

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

Virtual meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Susan Cleary, Maria DeInnocentis, Allan Eisenstein, Kevin Forestall, James Gallagher Jr. (audio only), Hesh Parekh, also present Marie Adam-Ovide District Manager CB8, Izabela Szczepanska – CB8, Andrew Arcese Borough Planner Queens DOT, Julio Palleiro Asst. Director Pedestrian Unit DOT.

I. DOT PRESENTATION

A. Proposed Safety Improvements for Homelawn St. and Grand Central Pkwy Service Rd.

1. Left turn signal installed northbound on Homelawn St. to turn onto westbound Grand Central Service Road has improved north bound traffic flow.
2. Southbound Traffic Signal on Homelawn St. to turn onto eastbound Grand Central Service Road has been adjusted to permit more time for motorists to turn left.
3. Change in traffic signal timing has not improved southbound pedestrian safety in crossing the service road.
4. Northbound motorists making right turns from Homelawn St. onto GCP East have resulted in pedestrian accidents and many near misses.
5. During rush hours as many as 240 cars make this turn endangering pedestrians.
6. DOT suggests extending pedestrian refuge island and installing a green street on the northeast corner to allow more time for crossing the street. Changing the turn angle will force motorists to make wider turns thus slowing the vehicles and shortening the time pedestrians are in the crosswalk.
7. DOT will review installing a traffic signal at the corner of Charlecote Ridge and Homelawn St. although there is less the 100 feet from this corner to GCP east bound. This light should prevent blocking the intersection and permit vehicle to exit Charlecote Ridge.
8. Adjusting the timing on the right turn signal at the GCP east should improve traffic flow.

B. Follow-up on modifications and safety improvements at the traffic circle on 188th St. & 64th Ave.

(See V-N new request)

1. Numerous complaints received from residents and motorists in regard to delays.
2. DOT traffic control has closely monitored this location and initiated frequent timing changes to improve traffic flow which has been effective.
3. Multiple cars have been noted parking in “No standing” zones in front of Starbucks and Applebee’s congesting the traffic circle. DOT is studying changing the “No Standing” to “No Stopping” signage.
4. DOT is reviewing re-drawing the traffic lane near the Applebee’s to determine if this will improve traffic flow.

C. DOT- re-surface inquiry for the grid from Union Turnpike in the North to the Grand Central Service Road in the south and from 164th Street in the west to 170th St. in the east.

1. This area will be studied for implementation in calendar year 2022.
2. Input from CB8 and residents has been requested.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Tentative road resurfacing list for the remainder of 2021 is available in CB8 office.

B. MTA resumed Access-A-Ride program on July 6th.

C. Bike lanes have been approved for 73rd Ave. from Cunningham Park to Alley Pond Park (199th St. to Springfield Blvd). **DONE**

1. Curb adjacent to bike lanes on 73rd Ave between 199th St & Francis Lewis; and between Clearview Expwy. & 210th St. **DONE**

2. Add new lane markings **THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS. AT TIME OF INSPECTION ONE LINE WAS NOT DONE**

3. Add left turn lane on 73rd Ave. & Francis Lewis Blvd. **DONE**

4. Upgrade existing crosswalks to high-visibility crosswalks. **DONE**

D. NYPD posted notice that dirt bikes and ATVs are illegal on all NYC roadways and sidewalks.

E. Queens College shuttle bus has been proposed with the following steps:

1. On HHE-153rd St. to Reeves Ave. (SE corner)
2. On Main St. – from Gravett Rd. to Reeves Ave.
3. On Kissena Blvd. & Melbourne Ave. (NW corner)
4. On Union Tpk. – from 149th St. to 147th St. (NE corner)
5. Hours of operation: M-F 7AM to midnight; Sat & Sun: 7AM – 7PM

F. DOT - \$6,606,600 with contingency fees has been approved to replace or repair streetlights and traffic signal pole bases. **IDENTIFICATION OF DEFECTIVE LOCATIONS IS REQUESTED FROM MEMBERS OF CB8 AND LOCAL RESIDENTS**

G. MTA – Service on the #7 train has been suspended weeknights 11:45PM to 5:00AM between Queensboro Plaza and Hudson Yards/34th St. until Dec 10th for modernization and from Queensboro Plaza to 74th St./Broadway on weekends thru Nov 22nd.

