



## COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS  
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE NOLAN  
DISTRICT MANAGER

### CB 6 MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2025

#### PRESENT

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR  
PETER BEADLE, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR  
MARK LASTER, 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE CHAIR

SALUA BAIDA, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION  
LT. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL  
JOHN DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

E. ALFONSECA  
R. ASHE  
A. AYON  
K. BATRA  
L. DAVIS  
K. FUENTES  
A. GUO  
K. IMAS  
S. JAIN

N. JOHNSON  
S. MUNAWAR  
R. PUNJABI  
D. RACHNAEV  
L. ROBINS  
P. RODRIGUEZ  
S. ROLNICK

D. SCHANTZ  
H. SCHONHAUT  
A. PRATAP SHAH  
J. SILVA  
D. SOLOW  
M. TUCKER  
D. WALCOTT  
E. ZAKRY

#### ABSENT

D. ARONOV  
H. BIRNBAUM\*  
K. CLARK\*  
K. ENGEL\*  
A. FERATOVIC\*  
N. GALIPEAU\*  
T. GAVRIEOF\*

M. LASHLEY-KABORE\*  
P. MORGAN\*  
J. POORAN  
J. PRATT\*  
G. RIVKIN\*  
G. SANDOVAL  
E. SHVARTSMAN\*

L. TECPANECATL\*  
B. WINSTEAD\*

\*EXCUSED ABSENCES

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN  
KEVIN MCALLEER  
ELIANA SWELL  
JORDAN GOLDES  
CORMAC NATARO  
KATHARINE ZAPATA  
JOSE VALERA  
BARBARA VULICH  
MICHELLE HETTICH  
MARIA CONCOLINO

DISTRICT MANAGER  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL WOMAN LYNN SCHULMAN  
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI  
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG  
OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS  
OFFICE OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO  
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF  
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF  
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF

Chair Beers-Dimitriadiis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

### CB 6 MEMBERS

#### ***Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadiis***

*On behalf of the 112<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th, at 7:30 PM on Zoom. RSVP & send your questions to [112pccmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:112pccmeeting@gmail.com).*

#### ***Mark Laster***

- *Monday, November 17th, Just Salad will be holding its grand opening in Forest Hills. For every purchase on that day, the Forest Hills Green Team will receive a \$1.00 donation. Their landlord, Cord Meyer, will match whatever Just Salad donates. Please plan to check out this store to support both a local business and a local grassroots organization committed to developing a sustainable planet.*
- *Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 4 PM, First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills is gathering a group of experts to discuss topics most important to those 65 and over and the adult children who are often their caretakers. Ranging from tips for avoiding internet scams to common sense investment advice, the fair will offer a mix of short talks and one-on-one table interactions addressing some of the more pressing issues for older adults.*
- *On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 2 PM to 4 PM, Brain Power Wellness, located at 68-60 Austin Street, will hold the next Breaking Bread Building Bonds luncheon.*
- *Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, from 12 PM to 2 PM, virtual event, New York State Census Partnership. The road to Census 2030 starts now. Join a virtual meeting that brings together experts, advocates, and partners from across New York to kick off the conversation, complete and equitable count working together to ensure New York is seen, counted, and represented. Register: <https://nyls.wufoo.com/forms/nys-census-2030-launch>.*
- *Karla Fuentes and I, along with District Manager Christine Nolan and Katherine Zapata from the Queens Borough President's office advocated to have the PS 174 school yard reopened. The school yard was delayed in reopening after the construction at the school was finished.*

#### ***Jean Silva***

- *Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Alliance for Flushing Meadow Corona Park is holding a leaf collection. You can go to their website to sign up.*
- *Starting January 31<sup>st</sup>, the NYC Parks Department is having a scavenger hunt at Flushing Meadows- Corona Park. To sign up, go to [nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org).*
- *Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Pat Dolan Trail Winter Exploring the area of Willow Lake.*
- *Sometime in March, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy is having an open house. Right now, they are collecting data for the open house. There is a bad flooding problem in that area.*
- *Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy is bringing its dinosaur event back.*

#### ***Daniel Solow***

- *New York Blood Center is going to open on December 10<sup>th</sup> in our neighborhood. Come and donate blood; it helps save lives.*
- *The community board office has the 2025 bike map.*

***District Manager Nolan*** added that once the blood center is open, the community board would like to hold a blood donation drive at the new center. We will keep the board posted.

#### ***Pedro Rodriguez***

*I want to thank all the volunteers who are here, local businesses and organizations that helped with Trick-or-Streets Day. It was more successful than Austin Day. It was the first Trick-or-Streets in Forest Hills. We hope to do more of these events. When we went to put up the barriers, I noticed there were cars parked in areas where the no-parking*

signs were hung. Someone went around and took down the no-parking signs in the area. If the person is listening who took down the signs, you put children in danger and risk of cars being towed for parking in that area. If anyone would like to join, our website is [saferaustinstreet.com](http://saferaustinstreet.com).

