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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

December 7, 2021

Transportation Committee Meeting

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Osman Chowdhury, Jake DeGroot, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Morry Galonoy, Steven Raga, Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Members - Absent

Thomas Mituzas, Kristen McGowan, Mary Torres, John Vaichunas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

MTA

Larry Gallegos

NYC Department of Transportation

Gretha Suarez

108th Police Precinct

Sgt. Pak

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Sgt. Pak provided the following update:

- Discussed enforcement need from parked cars and warehouse south of Wynwood Gardens and Mt. Zion Cemetery.

For the 28-day period, there were 17 parking violations issued and two vehicles were towed, continuously monitoring the location.

- Request for Enforcement and discussion of wrong one-way conversion of 37th Street between Review Avenue and Bradley Avenue.

For the 28-day period, there were 23 moving violations issued, still monitoring the location, one arrest was made, motorist was driving with a suspended license. This location is being monitored.

- Drag Racing – Woodside, Sunnyside.

311, down by 100% and 911 complaints are down 84%. There are weekend complaints concerning noise complaints from the hours of 2 am to 6 am.

- There was an incident on the Kosciuszko Bridge where a rap star blocked the bridge. They conducted a successful joint operation.

Jake DeGroot reported the auto body shops using parking spots for abandoned vehicles on 44th Avenue between 11th and 13th Streets. Sgt. Pak stated they have spoken to the managers and gave warnings. He will provide an update at the next meeting. NCO's are monitoring and enforcing the location.

Laura Shepard reported the auto body shops are using parking spots for vehicle on 51st Avenue between 70th and 71st Street, sidewalks are impassible.

Sgt. Pak provided an update concerning the crash that took place on the Honeywell Bridge, the sneaker found at the site was not part of the incident and summonses were issued for driver inattention. Summons were for driver inattention., driver got distracted.

Sgt. Pak discussed the 72-hour plan and they have written 158 summonses. They are trying to correct the situation and are enforcing driver inattention as well as speeding. They are also handing out educational flyers to try to educate motorists and pedestrians.

Laura Shepard asked about the possibility of employing Bike Cops for this enforcement.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed the following:

- Discussing with the State to include understanding cycling rules as part of getting a driver's license.
- Laura Shepard will share the legislation for this.
- Bike Cops Stats – Sgt. Pak reported there are officers on bicycles, however, the 108th Police Precinct does not have bike cops currently. It was requested that CB 2 follow up to make this a priority in the 108th police precinct to have a cycling unit. Sgt. Pak requested we follow up with Community Affairs.
- Discussed 44th Drive and 21st Street.
- South of Borden Avenue there are campers where people are living.
- Use of placards for parking, how is this being enforced and asked for the rules at a future meeting so it can be documented. Will provide an update at the next Transportation Committee meeting. Sgt. Pak requested photos.

DOT

Gretha Suarez provided the following update:

- Provide an update for request for a dedicated bus lane on 21st Street.

Gretha Suarez reported she is not working on this and John O'Neill is covering this for CB 1. DOT held a community advisory board process on 21st Street and held meetings and outreach events. The project does not include the parameters of CB 2 and it is in CB 1. They are setting options for the installation of a bus lane along with signal timing improvements and pedestrian improvements on Queens Plaza North and Hoyt Avenue south. More information will be provided in the new year. There is information on their website.

Laura Shepard asked if they could expand the scope of this.

Gretha Suarez stated if there is interest in expanding into CB 2 to write a letter of support.

Sheila Lewandowski spoke about the possibility of a walk through, and it will most likely happen in January.

Gretha Suarez reported there will be public meetings for the CB 1 section. She will follow up with John O'Neill and forward the information to the Board Office. The dates are currently scheduled for December 20, 2021 and January 12, 2022.

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

Gretha Suarez reported there are no updates at this time, working with the contractor and will keep the Board office updates.

Updates on Queens Blvd Bridge approaching Northern Boulevard.

No new updates refurbished the markings here, which is completed. Sheila Lewandowski stated this will be part of the walk through.

