak discussed the noise and parking issues at Wynwoode Gardens and Mt. Zion Cemetery:

Mr. Mituzas stated that the warehouse is at the south side of Mt. Zion Cemetery. He has received several complaints regarding noise at the cemetery on the weekends, every weekend. Basically what exists is there are parties with loud music in the backyard of the warehouse which is next to the cemetery. The location is along Tyler Avenue. All of the noise is transmitting across the cemetery into Wynwoode Gardens. The warehouse is a repair shop. Sgt. Pak stated that he will look into the situation.

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

Mr. Mituzas stated that regarding enforcement of the one-way at 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Starr Avenue and Bradley Avenue, now that there is an Open Street at this location, it is even more critical that people observe that directional sign to prevent any dangerous situations that might arise, particularly between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

- Tragedy at the location of 29<sup>th</sup> Street and Borden Avenue

Sgt. Pak stated that he believed the accident at this location was not an enforcement issue but rather a great tragedy. He stated that there was only one vehicle involved. The accident occurred at approximately 4:00 AM. There were no witnesses. This accident is still under investigation. Mr. Mituzas suggested perhaps better lighting in the area would be helpful.

Sgt. Pak stated that regarding drag racing in the area at night, 311 calls have lessened by 57% as compared to last year, with the enforcement of the 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct. 911 calls have decreased by 71% as compared to last year. Enforcement will continue.

## **PRESENTATION CITY PLANNING AND MTA**

### **Elevate Transit Zoning Text Amendment – ULURP Application N210270ZRY**

- Discussion and recommendation for Zoning for Accessibility – The MTA and DCP are proposing a citywide zoning text amendment that will allow the MTA to work more efficiently with private developers to help achieve systemwide accessibility. The Proposal included a systemwide transit easement certification and an authorization for transit improvement bonuses in high density areas to facilitate the implementation of ADA access at stations throughout the city.

Lucille Songhai and colleague Howard Levine, MTA, and Teal Delys, City Planning, provided the attached presentation proposal for viewing and discussion.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Mituzas inquired as to whether the #7 train that will not be part of this project, but are in a plan for 2022 to 2024 Capital Plan, does that include elevators? Ms. Songhai stated that they do have elevators that were identified as part of that program.

Ms. Lewandowski inquired regarding specific CB 2 #7 train line stations that are on the list for improvements. Ms. Songhai stated that she would provide that list via e-mail.

See attached presentation – Attachment 1 – MTA/NYC Zoning for Accessibility – April 2021 – Presented to the Transportation Committee June 1, 2021.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked everyone for their extensive and informative presentation.

## **PRESENTATION BY DOT**

- 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard Presentation – Presented to Community Board 2 - June 1, 2021.

Gretha Suarez, DOT, reported that in May 2021 Mayor De Blasio announced a bike boulevard in each of the 5 boroughs. A segment of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Open Street was designated to become a bike boulevard for the borough of Queens. A Proposal for this Bike Boulevard is attached.

Craig, DOT- Bike Unit, provided a Bike Overview, Background information, the Proposed Presentation, and a Summary. He stated that a Bike Boulevard is a corridor or boulevard designated and designed for bike travel. He explained the features and complexities of the proposed bike boulevard.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Mituzas confirmed that this corridor was the area selected as the designated area for the borough of Queens. He inquired as to the criteria for the selection, and why were no other areas in Queens considered?

Ms. Lewandowski inquired as to how the design would impact on the area around 39<sup>th</sup> Road. Craig, DOT, stated that the team would look into this aspect.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas requested that this proposal be brought to the full Community Board so that they may have input on the proposal at hand.

See attached presentation – Attachment 2 – 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard Presentation – Presented to Community Board 2 – June 1, 2021.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked Craig, DOT, and the Bike Unit for their detailed presentation.

#### MoMa PS 1 Plaza Approved Presentation

Ms. Ortiz provided a presentation for the P.S. 1 Plaza Application, the proposed next steps in the process of becoming a Plaza at 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jackson Avenue in Long Island City. Highlights include:

- Virtual workshops were held.
- 82 Plazas currently in development, construction or complete.
- Of the 82 Plazas, 66 Plazas are open to the public.
- MoMa PS 1 is partnering with the Plaza.
- SAPO (Street Activity Permit Office) will be listed as a site.
- A Maintenance Partner that has been designated would be responsible for basic maintenance.
- DOT created rules and signage. These will be posted and will apply to the Plaza and will be enforced by NYPD.