### **Latrice Davis**

*Given the outcome of the proposals that were on the ballot of last week's election, I'm sure the Land Use, Housing, and Landmark Committee will be speaking about the ramifications of the proposals in the near future.*

### **Peter Beadle**

*The Community Board 6 social bicycle tour was held throughout the entire district. It was the brainchild of Salua Baida. We had twelve riders: members of the board, along with Chief of Staff Kevin Wisniewski of Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi's office and Laura Sherpard, the parks and transportation liaison for Borough President Donovan Richards. It gave us an opportunity to check out the daylighting at the 108 Street bus stop, Q23, where we are having an issue. Also, some bike lanes on 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Also a community garden behind MELS, near Queensway and Queenslink. It gave a different perspective while riding the bicycle. In the Spring, if there is interest, when the Citi Bikes are in the neighborhood, we can do another event so folks can rent a bicycle if they don't have one.*

### **Ephraim Zakry**

*The Veterans Committee held a breakfast for Veterans in our community at the Westside Tennis Club. It was a very nice day. I spoke with the veterans who spoke about leaving their families behind when they are abroad. Some come back with post-traumatic symptoms or injuries. Once a year it is nice to give them a breakfast and say thank you.*

**Chair Beers-Dimitriadis** added that the 112<sup>th</sup> Pct. Council also sponsored the veteran's breakfast, and Mike Dunn from the American Legion, did the planning for the breakfast and the West Side Tennis Club hosted the breakfast.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that we will not be reading written public comments and there are three public speakers, one in person and two online. You can submit your written comment by Friday, November 14th.

### **George Hadjiconstantinou – Queens Chamber of Commerce**

*Queens Chamber of Commerce is distributing surveys to all consumers and small businesses in Forest Hills. This is part of an SBS grant the Queens Chamber of Commerce received for FY 26 to conduct a Commercial District Needs Assessment of the entirety of Forest Hills. We will collect surveys and then use that to guide our recommendations:*

- Austin Street between Yellowstone Blvd and Ascan Ave
- Metropolitan Ave between Union Tpke and Selfridge Street
- Queens Blvd between Union Tpke and Yellowstone Blvd
- 108<sup>th</sup> St between 63rd Rd and 65<sup>th</sup> Ave

Questions and comments were taken.

### **Marcia Hittner – Forest Hills Owner Corp.**

*I am the Secretary of the board of directors of the Forest Hills Owner Corp., located at 70-31 108<sup>th</sup> Street, Forest Hills. Peter, I'm glad you got to experience what we see on 108<sup>th</sup> Street during your social ride. We shared an email with Christine, Peter and Edgar from our building and our community. On behalf of our building's residents, I want to thank you for your support and leadership in our efforts to have the Q23 bus stop relocated from in front of our building to a location that better supports all citizens in our community. Your attention to our concerns and your willingness to engage with the MTA on this issue have been invaluable. We've brought the relocation concerns that we previously shared with you to the attention of our elected officials who are on board with this grievance as well. We*

want to emphasize that the Queens Bus Network Redesign Plan is at a critical juncture. Currently, the MTA is undergoing a post-implementation study which is likely to conclude in February 2026. In light of this truncated timeline, we are petitioning Community Board 6 to reach out to its contacts at the MTA and Department of Transportation to engage in substantive intra-agency dialogue about the unique issues in our neighborhood, including the Q23 bus stop at 70-31 108th Street. Collaboration with other Community Boards is a powerful way forward. Across Queens, other community boards, including CB1 and CB8, are also voicing serious concerns about the impact of the new bus network changes on their neighborhoods. These widespread issues demonstrate that the redesign, as currently implemented, has created unintended hardships for many communities. We believe this is an important moment for all Queens Community Boards to stand together. A unified, borough-wide appeal to the MTA and Department of Transportation will carry far more weight than individual efforts. By presenting a coordinated message that reflects the collective experiences of our districts, we can push for meaningful revisions that restore accessibility, fairness, and responsiveness to the needs of Queens residents. Thank you again for your ongoing advocacy and commitment. We urge you to continue leading this effort and to encourage collaboration among the Boards so that together we can achieve a more balanced and effective transportation plan for Queens.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadiis: We have been in continued conversation with Kevin Wisniewski from Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi's office, working on a letter and continuing with the advocacy of the Q23 stop at this location.

***Michael Moore***

Forest Hills and our surrounding communities have been plagued with reckless street takeovers for the last six months. At last month's 112<sup>th</sup> Community Council Meeting, the Community Affairs officer expressed to us that this is more of a DOT issue than a police issue. Is the DOT in agreement that this is their responsibility to protect the people from these reckless acts endangering public safety? Two young people already lost their lives in these events in the Bronx last year. 15-year-old Sabrina Gomez and 21-year-old Gilbane Roberson. In April of this year three police vehicles were attacked with the officers inside in Richmond Hill. I was attacked on my own property last month by the dangerous group of individuals that organize and attend these street takeovers. I hope we can quickly find a solution to these reckless street takeovers and limit the number of additional lives that will be lost. Congresswoman Velazquez has been vocal about preventative measures being pursued by DOT in conjunction with the police department after the NYPD was attacked at one of these takeover events in March of this year. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law awarded New York \$29 billion for transportation and roadway safety projects. I would like to know what proactive measures have been completed in our communities and what actions are in progress to make our streets safe again. Does DOT feel the \$29 billion already allocated to New York to make our streets safe is sufficient to redesign every large intersection in New York City, or is additional funding needed? When does the DOT feel they can completely redesign all of NYC's intersections to make us safe? These events continue to happen.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadiis: We can refer this to DOT, to share your comments and concerns and ask them to get back to us and follow up with you. We have been working on this since the summer.

