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# Community Board No. 2

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*Morry Galonoy  
Chairperson  
Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager*

**March 1, 2022**

## **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom**

### **Transportation Committee Members – Present**

*Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Osman Chowdhury, Jake DeGroot, Kristen McGowan, Steven Raga, Laura Shepard*

### **Transportation Committee Members – Absent**

*Mary Torres, John Vaichunas*

### **Community Board 2 Staff**

*Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado*

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

*Sgt. Pak*

### **NYC Department of Transportation**

*Gretha Suarez, Shawn Macias, Preston Johnson*

### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

*Isaac Blasenstein, Representing Council Member Julie Won*

### **Public Comments**

*Lou Venech, Seth Slade*

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

Lou Venech – Discussed the Citibike Expansion Plan and requested the DOT make an effort to minimize the number of curbside parking spaces that would be eliminated.

Seth Slade – Announced that he has submitted his comments and is looking forward to how DOT will use the comments. He discussed that parking is a concern in his neighborhood and hopes everyone can be accommodated.

### **Citibike Share Program**

Gretha Suarez announced the deadline for comments were due on March 1, 2022. They are gathering all the correspondence and are going through it. She requested that anyone that had additional requests to forward them to her. The Bike Share Team received approximately 50 pieces of correspondence for the CB 2 area.

Laura Shepard requested the DOT review the IBZ zone which is completely excluded. Gretha Suarez requested she submit the locations.

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

Sgt. Pak provided the following update:

- 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Street's auto body shops storing vehicles – Summonses issued, approximately 10, 6 row tows, body shops were spoken to.
- Van Dam and Bradley Avenue Auto Body Shops, summonses issued (approximately 8), waiting for row tow.
- 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Street, working with Sgt. From the 104<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Police precincts, enforcement was conducted. Discussed the request for speed bumps and that they would not work due to location is a bus route. Speed cushions could be a possibility. DOT will reach out to Sgt. Pak to discuss.
- Provide an update on the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Traffic Zoom Meeting. Sgt. Pak provided an update on the zoom meeting and thanked Sheila Lewandowski for attending.

### **UPDATE BY 108<sup>TH</sup> / DOT**

- Discussion on educating the public on different types of electric and other motorized two-wheel vehicles. Sgt. Pak submitted to CB 2 a document called Electric Bicycles and More.

### **DOT Presentations**

#### **34<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Broadway to 69<sup>th</sup> Street) Protected Bike Lane Project Presentation**

Gretha Suarez introduced her colleagues Preston Johnson and Shawn Macias. Preston Johnson presented the Presentation, a copy of which is attached (Attachment #1)

Questions were entertained.

DOT is seeking a letter of support for the project as they are looking to do the implementation this season. This is part of the Northern Boulevard and Broadway protected bike lane and expanding the network and feeding into CB 2 and the open street project.

Questions were entertained and the following requests were made for improvements:

Laura Shepard asked about the following:

- Milling and paving scheduling. The response was DOT will inspect the area
- Pavement under the BQE is full of potholes and ruts. The DOT will look into the matter specifically under 69th Street to Broadway and under the BQ
- Request for Wayfinding to indicate there is an open street ahead. Sheila Lewandowski requested positive signage about the open street that lets drivers know this is coming so there is no bottle neck when they get there and said this is an exciting thing.
- Requested a way to protect the bike lane with curb stops in the parking lane or something that encourages not driving up to the curb. The DOT will look at different types of protection strategies and see if there is something that is applicable
- 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Street, bike traffic is increasing.
- 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 60<sup>th</sup> Street is still completely unsignalized for cross traffic. Requested a light or stop sign and or daylighting at the location. DOT will take a look at this intersection.
- Requested Wayfinding on 39<sup>th</sup>.

DOT said they will speak to the Borough Engineer and thanked the committee for these points.

DOT will share this presentation with PS 152 and they have had conversations with the schools concerning Northern Boulevard and Broadway.

Sheila Lewandowski reported that CB 2 will reach out to the Principal as we need to hear back from them.

Laura Shepard made a motion, and it was seconded by Jake DeGroot to send a letter of support to DOT for the project. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

**12<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza** - Provide an update on revised presentation based on feedback from committee.

Vorea is working through a letter of response and will send it to the Community Board this week. They are updating materials in response to the inquiries.

- Provide an update on the Mayor Adams 1000 Citywide DOT initiative on intersection improvements and the impact on the CB2 District. (Any intersections within CB 2) Gretha Suarez reported this will be launched and shared once they have more information citywide they will provide an update. More information to follow. Tom Mituzas asked if there was anything we needed to do to get our intersections on the list to which the response was “no” and we pushed to please let us know if DOT requires any input from the community.
- Provide an update on the new initiative of the Jersey Barriers within CB 2. Gretha Suarez announced the press release was sent by the Mayor’s Office and Commissioner Rodriguez for the bike lanes that were selected to harden them and add jersey barriers and explore other means to make it more protected on Vernon Boulevard between 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 30<sup>th</sup> Road. There is not time line for when the jersey barriers will go in. Hoping to get to Queens at the end of March.