H. DOT – Dangerous Vehicle Abatement Program – Public Hearing took place Oct. 2021.

1. More than 200 people are killed each year and is the leading cause of death of children under age 14, and second leading cause in senior citizens.
2. City Council established a Safety Education program for vehicle owners who have received multiple red-light camera and school-speed camera violations.

3. Law provides that registered owners of vehicles with 5 or more red-light camera violations, or 15 or more speed camera violations within a 12-month period may be required to complete a Safe Vehicle Operation course.

I. Text Amendment to sidewalk dining – Brooklyn Community Board #14 requests Letter of Support of the issues raised in their response letter. “Text Amendment has been introduced too far in advance of fully designed and realized DOT Open Restaurant program.” DOT should provide clarity, on the following protocols, to maintain quality of life to adjacent residents, fee structure, sidewalk and roadway design requirements and oversights, square foot relationship between interior and exterior, enforcement and size of enforcement unit, risk management, etc. **MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAVE AUTHORIZED A LETTER OF SUPPORT BE SENT TO BROOKLYN CB14 AND ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

J. DOT – Propose traffic rules from Moped and Moped-Chair programs. These programs are being opened for outside vendor bidding. Public Hearing – Thursday Oct 28th, 2021 @2:00PM on Zoom. List of vendor requirements are available in CB8 office. **THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN IN REGARD TO LICENSING OF RIDERS, ENFORCEMENT FOR SPEEDING, HELMET USE, AND RIDING ON THE SIDEWALK. THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE CLARIFIED BEFORE THIS PROGRAMS IS IMPLEMENTED.**

K. DOT – Throgs Neck Bridge reconstruction program has started Stage 4. They are now working on the next lane over. This is expected to run until the end of 2021.

L. Public Hearing for Congestion Pricing in Manhattan below 60th St. was held between Sept 23rd & Oct 13th.

1. Central Business District Tolling Program (CBDTP) would cover all streets and roadways except highways below 60th Street in NYC.

2. To charge passenger vehicles once per day

3. Variable tolling based on set times of days

4. Residents of who earn less than \$60,000 per year will get NYS tax credit for tolls paid

5. Emergency vehicles and vehicles transporting people with disabilities are exempt.

6. Income generated by the CBDTP will provide funds to improve MTA programs for subways, buses, LIRR, Metro North Railroad, NYC bridges, tunnels, police as well as MTA construction and development.

M. DOT – Illegal drag racing on Francis Lewis Blvd between Horace Harding Expressway and 73rd Ave – additional enforcement as well as DOT speed reducer study was requested by Councilman Grodenchik. (See IV-F)

N. DOT – request one-way conversion on 72nd Ave. between Park Dr. East and Main St., by Councilman Gennaro. DOT requests CB8 input. **DENIED. THIS IS ONE OF LIMITED NUMBER OF STREETS WHICH TRAVERSE KEW GARDENS HILLS AND IS WIDE ENOUGH TO COMFORTABLY PROVIDE A THOROUGHFARE FOR CARS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ARE FORBIDDEN FROM STREET. NYPD ENFORCEMENT IS REQUESTED**