***The following comment was submitted in writing for minutes:***

***JB Reefer***

*Please put a massive bike station directly next to the LIRR stairs on Continental, in the roadbed next to the current bike parking lot.*

Chair Beers-Dimitriadiis thanked all the public speakers and closed the public forum.

**MINUTES**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadiis spoke about the importance of reading the minutes, checking the attendance; to make sure you were marked correctly.

A motion to accept the minutes for October 16, 2025, was made by Sabah Munawar and was seconded by Edgar Alfonsena. All were in favor.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis announced the following:

Monday evening, I attended the final community advisory board meeting for the Rego Park Men's Shelter for this year. The shelter, year-to-date, has completed twenty-nine placements, and 35% of the residents are employed. They continue to provide job training, and they are hopeful that with the holiday season, many will be able to take advantage of seasonal opportunities. The people who represent the CAB are Latrice Davis, myself, Nile Johnson, Kandra Clark and District Manager Christine Nolan. In the first year, we met quarterly to date and will move to bi-annual meetings in 2026. This is a normal procedure.

Nominations will be open for executive board members in December as the first order of business after the District Manager's report. The nominations will be made from the floor and seconded. Each member of the board can be nominated for one position. The election will be held in the January session of the board. The nominations will be Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair (land use), Third Vice Chair (budget priorities), Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Administration, and Parliamentarian. Myself, Peter Beadle, Mark Laster, and John Dereszewski are term-limited in our existing roles. We cannot run for reelection in these same positions but can run for other positions. If anyone is interested in running for a position and would like to discuss that role and the commitment requirements, you can reach out to me, the district manager or anyone on the executive committee.

If any of the Chairs are planning a committee meeting in November, avoid the dates of November 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. In December avoid having a committee meeting from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the New Year.

Thanked Northwell for hosting their flu vaccine pod at our office; Northwell vaccinated about 40 individuals.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Christine Nolan reported the following:

I submitted the District Needs Statement and Budget Requests on behalf of the Board. I will share the final version once I receive the PDF from the Department of City Planning. Thank you to all members who worked so diligently on the budget priorities over the past 6+ months.

The following members have recently resigned from CB6: Kevin Ly, Julieth Avila, Natalie Pienkowska, and Renee Mehrra.

The Rego Park Library will be closing on November 22 for reconstruction. The library will be closed for approximately 4 years. The Queens Library was not able to accommodate a temporary library space despite our best efforts, so we will have Mobile Library Services once a week on Thursdays from 10-5. We expressed our disappointment with this outcome to the Queens Library and CM Holden's Office. We feel that once a week library service (that isn't in the evening or weekend) isn't enough to accommodate the needs of our community. At a minimum, we asked for a second day of mobile library service (preferably a weekend day). This was denied. We encourage anyone who uses the Rego Park Library and feels that this isn't sufficient to reach out to their Elected Officials and let them know.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Due to the absence of Co-Chairs Brently Winstead and Gladys Sandoval, Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis gave the following report:

### **ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY APPLICATIONS**

1. SOHO DISPENSARY CORP., 71-19 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.
2. NATURAL LEAF INC., 98-48 QUEENS BLVD., R.P.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reported that Soho Dispensary had come before us at a previous meeting with a different location. That lease fell through and they had to apply for a new cannabis license for a new location. The committee initially tabled the recommendation for Soho Dispensary due to questions surrounding their lease. We found out their lease was a sublease for the first floor of the building. They have provided us with the master lease which has addressed our questions and concerns. We are going to move ahead with the application. We will be taking a recommendation tonight.

Both cannabis applicants attended the meeting to answer questions from the board.

John Dereszewski made a motion to approve the Soho Dispensary application and was seconded by Liz Robins. The motion passed 28 Yes, 2 No.

The committee's recommendation was to approve the Natural Leaf cannabis application. A vote was taken on the committee's motion to approve Natural Leaf. The vote passed 25 yes, 5 no.

### **NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

1. CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL, 61-35 JUNCTION BLVD., R.P.
2. MAD FOR CHICKEN, 71-37 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.\*

\*Change in ownership. No changes to method of operation\*

### **RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

3. AMAR PERUVIAN KITCHEN, 68-60 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.
4. TACOMBI, 71-22 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.
5. TIKKA N TALK, 70-11 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.
6. MANOR OKTOBERFEST, 73-11 YELLOWSTONE BLVD., F.H.

The Consumer Affairs, Cultural Affairs, and Economic Development Committee unanimously supported the new and renewal liquor license applications. The 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct did not have any issues to report. A voice vote was taken for the new liquor licenses; all were in favor. A voice vote was taken for the renewal of liquor licenses; all were in favor.

### **DOT PRESENTATION – CITI BIKE EXPANSION INTO CB6**

Co-Chair Edgar Alfonseca, reported that on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> the Transportation, Public Transit, Street Safety Committee met with DOT for a presentation on the expansion of Citi Bike locations throughout the Community Board 6 area. The committee members gave some locations where they would like to see the Citi Bikes located.