## **DOT**

- Provide an update on the Queensboro bridge pedestrian cyclist lane. CB2 is requesting an expedited timeline.
- Provide an update on the clear markings along the Northern Blvd. Protected Bike Lane Path.
- TC response to rejection of 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)
- Provide update on Open Restaurants.
- Plans for snow removal and keeping structures safe (electric, ramps)
- DOT is conducting a Parking Study for Congestion Pricing initiative (DOT-481113-J7B9)

## **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
- Request DOT conduct a study of 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Review Avenue and Bradley Avenue. Change directional and if not approved, add a left turn signal from Review Avenue onto 37<sup>th</sup> going east. DOT requested CB 2 provide a letter to proceed.
- Tom Mituzas clarified we are requesting a study on 37<sup>th</sup> Street in two parts, one is for the reversal of the one way because we feel that reversing the one way there will only one entrance to control as opposed to today where there are two entrances to control which is causing cars and trucks to go against traffic. If DOT does not recommend that, we are asking for a left turn signal off of Review because it is impossible to make the left turn onto 37<sup>th</sup> without a left turn signal because of the amount of traffic. Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to send a letter to the DOT. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

## **No update was provided on the following items:**

### **Court Square**

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

### **Sunnyside**

- 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.

### **Woodside**

- 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.
- 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) Provide an update based on safety at schools?
- Speed Mobile Enforcement – Garfield Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT-500207-P9J1) Letter received from DOT concerning fixed speed enforcement program. Provide Implementation schedule?
- 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-531299-VOV2)
- Traffic Study 63<sup>rd</sup> and Laurel Hill to Tyler Ave – to evaluate the request from the community to reverse the one-way street. (DOT-531011-3C8)

### **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.

### **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. Provide Implementation update?
- 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.

### **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 (CB2 sent a letter of support (DOT # 533906-G4N7)
- 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). DOT denied continue discussion. (DOT will follow up) CB2 discussion on resubmitting as separate items and breaking up the request.
- Center Blvd north of 47<sup>th</sup> Road transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update. 47<sup>th</sup> Road and N Basin Road. Paving stones collapsing in intersection at Center Blvd. north of 47<sup>th</sup> Road.

### **Request an update on the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Bulkhead Collapse**

Gretha Suarez reported the Newtown Creek Alliance submitted a letter. Gretha Suarez reported this is being reviewed by LIRR who are in the process of securing funding for a future capital program to bring the bulkhead into a state of good repair. LIRR is in the planning stages to review inspection results inspection results to mitigate any future deterioration of the bulkhead. DOT working with MTA and DEC to develop any strategies to limit the overweight of the vehicular access to the street. Not finalized coordination and will be sharing this with the board.

Tom Mituzas discussed the following:

- As a member of the Blissville Civic, they signed onto the letter by Newtown Creek Alliance.
- Would like to see an openness to the shore and access to the creek.
- This is an opportunity to bring greenspace to the area.

Sheila Lewandowski discussed that she spoke about the NCA presentation at the Environmental Committee Meeting and that she, Tom, Morry and Debbie will have a discussion about this.

**No Update was provided on the following:**

- 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) Provide Implementation date?
- 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 received CB2's letter of support and announced this will be a summer implementation.
- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT 508287-VOB8) – Provide an update.
- 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue Pedestrian Bridge (also known as the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Pedestrian Food Bridge) Request an update on a letter from DOT to send to CB 2 to close this project.

Request for a feasibility study for the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at the Lights around CUNY LaGuardia Community College/Bard High School Early College (Request submitted to DOT) (DOT533922H3F1) Gretha Suarez reported this is in the process of being reviewed and is currently an open request.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about the corner of the south east corner of Vernon and 48<sup>th</sup> and asked about the removal of those two spots to have a through lane and a left turn lane to go west toward the water. Gretha Suarez reported that she did receive a letter for this.

Tom Mituzas discussed the Queensboro Bridge Pedestrian cyclist lane. CB2 is requesting an expedited timeline.

Sheila Lewandowski is seeking support to get this expedited from the Council Member. Isaac Blasenstein stated the Council Member sent a letter and are requesting a meeting on this topic. They are waiting for a response.

Sheila Lewandowski stated that Transportation Committee will bring this to the CB 2 Meeting for a vote on how critical this issue is to our board and the surrounding boards for this to happen as quickly as possible and that this is for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians and that we have been waiting for this for years.

Laura Shepard made a motion and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to call on the elected officials and to send a letter of support to DOT on how this is critical to our Board and the surrounding Boards which are critical for the safety of cyclists, drivers and motorists.

Kristen McGowan requested school blocks need to be taken seriously and especially on the speed bump on 58<sup>th</sup> Street between 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Woodside Avenue.

Jake DeGroot discussed snow removal on the Queens Boulevard Bridge. Debra Markell Kleinert will add this request to the District Service Cabinet Meeting Agenda.

Laura Shepard asked about the Queens Boulevard Capital Project – work was to start in 2019, it is with DDC and requested a follow up.

**CB2 District Wide Initiatives and other Agencies**

- MTA Disruptions
- Bike Share / Car Share / Scooter / Mopeds
- NYC Ferry – provide regular ridership updates and any plans for schedules changes and/or expansions

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
MA Gurrado

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