- Provide an update on the Implementation of the Street Improvement Project on Northern Blvd. from Broadway to 114th Street.

Gretha Suarez, this is a project that was improving the bus consolidation, shorting pedestrian crossings, and trying to reduce driving speeds overall. This was a collaboration with MTA and DOT to consolidate the Q66 bus stops because there were many bus stops that were reparative and not meeting the guidelines. This is nearly completed, and they are monitoring the project. This is substantially done and completed.

Laura Shepard discussed DSNY has 30 street sweepers and snowplows and asked that the Northern Boulevard Bike lane get priority and the flexi posts not get destroyed.

She also stated we need to have a discussion about the intersection of Northern Boulevard and Broadway due to the new school going in there and we need street improvements.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about the plan for street improvements at the location. Gretha Suarez will follow up on this and any improvements will go through the public community board process.

- Provide an update on the clear markings along the Northern Blvd. Protected Bike Lane Path.

Gretha Suarez, reported this is nearly complete the kwik curb and delineators have been placed. Western end they need to add more vertical elements. There will be more green paint added on 41st Avenue and 40th Avenue and the final markings and bike symbols. There needs to be another painted curb extension on 41st Avenue as it goes into Dutch Kills Green pedestrian space. Broadway is nearly complete, they finished adding the Kwik curb and delineators and are working on it this month. They will come back in the spring to add remaining truffle paint to the pedestrian islands. Some have it and they are not able to get it in the schedule for this season.

Gretha Suarez discussed Broadway and 34th Avenue outreach project development from CB 3 to CB 2.

- Discuss DOT response that meters will remain as is... review regulation changes for all 12/14-hour meters to 4 hours within CB 2. (DOT-481113-J7B9)

Gretha Suarez reported, the Unit issued a letter in early October and Commissioner Garcia noted at the last Transportation Committee meeting this will become part of an area wide study related to congestion pricing, there no changes at this time.

Sheila Lewandowski requested this item remain on the agenda. Requesting that DOT provide a letter that better matches what we are being told to us.

- Provide update on Open Restaurants and preparation for winter Inspections & Complaints

Gretha Suarez reported their website has all the updates. Any open restaurants that have issues with their set up during the winter season and not putting this away such as seating or tables and that there are things deemed unsafe. They can also be submitted through 311 or through DOT webform, DOT will enter it and will continue to do inspections and coordinate with DSNY for any snow removal issues. The Open restaurants will be alerted before a massive snowstorm. We are still within the emergency framework of the Open Restaurants Program.

Sheila Lewandowski asked for the rules concerning this issue so that we can be clear and consistent.

Gretha Suarez reported, the Permanent Program will be providing more time to solidify what the rules are for the 10,000 plus restaurants that are part of this program. As far as she understands, moving forward into the permanent phase, they will have to remove their set up through the winter. That is not the case for this season. The restaurants right now do not have to remove their set up. We are going into the permanent phase putting guidelines and regulations to start from a clean slate to have year to communicate what these regulations will be.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about clarification for safety issues.

Gretha Suarez there is a forecast of a snowstorm the restaurants are required to remove and consolidate the aspects of their roadway set ups and moveable elements in it and stop operations. No one should be using it in a snowstorm over 12 inches or more. Tracking numbers reported to 311 may be forwarded to DOT.

- Plans for snow removal and keeping structures safe (electric, ramps)

REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT - Follow-up on DOT Issues

Blissville

- 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

Gretha Suarez reported there are no updates. The unit is considering this project to develop a project and come to the Board.

- 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.

Gretha Suarez has been corresponding on this issue. They went to survey the location and saw the sign was installed at the same location. This is a closed-out update.

Court Square

- CB2 sent a letter to DOS regarding street cleaning regulations for 23rd Street. (Request Follow up with DOS)

Gretha Suarez will follow up on this matter.

Sheila Lewandowski requested CB 2 follow up on this matter.

- Request an update on letter from Court Square Civic sent regarding a study for Crescent Street.

Gretha Suarez reported the DOT is aware of this issue, this will be looked at for the upcoming season. No new updates at this time.

- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update.

Sunnyside

- Provide an update on the 39th Ave, Barnett Ave to Woodside Ave Bike Blvd Improvements

Contractor out this week to complete installation. Will be putting in green back charro's that are centered, bike stamps in the middle that will be more noted within the stamp itself. They will finish yellow markings and touch up on things; not completely done. They will do the markings at 52nd Street. They finished the installation of the pet space and island expansion near 45th Street.

Will monitor 50th Street and installed a camera to get more data with the diverter and intersection. Will continue to monitor and will keep us posted on additional studies doing there, Commissioner Garcia is interested in seeing some changes there and to further make sure that vehicles are not making illegal turns at that intersection.

A discussion about the installation of cameras took place. Sheila Lewandowski asked how the Community Board gets an observational camera. This may be a temporary camera to learn about the issues that we have heard about at this intersection. She will follow up with the unit.

Jake DeGroot requested if she can provide an update for the next meeting about the data the camera observed. Gretha will follow up with the unit.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about the planters. Gretha reported that has been corrected and they are now in the correct place.

Debra Markell Kleinert asked to make sure the CB 2 office receives updates when changes are made.

48th Street between 39th Avenue and Barnett Avenue

SCA put up permits for the no standing any time signs, constituents wanted the time to not be 24/7 and the sign is there to allow trucks to make the turn to get into the construction site. Spoke to permits unit and they have followed up with SCA about making the changes, they have to apply and amend their permits.

- CB 2 sent a letter of request for a feasibility study for a slow zone sign and a speed reducer on 38th Street between 48th Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue (10/14/ 2020) Neighborhood slow zone (DOT-478719-Q9P4) Speed Reducer (DOT-478711-P8D2). Request an update.

Gretha Suarez reported the speed reducer is still active was sent to the unit and they requested this to be prioritized.

Neighborhood slow zone was rerouted to the speed reducer, speed hump, currently not accepting submissions for neighborhood slow zones. This request is studied as a speed reducer request.

Woodside

- Request to DOT for a One-Way Street conversion on 51st Avenue Between 65th Place and 61st Street. Provide an update. (DOT-464313-T7R8) Open and being evaluated, please provide an update?

Gretha Suarez reported a constituent reached out and there is interest to see results. Residents are asking about these one-way conversions. The DOT is working with MTA given the Q18 bus. They still have ongoing conversations with MTA and will continue to update once they have a better understanding of the proposal.

- Request for feasibility study for a one-way conversion on 50th Avenue between 69th Street and 65th Place. (DOT-483019-P9P2) request an update.

The unit that does these studies looks at the whole thing. They will come to CB 2 with rather than detaching them.

63rd Street between 37th and 39th Avenue

There is a new speed hump on, and installation was completed.

- Request an update on traffic control study at 67th Street and Garfield Avenue:

- Enhanced Crosswalks – Garfield Avenue and 67th Street (DOT-499828-Z0H6) Provide an update based on safety at schools?
 - Speed Mobile Enforcement – Garfield Avenue and 67th Street DOT-500207-P9J1) Letter received from DOT concerning fixed speed enforcement program. Provide Implementation schedule?
 - Request for traffic study on 63rd Street between and Laurel Hill Boulevard and Tyler Ave.
- 58th and Laurel Hill Blvd – heading west. Complaint that the right lane now only lets you turn right onto 58th and now go straight
 - Traffic Study 63rd and Laurel Hill to Tyler Ave – More information required

Woodside Speed Reducers

- Speed Cushion request on 58th Street from 39th Ave to Woodside Ave. (DOT- 433629-RSM3) – Request an update DOT states this is still an active study.

Gretha Suarez reported this was sent to be prioritized and it is still being studied. It is still an open case.

Woodside Completed Items

- Traffic signal approved at the intersection of 39th Ave and 52nd Street (DOT – 398882-J7N2), Work to be completed by Nov 30, 2021. Provide Implementation update?

Gretha Suarez reported the signal has been installed.

Gretha Suarez reported she hopes these will be installed in the upcoming season.