Craig Chin, DOT borough planner for NYC; DOT Kate Sundberg, Outreach Coordinator, and Mabel Kessler, Senior Planner at NYC DOT Bike Share & Shared Mobility Unit made the presentation. We are going to take into consideration and then to work into the plan some of the ideas that the Transportation Committee suggested. When we deploy stations, we will look at the technical reasons why stations will be installed and see if those suggestions meet the criteria and work them into the plan. The team will go over the locations, and if anyone has other places that they want to suggest, we can take a look at them.

Kate Sundberg, outreach coordinator with the bike share and shared mobility unit at DOT; presented, along with Mabel Kessler and Meredith Thompson. We did receive your feedback and will talk about it after the presentation. We didn't make any changes to the plan until we had all the feedback from the full board as well.

Bike Share is shared-use mobility

- Network of shared bicycles that are intended for point-to-point transportation. Fleet made up of pedal bikes and e-bikes
- Increased mobility - Additional transportation option, Convenient for trips that are too far to walk, but too short for the subway or a taxi, connections to transit.
- Convenience - System operates 24/7 and there is no need to worry about bike storage or maintenance
- Positive health & environmental impacts

Citibike is New York City's Bike Share System

It is a Public-Private partnership in that NYC DOT is responsible for system planning and outreach, Lyft is responsible for day-to-day operations and equipment, funded by sponsorships & memberships

Citi Bike is a station-based bike share system.

Stations

- Can be on the roadbed or sidewalk
- Are primarily solar-powered and wireless
- Are modular and movable,
- Provide reliability, consistency, and redundancy for riders

Citi Bike has been operating for more than 12 years. The program launched with 330 stations, 6,000 bikes. Today, Citibike has 2,150 stations, 39,000 bikes, and 55% of New Yorkers live in the service area

Citi Bike 2025-2026 expansion will include an additional 250 stations, 2,900 bikes, and 70% of New Yorkers will live in the service area

Statistics

283+ million trips to date, 44+ million trips in 2024, ~3.4 trips per day per bike, 150,000+ daily trips in peak riding months, ~175,000 unique annual members in 2024, ~29k unique Reduced Fare members in 2024  
In 2024, the average trip was 1.5 miles and just over 9 minutes long

Pricing

Memberships - Single Ride - \$4.99, One 30-minute ride. Available via the Lyft smartphone app, Day Pass - \$25, Includes unlimited 30-minute rides in a 24-hour period, Annual - \$220/year or \$18.33/month, Includes unlimited 45-minute rides

Reduced Fare Bike Share - NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) Residents, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Recipients - \$5/month

Annual commitment optional, Includes unlimited 45-minute rides

\*Additional charges apply for ebikes and late fees

## Timeline for Queens Community Board 6

- Station Siting: Spring-Summer 2025
  - o Survey the neighborhood for technically viable locations
  - o Considerations of hydrants, utilities, accessibility, among other factors
  - o Program success is based on a high density of stations and equal access to stations across the service area. Stations will be: Located every few blocks (approximately 3-5-minute walk), Located in commercial, recreational, and residential areas, Larger at major destinations (such as transit hubs)
- Public Outreach -Summer-Fall 2025
  - o In-person outreach and feedback collection with the DOT Street Ambassadors
  - o Interactive station planning map & feedback portal
    - Portal was open from July mid-October, shared via DOT social media channels & sent to elected officials, Community Boards, and community stakeholders
  - o Briefings with elected officials, Community Boards, and key stakeholders
- Plan Creation -Fall 2025
  - o Station locations determined by:
    - Community feedback, Siting principles & guidelines, Lyft operational considerations
- Present the proposed plan of stations to the Community Board, share with elected officials, and post online
- Final Steps & Installation -Winter-Spring 2026
  - o Gather feedback on the Proposed Plan – 1-month feedback period
  - o Technical screening & coordination
  - o Site-specific outreach & notifications
  - o Install stations - Installations will start early Spring 2026
  - o Continued outreach, monitoring, & adjustment

## Plan Review - 44 new stations

- Expansion Plan map available online at: [nyc.gov/bikeshare](http://nyc.gov/bikeshare)
  1. Grand Central Parkway & 62nd Drive -East roadbed
  2. 62nd Drive & 110th Street - North roadbed - existing NSA
  3. 108th Street & 62nd Drive - West roadbed - existing NSA
  4. 64th Road & Grand Central Parkway - North roadbed
  5. 64th Avenue & 108th Street - North Roadbed
  6. Yellowstone Boulevard & 65th Avenue - West sidewalk
  7. 63rd Drive & 102nd Street - North roadbed
  8. 63rd Avenue & 99th Street - South sidewalk
  9. 62nd Avenue & 102nd Street - North sidewalk
  10. 62nd Drive & 97th Place - North roadbed - Pedestrianized
  11. 62nd Drive & 97th Street - North sidewalk
  12. 62nd Avenue & Queens Boulevard - West sidewalk
  13. Queens Boulevard & 63rd Road - South sidewalk
  14. 98th Street & 64th Avenue - East roadbed
  15. 63rd Drive & Booth Street - West sidewalk
  16. 63rd Drive & Austin Street - East sidewalk
  17. Queens Boulevard & 65th Road - North sidewalk