O. NYC Dept of City Planning - Technical memorandum for Elevated Transit: zoning for accessibility.

1. This will allow MTA to engage private vendors to install handicapped accessible elevators.
2. Currently 136 of 493 stations are accessible.
3. MTA capital program has allotted 5 billion dollars to modify 77 stations.
4. Two stations are approved in CB#8 Briarwood and Parsons Blvd.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. Request for Daylighting at the intersection of 65th Ave. & 180th St. (10/15/19). DENIED as visibility is adequate. (See III-C, & V-H.)
- B. DOT request – speed camera on Goethals Ave. from 168th St. – 170th St. (1/23/20). Was approved for consideration as it is within ¼ mile of a school at entrance to ST. Johns U. (See IV-E) **DENIED, REGULATION FOR SPEED CAMERA WITHIN ¼ MILE OF A SCHOOL DOES NOT APPLY TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**
- C. DOT request - additional traffic control at the intersection of 84th Dr. & Burden Crescent (4/20/20). Has been DENIED as additional traffic controls do not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering and safety standards.
- D. DOT request – additional traffic control at the intersection of Tudor Rd. & Surrey Pl. Has been DENIED as additional traffic controls do not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering and safety standards.
- E. DOT request – additional lighting 87th Dr. (dead end) east of 188th St. (3/28/21), Has been APPROVED. **DONE, NEW LED FIXTURE WAS NOTED. HOWEVER, NO WORK WAS DONE ON CONSTRUCTING A TRAFFIC CIRCLE THAT WAS APPROVED FOR CUL- DE-SAC TO PREVENT CARS FROM PARKING IN MIDDLE OF THE CIRCLE (PARKED CARS WERE PRESENT). FOLLOW UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED.**
- F. DOT request – resurfacing Somerset St. between GCP and Henley Rd. (4/5/21). Has been APPROVED as part of Project Q2021-08-15. **DONE**
- G. DOT request – defective curb in front of 87-05 Barrington St. (4/19/21). Location will be inspected. Violation to property owner will be issued if warranted. City may do work and bill property owner if they don't make necessary repairs. **NOT DONE- CONCRETE SLAB LEADING TO CURB WAS DEFECTIVE. NO CURB WAS PRESENT WHICH, IF INSTALLED, IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY.**
- H. DOT request – additional traffic control at the intersection of 185th St. & 69th Ave.(5/25/21). Has been DENIED as additional traffic controls do not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering and safety standards.
- I. DOT – implementation of a street improvement project on Queens Blvd. & 84th Dr. began this summer to include installation of painted median tip extensions with flexible delineators at the median on the south leg of Queens Blvd. The extension will provide more space for pedestrian refuge and add 7 seconds crossing time with no effect on parking or traffic. **DONE**
- J. DOT – 191st St. Direction change update – the following changes will be approved for implementation by DOT after receipt of survey showing 2/3 approval of affected residents, with no further reconsideration until 1/2024. (See area map on page 6).
 1. Reverse direction of 191 St. Traffic flow between Hayward Rd. and Hillside Ave from one-way northbound to one-way southbound operation.
 2. Convert Foothill Ave. between 191st St. & 193rd St. from two-way to one-way westbound operation.

3. Convert Haywood Rd. between Palo Alto Ave. & 191st St. from two-way to one-way eastbound operation.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOLLISWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION INDICATES THAT THE AFFECTED RESIDENTS ARE PREPARED TO WAIVE THE DOT OFFER TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THIS STREET GRID. RESIDENTS ARE AWARE THAT RECONSIDERATION CANNOT BE REVISITED UNTIL JANUARY 2024. RESIDENTS EXPECT TO PRESENT A UNIFIED PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION AT THAT TIME

K. DOT – result of Feasibility Study to install speed reducers on 75th Ave. between 164th St. & Utopia Pkwy.:

1. Between 164th & 166th Streets – a speed hump will be installed when resources are available (see V-F). **NOT DONE**

2. Between 166th & 175th Streets, and 176th St. & Utopia Pkwy. – numerous curb cuts prevent installation.

3. Between 175th St. & 176th St. – speed hump exists.

L. NYS DOT – widening Clearview Expwy southbound exit ramp at 73rd Ave. Result of DOT study after widening Union Tpk. exit, indicated that this change would benefit traffic flow on Clearview exit ramp. Work scheduled to begin spring 2023.

M. DOT request – resurfacing Main St. from GCP overpass to Van Wyck Expwy. It is too late to add this location for resurfacing this year. CB8 Trans. Comm. should review this request and make recommendation. **DOT STUDY FOR REPAVING THIS LOCATION IS REQUESTED.**

N. DOT Clover Place Hill and Clover Hill Place have been resurfaced BUT, the cobblestone hill has been cleaned with no structural change as of this date to improve slick traction in inclement weather. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS REQUESTING AN UPDATE TO DETERMINE IF A VIABLE SOLUTION HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT WILL IMPROVE TRACTION ON THE COBBLESTONE HILL IN BAD WEATHER.**

IV. REQUESTS MADE BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, CB8 ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS

A. Request update to modification on 168th St. & 168th Pl. from GCP to Hillside Ave. with recommendation for change to improve traffic flow from Trans Chair and Area Chair. **A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AFFECTED RESIDENTS AND MERCHANTS IS RECOMMENDED.**

B. Inspection on trench restoration request for Capital and Expense Budget showed:

1. 75th Ave. between 186th St. & 188th St. – street is in good condition. 75th Ave. & 186th St. has depressions.