- Speed Cushion request on 58th Place between Laurel Hill Blvd and 52nd Avenue (DOT- 297802-W3Y6) –Approved. (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.
- Speed Reducer request on 50th Avenue between 46th and 47th 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^h Street and 48th Street (DOT -508292-LOWO - new request) DOT Denied 9/7/2021 Provide an update.

Long Island City

Request for all way stop, cross walks and safety improvements on 5th Street and 47th Road.

Gretha Suarez reported the previous study was denied in December 2018, however we can put in a new study for January 2022 and requested CB 2 submit a letter to open this study.

Sheila Lewandowski stated this is a complicated intersection.

Laura Shepard asked for daylighting all along 5th Street. Sheila Lewandowski stated daylighting takes away parking spots and that we want to hear from other people in the community and these are two different things.

- 11th 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).

Gretha Suarez reported this is a larger scope project that does not have a developed scope. There are no updates on this, and she will continue to follow up on this.

- Request removal of the No Standing sign 7AM-7PM regulations on the North Side of 50th Avenue between 2nd and 5th Streets, (DOT-487817-H3R3. DOT completed field investigation and an order to remove the signage. Provide Implementation update?

Gretha Suarez stated this is already done. Sheila Lewandowski stated she will check.

- 46th 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)

Gretha Suarez will follow up with the unit to see what can be done here and normally when they do a traffic study the guideline is to wait three years before they open a new study. She will forward the letter from the Board.

- Center Blvd north of 47th Road transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update. 47th Road and N Basin Road.

Gretha Suarez stated there are no updates at this time.

- Request an update on the Vernon Blvd Bulkhead at 54th Avenue and Vernon Blvd. (Construction Started) Provide update?

Gretha Suarez stated the construction is ongoing, no new updates at this time and should be completed by early next fall.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed that we are pressing for waterfront access.

- Request for a one-way conversion on 31st Place between 47th Avenue and 48th Avenue (DOT-497662-R8J2). (APPROVED) Provide Implementation date?

Approved and letter issued in June. This will remain on the agenda until it is implemented.

- Request for a one-way conversion southbound – 5th Street between 50th Avenue and Borden Avenue (DOT-509191-57R9 – Request update

Gretha Suarez reported the Unit will come to the CB 2 Transportation Committee Meeting possibly in January

- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5th Street (DOT 508287-VOB8 – Request update

Remains active.

- 21st Street and 51st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge – Request an update

Commissioner Garcia will work on a letter on this, and the response will be sent to CB 2.

Gretha Suarez provided an update on the Bike Share expansion and the timeline has been pushed back due to global supply chain issues. Installation will happen in spring of 2022.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed safety concerns on Vernon Boulevard and 48th Avenue adjacent to the dog run. Cars are parking there, and a lot of cars and trucks are going west on 48th going toward the water. To make clear and investigate that there is legal parking there and if there is if it should be removed to find a way to make it clear. There are a lot of back ups there and it is a problem spot. She requested DOT look into the location to see if anything can be done.

Gretha requested that CB 2 send a letter concerning this location.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed Bike Share and said this is an equity issue.

Jake DeGroot clarified by asking if we can we remove the some of the exiting installed docks in certain parts of the district, remove them and relocate the to other parts of the district while we wait for more equipment to be available due to the global supply chain.

The response from DOT was no, they will not remove from one area to go to the other since they have plans to add new stations to these new locations and the new locations have to go through the CB 2 process. Will come early in 2022 to get feedback and approvals and then they will now where to locate them, and they will be placed in the new locations.

Laura Shepard discussed jersey barriers on Honeywell and 39th Avenue. DOT said she will look into the issue and ask the unit.

Laura Shepard asked about a loading zone and 41-41 51st Street, there are always double-parked cars at the location, and it is dangerous. Sheila Lewandowski asked if the building can submit the request to CB 2. Neighborhood Loading Zone is a new pilot program, and they will be applying it more widely.

Morry Galonoy asked about a letter submitted by Wynwoode Gardens. DOT will forward the information.