18. 99th Street & 65th Road - West Roadbed
19. 66th Road & 102nd Street - North sidewalk
20. 108th Street & 66th Road - West roadbed - Existing NSA
21. Yellowstone Boulevard & 67th Road - West roadbed
22. Queens Boulevard & 67th Road - North roadbed - Existing NSA
23. 67th Avenue & Queens Boulevard - East roadbed
24. Yellowstone Boulevard & 68th Road - East roadbed
25. 69th Avenue & Queens Boulevard - South roadbed
26. Booth Street & 68th Drive - South roadbed – Existing NSA
27. Queens Boulevard & Yellowstone Boulevard - North roadbed
28. 110th Street & 66th Road - East sidewalk
29. 112th Street & 67th Road - East roadbed - Daylit
30. 110th Street & 68th Avenue - East roadbed
31. 68th Drive & 112th Street - North roadbed
32. 113th Street & Jewel Avenue - East roadbed
33. 70th Road & 112th Street - North roadbed
34. 108th Street & Jewel Avenue - East roadbed – Existing NSA
35. 71st Avenue & Queens Boulevard - East sidewalk
36. Queens Boulevard & 71st Road - South sidewalk
37. 110th Street & 71st Avenue - West sidewalk
38. Queens Boulevard & 72nd Road - North sidewalk
39. 72nd Road & 113th Street - South roadbed - Daylit
40. Queens Boulevard & 75th Avenue - North roadbed - Existing NSA
41. 76th Avenue & Queens Boulevard - East roadbed/sidewalk
42. Austin Street & 76th Avenue - South sidewalk
43. Queens Boulevard & 78th Avenue - South sidewalk
44. 78th Avenue & Queens Boulevard - East sidewalk

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis spoke about the disappointment that the Department of Transportation said at the committee meeting that they would look at the changes and make them before this meeting. This was the reason why we gave our input immediately, and we are not getting that tonight. We were hoping that you wouldn't have to come back with the changes. We would like to get your feedback on the 18 pages or so that we sent you. The committee would like to take another look at this when it is completed before it is rolled out. This way, we can be better prepared when you roll it out on Metropolitan Avenue.

**Question:** If there are complaints about a bike station, because it is not in a good location, how easy is it to move a station to another location?

**Response:** It depends on what the concern is, whether it is a serious operational concern or whether it is I don't want it there. Sometimes stations are moved, and sometimes they are not.

**Question:** You mentioned that you are collecting data. Are you collecting general data or personal data? Can you see where I was riding, what locations I went to, where I dropped off the bike, and where I picked up the bike? Are the statistics general and not personal?

**Response:** Lyft handles all the memberships and operational side of things. DOT isn't collecting the data. We collect ridership data for ridership patterns, by zip code. Lyft is when you ride, you have a Lyft profile, you can see what your ridership was throughout the year. We don't have user specific data.

**Question:** You mentioned 700+ comments and outreach, what are the languages aside from English was the community outreach done? Is there any consideration to have Citi Bike in Flushing Meadows Park?

**Response:** The question about the park; during Mets games, Lyft has started a valet to get to the stadium. We can only have 24/7 days a week accessible stations. We don't want to be in a station where someone goes to a station and can't access it. We do have stations where you can access them 24/7, for example

Prospect Park. The street ambassador outreach had interpreters on the phone in case someone came up to the table and didn't speak English.

**Question:** Were there any promotional materials sent out in different languages.

**Response:** English and Spanish.

**Question:** I was thinking Russian, Chinese etc., you have stations in a community that is heavily Russian, Arabic and Chinese speaking. You're clearly missing a big part of these communities. If you come back, I hope you target these communities.

**Response:** The street ambassadors look at the demographics and if a language is spoken above a certain threshold, then they will have translated material. The different language pamphlets were used in different boards that spoke a different language in that area. Just to clarify the 700+ comments were from the online portal, at the street outreach pamphlets were carried in different languages. If there are community events that you would like us to provide more knowledge about the program, reach out to us.

**Question:** Do you have an update on pricing?

**Response:** We don't have an update on pricing, that is something that's at the top of our list. We have reduced fair memberships that capture part of the population. There are folks that are in the middle, who aren't being targeted with special reduced memberships. This is something that we are always looking at, we hear it a lot.

**Question:** At the committee meeting, this question came up a lot. There is a big sell of Citi Bikes, being a form of transportation but we don't treat it that way as far as discounts for seniors and students.

In regard to management and equity, which has made it to the comptroller's office and their review was a significant decrease in services, in particular with low-income communities and there was a disparity. What improvements have been made to make sure that it's equitable. Also, what do you have in place to make sure that there aren't a bunch of broken bikes in some communities and not others?