2. Avon Rd. from Chevy Chase to 188th St. – street in fair condition with some utility cuts in the middle of the road at 186-23 Avon Rd. DOT should request that utility company make the repairs, as they are liable. **REPAVING WAS DONE**

3. 181st St. between 67th & 69th Ave. – street definitely needs restoration, particularly between 67-15 and 67-43 181st St. **DOT SHOULD STUDY THE ENTIRE BLOCK BUT SHOULD CERTAINLY INCLUDE UP TO 67-51 181 ST.**

C. DOT – Daylighting southeast and south west corner of 65th Ave. & 180th St. Reconsideration requested as 18 months have passed. (III-A & V-H) **APPROVED.**

D. Dept of Sanitation – request temporary extension of alternate side of the street parking in front of PS 131 (172nd St. between 83rd Ave. & 84th Ave., and 84th Ave. between 170th & 172nd St) until June 27, 2022. COVID prevented completion of school renovation. **APPROVED.**

E. DOT - update requested reconsideration of:

1. Daylighting 81st Ave. & 170th St. (2/18/16) **APPROVED FOR NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST CORNER.**

2. Speed camera 170th St. south of 81st Ave. between Goethals Ave. & Union Tpk. (12/14/15) (See III-B) **DENIED, REGULATION FOR SPEED CAMERA WITHIN ¼ MILE OF A SCHOOL DOES NOT APPLY TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

2. Traffic control to install a stop sign and/or chicane treatment on Goethals at 81st Avenues (7/18/18) **APPROVED.**

3. High visibility crosswalk markings at Goethals Avenue & 169th St. (1/11/2019) **APPROVED.**

F. NYPD – request enforcement for speeding and car noise at night at the following locations: Union Tpk. east of 188th St., 164th St. between GCP & Hillside Ave., Francis Lewis Blvd. between Union Tpk. & LIE, and 75th Ave. between Utopia Pkwy. & 164th St.

1. Correspondence from 107th Precinct Captain Chan (10/10/21) states to curtail speeding, drag racing, and noise pollution highway safety officers have been making random inspections 12 summonses were issued 10/7 and 10/12/21. He recommends not installing speed cameras at these locations as many of the speeding vehicles cover their license plates. At the October CB #8 board meeting he suggested that residents continue to call 911 to report infractions as it is impossible to maintain continuous police presence at all the reported sites of infraction. (See II-M)

V. NEW REQUESTS

A. DOT street renaming for Detective Tsakos who was killed in the line of duty on LIE eastbound exit ramp to Francis Lewis Blvd. on April 27, 2021. If feasible, request LIE between 188th St. & Clearview renamed in his memory. Request by NYPD. **(CB8 JURISDICTION ENDS AT EASTBOUND HHE SERVICE ROAD. THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO NYS DOT).**

B. DOT request – all-way stop signs on 75th Ave. from Utopia Pkwy to 164th St. Individual. Person feels this will deter motorists from speeding and decrease noise from backfiring mufflers. (see V-C, V-D) **DENIED. THERE ARE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT 164TH ST. AND UTOPIA PKWY. IN ADDITION TO ALL WAY STOP SIGNS ON 166TH AND 168TH STREETS AND A SPEED HUMP BETWEEN 175TH AND 176TH STREETS.**

C. DOT request – all-way stop signs 174th St. at 75th Ave. & 73rd Ave. to decrease speeding. Individual. (See V-B V-D) **DENIED. THERE IS AN ALL-WAY STOP SIGN AT 174TH ST. AND 73RD AVE, AND A SPEED HUMP BETWEEN 175TH AND 176TH STREETS.**

D. DOT request – all-way stop sign intersection of 171st St. & 75th Ave. as 75th Ave. curves from 168th to 172nd Streets. This should improve motorist safety (see V-B and V-C above). Individual. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

E. DOT request – safety improvements on 73rd Ave. between 179th & 185th Streets. Area congested due to traffic signals and speeding cars to make the lights. Individual. **RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF HONKING HORNS AS MOTORISTS ARE STOPPED AT TRAFFIC LIGHT BETWEEN 179TH AND 185TH ST. DURING RUSH HOURS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DOT INSTALL “NO HONKING” SIGN AT THIS LOCATION.***[DOT no longer installs No Honking signs – NYPD Enforcement requested.]*