CB2 District Wide Initiatives and other Agencies

MTA / NYC Transit – Update by Larry Gallegos

Larry Gallegos provided an update concerning the following:

- MTA – 7 train closures – schedule. Prior agreement was to receive from the MTA/NYCT an advance calendar of planned closures and/or as notice as soon as possible for last minute closure needs.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed the closure of the 7 Train and the agreements to have a certain amount of notice in advance so it could be shared. We had an agreement to get the whole season's calendar in advance and the MTA NYC Transit posted it in the stations. If there are scheduled things, we would like to have the agreement and a dialogue.

Sheila Lewandowski asked that they never take the E out at the same time as the 7.

Mr. Gallegos discussed the changing of schedules and what he can do is that he doesn't see why he can't reach out two weeks ahead of time. Major projects he will let us know with a month's worth of notice.

- Elevator schedules at all the stations – schedule for installation

Mr. Gallegos reported that Court Square and Queens Borough Plaza should have a contract awarded in the next few weeks, these projects will begin to move along. Their goal is to provide as much accessibility as possible, but not every station will get an elevator as it is not feasible.

- Existing bathrooms should be unlocked – Woodside station

Mr. Gallegos stated there are no immediate plans to open bathrooms right now from a safety and manpower standpoint, they do not have resources to maintain them.

- Plans for secure bike parking at stations - connected transportation network – Provide an update.

Mr. Gallegos said there is no room for bike parking and bike stations.

- Bike Pods - is this in discussion

Mr. Gallegos said they do not have control or say over this, the room is very limited, and they do not tend to do this.

Laura Shepard discuss legislation that has passed with regard to this matter in the Senate and the Assembly that is waiting for the Governor's signature.

- How can MTA/NYCT make sure to keep us informed of accessibility shutdowns – elevators are out. – in real time? No or little notice is extremely burdensome on those needing accessibility because of physical, mental, or other needs.

Mr. Gallegos stated they have information on their website at www.mta.info and they do post on twitter. He will bring it back to the team.

- Queens Bus redesign – was problematic – revenue neutral – what is the update?

Mr. Gallegos they took feedback back and he is optimistic about what comes next.

- East Side Access – when will that open? How many trains will stop in Woodside & what is happening with the Sunnyside Station?

Mr. Gallegos stated will follow up.

- 21st Street bus lane for the 4 blocks above 44th – convo with DOT – Bus Priority Project?

Laura Shepard stated MTA is working with DOT in Astoria. We want the scope expanded into CB 2. Sheila Lewandowski clarified that we want it considered as part of the plan

Mr. Gallegos will follow up with DOT.

- Mask Wearing seems to be inconsistent. What is happening to monitor and enforce this?

Mr. Gallegos reported they are working closely with the NYPD and they had their mask force out. Trying to encourage folks to use masks. You can get a free mask if you request one from the station agent.

- Debris falling from 7 train still – Provide an update?

Mr. Gallegos said this has happened in the past. There is always ongoing track work, and their team members do everything to keep everyone safe. There will be some work coming up on the 7 line at 52 Street 61 and 69th Street and some work at Court Square.

- Lower Montauk Branch of the LIRR – any updates? Rail line? Share between people & freight?

Mr. Gallegos stated there is no plans to change at this point.

- Fair fares LIRR - updates

Mr. Gallegos discussed Fair Fares, a City program and the Chairman is working with a group internally to study what can be done to reduce or adjust the fares to entice more riders to come back into the system. There may be an announcement in the next few weeks.

- Renovation of 61st Street Station- Provide an update.
- Station upgrades and increase accessibility?
- LIRR Service updates: Sunnyside station update?
- Access-a-ride- Provide an update?

Mr. Gallegos stated there is a lack of drivers.

Mr. Gallegos discussed the annual ridership numbers for the stations and would forward the information to CB 2.

- Bike Share / Car Share / Scooter / Mopeds–
 - updates on ridership, docks and plans for changes, expansion in CB2

- NYC Ferry – provide regular ridership updates and any plans for schedules changes and/or expansions

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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