**Response:** From a network planning perspective, we aim for the system to be equitable. You have the same access to the program in all communities. The other component is the maintenance and the rebalancing; we are working with Lyft to make sure that we're keeping an eye on it. We are expanding further outward. There's a lot of upgrades and it's just a lot of real-time information we're getting about the system. How it behaves and what ridership patterns look like, which reforms and rebalancing of stations. Maintenance across the board is maintained twice a month wherever you are. To make sure they are working, cleaning and an additional check to make sure stations are functioning properly. Bikes travel across the city; there might be an accumulation of bikes that may not be functioning well, which is kind of across the city as they're moving. We try to keep up with it. In terms of station maintenance, they're being maintained on a consistent scope across the city.

**Question:** I live on the north side of Queens Boulevard, closer to the Grand Central and I notice that there are a lot of bikers and not a lot of current safety biking infrastructure in that area. I notice that there will be bike stations in that area and there will be some safety infrastructure.

**Response:** We did try to facilitate with a lot of the existing bike infrastructure for that reason. We have Citi Bike coming into that neighborhood, and we see an uptick in ridership, which will help provide more information on what the neighborhood looks like. The teams: the bike team unit, bike infrastructure, and bike lanes, they can take information and better inform their planning. We do see this symbiotic relationship with bike share and bike infrastructure.

We've had problems with overnight tractor-trailer parking in the neighborhood, perhaps that could be used as a bike lane. It would solve two problems. The tractor-trailers couldn't park there if a jersey barrier were put up. This is something we have been asking for.

**Question:** My question is about station 40, located at Queens Boulevard and 112<sup>th</sup> Street, which is a right turn from Queens Boulevard, where the New York Presbyterian Hospital clinic is. It is a very busy area at that turn. This is where you are putting a bicycle station. I would suggest moving it to the triangle across the street. The location of the proposed station is where ambulances go and where patients interact with the hospital.

**Response:** The station is west of 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where there was a bus stop that has been removed. We can't put it on the triangle because the fire department uses it as a cut-through from south of Queens Boulevard. We would be impacting that operation.

**Question:** You mentioned that you were considering Austin Street, since the Q23 is no longer running along Austin Street. There are some areas that I can think of for bike stations. Can we put one there?

**Response:** Austin Street is a two-way road with parking on two sides and it's a narrow two-way street. We are working with geometric design team at DOT for them to do a more turning analysis. Anything on Austin Street will not be at the corner for any daylighting. We have a certain amount of space for the turning that was facilitated by a bus stop. We are still looking into this.

**Question:** Station 37, at the intersection of 110<sup>th</sup> Street and 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue, there are many families that walk on 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue to get to PS 196, which is down the road. An opportunity for daylighting is to have station 37 be on the road for 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Right now, I think the proposal is for it to be on 110<sup>th</sup> Street on the sidewalk. It will encourage people to ride on the sidewalk with the Citi Bike, there isn't a lot of space. We miss an opportunity if we put it on 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue with daylighting and to mitigate accidents that happen a lot at that location. Please consider moving that station on the road on 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Next to the school there's going to be a new development, the Perennial, which is expected to have about 145 units. I would like to see an additional station between stations 37 and 39 to allow our new neighbors of the Perennial access to Citi Bikes.

**Response:** We didn't have station 37 noted. I appreciate the feedback.

**Question:** The feedback that we sent to you regarding station 12, we proposed a new station called 12A, at Eliot Avenue and Woodhaven Boulevard. At that location there are two large, secured pedestrian spaces to try and square the turn coming off of Woodhaven Boulevard into Eliot Avenue. The issue is that Eliot Avenue is a one-way north. If a station were right there at the opening of Woodhaven Boulevard and Eliot Avenue, how would people from within our district get to that station without going the wrong way? Cars go very fast through Eliot Avenue; we could help by making a section of Elliot Avenue a two-way street between Booth and Austin Street. We would calm traffic on that way and provide a counterflow bike lane to get us all the way to Woodhaven. It would provide access to that station and fill the gap that is currently there. DOT will need to do work there to provide that station.

Another station I added is 17A, which is at Austin Street and 66<sup>th</sup> Road; there is a gap in the map. There is a pathway that drivers use coming off of 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive on Austin Street, making a left and up to 67<sup>th</sup> and in order to reach Queens Boulevard, so they can miss the whole shopping complex on 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive and Queens Boulevard. This would be an opportunity for daylighting.

**Response:** We took a look at that since the committee meeting. It is a great pedestrianized space that isn't technically viable for a Citi Bike location. We can look at that intersection for something more than just a parking lane, a traditional spot. We left that space blank, because there are a lot of narrow two-way roads which are not good for a station. There are a lot of driveways there with a fair number of technical limitations. The issue with the pedestrian corners is that there are a lot of manholes centered on the east side. We can't put station plates on top of utilities; we must keep access clear. There's a curb cut at one end. These are the same issues around the corner of Elliot Avenue. There might be some opportunity for something that's in the parking lane.

We also looked at 16A. We will need to do more of a technical viability. This is another tricky area with lots of two-way streets that are narrow. We measure, make sure that we look for utilities and make sure we are not missing something.