#### Proposed Next Steps:

- Temporary street closure and installation of pop-up Plaza from early July through Fall of 2021.
- MoMa PS 1 will host summer public programming in pop-up Plaza.
- NYC DOT and MoMa PS 1 will conduct community outreach plan.
- Design development informed by community input.
- CB 2 TC Presentation in September.
- Plaza implementation estimated in Fall 2021.

A discussion followed regarding the proposal and the proposed plan.

Ms. Lewandowski provided a brief history of where the project originated in time and how the idea for the plaza came about.

Mr. Mituzas shared that taking down the wall and opening up the area for the Plaza would be a welcome sight.

A CB 2 Board Member suggested making the Plaza open and activated even later into the evening. This would include the adding of lighting elements to the Plaza so that it can be used as a performance site and performance groups could stage events in the Plaza.

The proposed Plaza will remain open 24 hours, and there will be no fence placed around the Plaza. However, the removable furniture will determine the hours of operation which is anticipated from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. and Mr. Ortiz confirmed that staffing hours would be available from 7:00 AM 7 days a week.

See attached presentation – Attachment 3 – Application and Approval of the 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. Plaza Proposal – Public Space Unit – June 2021

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked DOT and the MoMa PS 1 team for their thorough and detailed presentation.

### **PRESENTATION BY REVEL**

The Revel Team provided a presentation of how Revel works, what their policies are, and their safety training program.

A question and answer session occurred following the presentation.

Ms. Lewandowski inquired:

- How Revel is flagging and slowing down speeding?
- How Revel is making their mopeds accessible to people of lower incomes?
- How Revel is building out from the infrastructure and investing for electric charging stations for the mopeds?

See attached presentation – Attachment 4 – Ravel X – Queens Community Board 2.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked the Revel team for their presentation.

### **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES – Follow-up on DOT Issues** **Blissville**

- Veterans Memorial (Blissville Flagpole) continue discussion – next steps.

Ms. Suarez reported that the Memorial Day weekend was a successful event. DOT is still awaiting a response regarding this issue.

Mr. Mituzas shared pictures of the Blissville Flagpole at the Memorial Day event. He stated that Council Member Van Bramer had donated funds to the community with hopes it will be put to good use and perhaps to repair the Flagpole.

- CB 2 is requesting an Open Street in Blissville at 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Review Avenue and Starr Avenue. Awaiting new barriers?

Ms. Suarez reported that the barriers were delivered last week. Mr. Mituzas stated that the barriers will be put to good use and thanked DOT.

- 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 CB 2's "Top 10" budget priorities. DOT-484255-K7Q6.

Ms. Suarez reported that DOT is looking into developing this project and will present it to CB 2 at a future date.

- Request for safety improvements 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Borden Avenue North of the LIE (site of recent accident).

Ms. Suarez discussed that this was the site of an accident the end of May 2021. This is under investigation. DOT is awaiting the results and recommendations. They are looking into providing safety measures and improvements and security for Newtown Creek.

### **Court Square**

- Ramps Project (DOT Property) – DOT provide an update.

No update was provided at this meeting.

- CB 2 sent a letter to DOS regarding street cleaning regulations for 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that she wanted to bring this item back to the committee for discussion.

### **Sunnyside**

- Provide an Update – Missing pedestrian signal at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Suarez reported that there is a missing pedestrian sign at the northeast corner on the block of PS 150. A temporary traffic measure has been installed. Ms. Suarez will advise when a time frame for the permanent repair is designated.

### **Woodside**

- Renovation of 61<sup>st</sup> Street Station.

No further update was provided.

- One-Way conversion of 59<sup>th</sup> Street from Roosevelt Avenue to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue as part of the pedestrian safety improvements the area of Woodside Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue. CB 2 submitted letter. Please provide an additional update on conversion timing of the next construction season.

Ms. Suarez reported that the work on this issue has been completed. This can now be taken off of the agenda.

- 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.

Ms. Suarez reported that this request has been denied. Ms. Suarez will follow-up and advise CB 2.

- 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?

No update was provided on this issue. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- 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).

No update was provided on this issue. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- Request for 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).

No update was provided on this issue.

There was a discussion of the possibility of doing a study regarding this issue.

### **Woodside Speed Reducers**

- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Woodside Ave. (DOT-433629-RSM3)- Please provide update DOT states this is still an active study.

Ms. Suarez reported no new update at this time. This is still an active study. Ms. Suarez will follow up.

- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Place between Laurel Hill Blvd. and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (DOT-297802-W3Y6) -This is Approved. (10/9 DOT informed CB 2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.

Ms. Suarez reported no update on this issue.

- Speed Reducer request on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 46<sup>th</sup> & 47<sup>th</sup> Streets (DOT-429192-DOP9)) (DOT-430484-Z2V7) Approved (10/9 DOT informed CB 2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.

Ms. Suarez will follow on this request.

### **Long Island City**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Street one way conversion (discussion of supporting letter from the 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct).

Ms. Suarez reported that Sgt. Pak sent a letter to DOT from the 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct and letter of support from CB 2 was also sent to DOT for the one way conversion.

- Request for safety improvements on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Lewandowski elaborated on the request for safety improvements. Ms. Suarez requested a letter from CB 2 in order to move forward.

- 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).

Ms. Suarez reported no update on this issue. She will follow up.

- Request for the return of parking spots on the south side of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Vernon Blvd. and 11<sup>th</sup> Street – (DOT442293J7J6). There is one “No Standing” sign up is this an error? CB 2 sent letter (DOT-487825-L9M1).

Ms. Suarez reported that this request has been approved. Work order to be completed soon.

- 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 letter requesting a new study (DOT-487770-W4N0).

Ms. Suarez reported no update at this time. There is currently still a traffic study that is active.

- Center Blvd. north of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update.

Ms. Suarez reported no update at this time. Jack Bernatovicz, Council Member Van Bramer’s Office, reported no update from their office at this time, as well.

- Provide an update on the Vernon Blvd. Bulkhead at 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vernon Blvd.

Ms. Suarez reported that the construction to enhance safety issues at this location is on target and is scheduled to begin. Exact date to begin will follow. No further update was provided. Design for more public space has been noted.

- 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).

Ms. Suarez reported no update at this time. This is a recent case study that has been submitted.

#### **Long Island City Speed Reducers**

- 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). Please provide an update.

Ms. Suarez reported no update at this time.

#### **CB 2 District Wide Initiatives**

- MTA/NYC Transit  
Station upgrades  
Public Transit safety  
LIRR Service updates: Sunnyside station update  
Access-a-ride
- Bike Share
- Scooters
- City Bike
- NYC Ferry – provide regular ridership upgrades



Ms. Lewandowski stated that these are city wide initiatives and that she and Mr. Mituzas wanted to be sure that they are placed on the agenda each month to communicate with other agencies.

Ms. Suarez stated that DOT will be sharing more about bike share expansions and scooters at the fall meetings. DOT will be doing outreach in the summer months.

- CB 2 sent letter of support for the Queensboro bridge pedestrian cyclist lane. Please provide an update on design and timeline.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that CB 2 is looking for this to happen and they will keep it on the agenda. A discussion occurred. No further update was provided by DOT.

- Continue to follow up requests to review regulation changes for all 12/14-hour meters to 4 hours within CB 2. (DOT-481113-J7B9).

Ms. Lewandowski stated that CB 2 will continue to follow up on this request. Ms. Suarez reported that DOT will be doing a full investigation regarding this request.

- Continue to provide an update on the Open Streets.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that if open restaurants are to be permanent residents and business owners would like to participate in some conversation about what that permanent program looks like. Will there be a period to study how this program will be designed and how it will work? Ms. Suarez stated that the Land Use Committee and City Planning are in the process of determining this. More information will follow.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that she will reach out and arrange a joint meeting with the Land Use Chairperson and DOT and City Planning to discuss and share specific issues.

Mr. Mituzas inquired if Department of Buildings was involved in the Open Streets program. Ms. Suarez stated that they were involved in the structure part of the process as are several of the other pertinent agencies.

### **Old Business/New Business**

Mr. Mituzas requested that since the Taxi establishment closed on 35<sup>th</sup> Street the Taxi rest zone can be eliminated. Blissville Civic Association will submit a letter with that request.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that CB 2 would continue the conversations regarding the City Wide Initiative items.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked all for attending the Transportation Committee Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joan Bergman/Debra Markell Kleinert

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Attachment 1 – MTA/NYC Zoning Accessibility – April 2021 Presented to the Transportation Committee June 1, 2021.

Attachment 2 – 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard Presentation – Presented to Community Board 2 – June 1, 2021.

Attachment 3 – Application and Approval of the 46th Ave. Plaza Proposal – Public Space Unit – June 2021

Attachment 4 – Ravel X – Queens Community Board 2.