**Question:** From station 1 through 12, starting with Grand Central Parkway and 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive has major flooding all the time with sewage back up. Your planned placement doesn't account for traffic during flooding. They take a one-way street and come back. We have had a death occur. The sewage and the remedial work that's been planned for sewers will take up where you're sending drivers, pedestrians and deliveries. There is a 400-unit NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), which has access-a-ride designated stops from 62<sup>nd</sup> all the way up to where you have another location where the one bus makes a turn, since they moved the Q23 bus stop. It turns onto traffic on a two-way, it turns onto the bike lane, and people are searching for parking, which is an issue. It also cuts through the Queens Community House, which holds children and senior programs, which requires designated school bus stops. If you're going to saturate locations for the bikers, I hope your survey included the snowplows that go to each corner where you're putting the bike stations. Between the loss of parking space and for seniors' access-a-ride drop off for medical care and social services, it's a bit much. I'm not sure the surveyor took into consideration the walking route of three new developments, that's Apex 1,2, and 3, which will provide a parking lot. You must circle to get into the parking garage, and there is a gas station that has traffic. There are also trucks parked that we can't see coming out; it sounds like a pedestrian, bus, bike accident meeting waiting to happen. I have concerns between bus riders and bikers, we have two designated bike lanes, the pedestrians and drivers where you are going to have enough space for safety from 62<sup>nd</sup> Grand Central Parkway and 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive going to 108<sup>th</sup> Street, which is a major intersection. From stations 1 through 12, involving 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive, 62<sup>nd</sup> Road, and 63<sup>rd</sup> Road, the buses that have changed their route, make that one turn.

**Response:** That is a good flag on these stations. We do have to follow very strict technical sighting criteria. For the one on Austin Street, we didn't put it there initially due to the turn. This is something that we are looking at, turning radii. We put stations in designated daylight zones, and no standing for turning. Everything else is in regulated parking. We wouldn't put a station where there is Access-A-Ride or specialized parking. We can provide additional information that's specific to where the stations will be located. I see your point about putting stations on 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive. These stations will be installed in floating parking lanes where cars are currently parked next to the bike lane. We keep clearance for street cleaning. On 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive and 108<sup>th</sup> Street will be next to a parking lane in a protected bike lane.

**Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis:** In the interest of time, I would like to schedule another meeting after you go through all this information, to present it to the Transportation Committee. To give some feedback on the information we provided to you. For the Transportation Committee members, if you have additional questions, email them to me, and we can send them to DOT by mid-December.

**Response:** That might be a little tight. We do have a process; we don't typically go to community boards twice. If we go to the Transportation Committee meeting, we don't always go to the full board. I think there is a misunderstanding about changing the plan. We didn't want to get ahead of it because we get into situations where some want to make changes and some don't. We weren't aware that the full board looked at the plan; we are in a tight spot. We will take a look at the changes and have a quick turnaround. We can send it back and forth and can schedule a Zoom meeting.

**Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis:** Because we are a public body, we can have some discussion on email, but any discussions about something like this need to be in the public eye. The public wants to see how we work, what we are saying, and what we are doing. It's fine if you don't want to come back to us. If you could send us the feedback, so when the Transportation Committee meets, they can go through it, and then we can respond back. Does that work for you?

**Response:** We will speak with the borough office to make sure we can find a time that works. I would think sometime in December would be best, so we can turn it around. Will there be additional comments?

**Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis:** If there are additional comments, we will get them to you by Friday.

## REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

### COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- Left flyers for participatory budget, deadline November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- We are still in a government shutdown; but our office is still open. The House voted a while ago on the Senate deal to end the shutdown. The Congresswoman is in Washington and voted no on the legislation. We do have a statement that we put out hours ago. The statement reads: I will be voting no on the Senate so-called deal when it comes before the House. I will not support legislation that leaves millions of Americans vulnerable to skyrocketing health care costs. I have said from the beginning that I will support the healthcare crisis and fund the government. Senate legislation is bad for Queens and the rest of the country. I have already started hearing from constituents all across my district who are reeling about their health insurance premiums soaring out of control. Hardworking New Yorkers deserve better. Among the constituents that we've heard from, many have been from Forest Hills and Rego Park. This includes local residents who say their premiums will double, and local residents who have voiced their support for the tax credits that help their friends and neighbors.
- The Congresswoman hosted a virtual conversation about the impacts of the government shutdown and was joined by the American Federation of Government Employees, New York City Health and Hospitals, and Public Health Solutions.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM, electronics, textile, and paint recycling event at the Queens Botanical Garden.
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, Fire safety event at 133-32 41<sup>st</sup> Road in Flushing, to speak about the proper usage of lithium batteries, escape plans, fire facts and statistics, overloading power strips and complimentary smoke alarms for those who participate.

### COUNCILMEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Eliana Swell reported the following:

- Our office has actively been addressing concerns about new MTA bus routes, SNAP benefits, and generally trying to make sure we all have enough food on the table. We will be handing out turkeys.
- Next month, we have some bigger policy/community advocacy projects, which we will be able to go into more detail. We will be sending a letter regarding the Q23. Currently, we are getting input from the community board and other stakeholders.

### SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Cormac Nataro reported the following:

- Real ID DMV event is still in the works; we will hold another pop-up event in 2026. You will be able to get your tickets taken care of without having to go to the DMV. We will continue to keep you posted. It will be prioritized for residents in Senate District 12.
- It seems like the federal government shutdown has ended. We have been helping families with access to food banks and may still be waiting to get their SNAP benefits or need information on where to find their local food pantries, soup kitchens, or mutual aid. Our office has compiled this info

that is both district and citywide so if anyone needs this information, please feel free to call or email our office.

- Our office has been working with the Office for Pupil Transportation (OPT) at the New York City DOE; to help with establishing new stops and/or ensuring buses arrive on time and have consistent schedules in place for consistent pick-up times for kids. OPT has presented to various CECs (Community Education Councils) in the district about their efforts to improve busing due to the significant volume of complaints from schools, parents/guardians, and elected officials' offices. They're planning on rolling out these new plans this current school year (2025-2026).
- Our office has helped with tracking the implementation of the Queens Bus Redesign. Their six-month evaluation period will be in February. We are collecting comments. The Senator has also been successful in ensuring that stops that were supposed to be removed from several bus routes in the district remain, due to constituents with disabilities or children who attend schools near stops that have shown hardship if the stop is removed. We are continuing to do this. Please, reach out to our office if your bus stop has been removed and it is causing significant hardship for your commute.
- Our office continues to work with the MTA to see if any complaints that we received from constituents about OMNY cards are resolved before the official rollout on December 31, 2025. Also, please note that buses will stop taking change sometime in the Spring of 2026. Please make sure not to purchase any monthly MetroCards after November 30th because any remaining balance will not be honored after December 31, 2025.
- Our new office location is 37-18 Northern Blvd, LIC, NY 11101. Please feel free to contact us at 718-728-0960/646-598-8583 or email us at either [jennings@nysenate.gov](mailto:jennings@nysenate.gov) or [gianaris@nysenate.gov](mailto:gianaris@nysenate.gov).

## **QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS**

Katherine Zapata reported the following:

- Thanked everyone for attending the veteran's celebration at Queens Borough Hall, last Thursday, November 6th. Awards were presented to several distinguished military veterans.
- November 19th, at 6 PM, transgender day of Remembrance ceremony at Queens Borough Hall. This event is co-sponsored by the Caribbean Equality Project and Make the Road New York. It is important to remember transgender that were tragically lost to prejudice violence this year.
- November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM, virtual parent advisory board meeting. You may RSVP on our website at [queensbp.nyc.gov](http://queensbp.nyc.gov). This event focuses on the community board application. If you know of any prospective members, feel free to join. We will be having a workshop with our new budget director, Fanny Lynn, focusing on our resolution A grant applications. It encompasses our capital support for our schools. This year, the Borough President will be including a new line item where he will ask all principals to submit a PTA or PA letter of support for their priority items.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our office. You may call us at 718-286-3000.

Ephraim Zakry: If you have any problems with the office for pupil transportation, please email me.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Minutes are submitted by Maria Concolino

The meeting recording will be posted on YouTube ([www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube](http://www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube)).

The meeting minutes will be posted on the CB6 website (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb6/indexpage>).

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 11-12-25	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPS		RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPS	CANNABIS DISPENSARY 98-48 QUEENS BLVD., R.P.	CANNABIS DISPENSARY7 1-19 AUSTIN STREET, F.H.
EDGAR ALFONSECA				YES	YES
DAVID ARONOV	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
ROBERT ASHE				YES	YES
ANISIA AYON				YES	YES
SALUA BAIDA				YES	YES
KAVISH BATRA				YES	YES
PETER BEADLE		A	A	YES	YES
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	Absent	L	Absent	Absent	Absent
L.T. CIACCIO		L		YES	YES
KANDRA CLARK	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
LATRICE DAVIS		I	I	YES	YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		N	N	YES	YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS				YES	YES
KEITH ENGEL	Absent	F	Absent	Absent	Absent
ALEM FERATOVIC	Absent	A	Absent	Absent	Absent
KARLA FUENTES		V	V	YES	YES
NICHOLAS GALIPEAU	Absent	O	Absent	Absent	Absent
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	Absent	R	Absent	Absent	Absent
ANDY GUO				YES	YES
KAREN IMAS				YES	YES
SARINA JAIN				NO	YES
NILE JOHNSON				YES	YES
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
MARK LASTER				YES	YES
PAT MORGAN	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
SABAH MUNAWAR				NO	YES
JESSICA POORAN	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
JOI PRATT	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
RAJ PUNJABI				YES	YES
DIANA RACHNAEV				YES	YES
GARRI RIVKIN	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
LIZ ROBINS				YES	YES
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ				YES	YES
SHARI ROLNICK				YES	YES
GLADYS SANDOVAL	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
DAVID SCHANTZ				YES	YES
HERBERT SCHONHAUT				NO	YES
AMIT PRATAP SHAH				YES	YES
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
JEAN C. SILVA				NO	NO
DANIEL SOLOW				YES	YES
LOU TEC PANECATL	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
MARTHA TUCKER		↓	↓	YES	NO
DIANA WALCOTT				YES	YES
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent
EPHRAIM ZAKRY				NO	YES
<b>TOTALS:</b>	All In Favor	All In Favor	25 yes, 5 no	28 yes, 2 no	