F. DOT request – one- way conversion of 75th Ave. from 164th St to 166th St. Street is too narrow for two-way traffic. (see III-K) Individual. **DENIED. THIS IS A MAIN THOROUGHFARE AND THIS REQUEST WOULD BENEFIT A LIMITED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS. THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS REMOVAL OF PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF 75TH AVE. FROM 164TH TO 166TH ST. IF A SURVEY OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS ACHIEVES 66% APPROVAL.**

G. MTA request – relocate bus stop on Parsons Blvd. across from Queens Hospital. Bus stop blocks mutual driveway of 15 three-family houses. Individual. **APPROVED. WE RECOMMEND MTA MOVE THE BUS STOP TO NORTH OF THE COMMUNAL DRIVEWAY TO PERMIT**

RESIDENTS TO EXIT WHEN BUSES BUNCH. THERE IS A FIRE HYDRANT AT THIS LOCATION AND THERE WOULD BE A NET GAIN OF ONE PARKING SPACE

H. DOT request – Daylighting corner 180th St & 65th Ave. Individual. (See III-A & IV-C)
APPROVED FOR THE SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST CORNER OF 65TH AVE.

I. TLC request – Letter of No Objection- base renewal for Novak Global Inc, DBA Skyway Car Service, 77-35 164th St., Fresh Meadows, NY 11366. TLC License #B01593. **NO OBJECTION FROM NEIGHBORS. LEASE PARKING AGREEMENT ENCLOSED WITH APPLICATION. LETTER OF NO OBJECTION SENT (7/21/21).**

J. Dept of Sanitation request –regulations to permit street cleaning. Member Trans Comm.

1. **NO PARKING** for street cleaning 8-9AM -Main St. – 69th Rd. to 73rd Ave. **DENIED. “NO PARKING” SIGNAGE EXISTS BETWEEN 7-7:30 AM M-F DEPT. SANITATION SHOULD ROUTINELY STREET CLEAN THIS LOCATION.**

2. Alt Side Parking – 68th Dr. from Main St. to 140th St.

3. Alt Side Parking – 77th Ave. from Park Dr. East to 138th St.

4. Alt Side Parking – 137th St. from 70th Rd. to Jewel Ave.

5. Alt Side Parking – 136th S.t from 70th Rd. to Jewel Ave.

DENIED. THE ABOVE 4 LOCATIONS ALL HAVE MULTIPLE FAMILY HOMES. ALTERNATE SIDE OF THE STREET PARKING AT THESE LOCATIONS WOULD POSE A SIGNIFICANT HARDSHIP FOR THE RESIDENTS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DOT REVIEW THE STREET DIRECTION GRID FROM THE LIE IN THE NORTH TO UNION TURNPIKE IN THE SOUTH, AND FROM PARK DRIVE EAST IN THE WEST TO KISSENA BOULEVARD IN THE EAST IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH NEW ONE-WAY AND TWO-WAY STREET GRIDS ON THESE NARROW STREETS.

K. DOT request – second stop sign at 137th St. & Jewel Ave. on NW corner. Member Trans Comm. **DENIED.THIS IS A TOTALLY CONTROLLED INTERSECTION. THE REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL STOP SIGN IS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A TWO-WAY STREET.**

L. DOT request – painted crosswalk 73-01 Park Drive East at 136th St. Entrance to Mauro Playground. Member Trans Comm. **THE PAINTED CROSSWALK IS TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIANS AND CHILDREN TO CROSS PARK DRIVE EAST TO ENTER MAURO PARK. THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED; HOWEVER, MORE BENEFICIAL IS THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL WHICH WILL SAFELY PERMIT ADULTS, CHILDREN AND MOTHERS WITH BABY CARRIAGES TO SAFELY CROSS THE STREET AND ENTER THE PARK. REQUEST FOR THIS TRAFFIC SIGNAL WAS PRESENTED TO DOT. WE HAVE NOT HAD A DECISION TO DATE. UPDATE FROM DOT IS REQUESTED.**

M. DOT convert Henley Road from two way to one way operation from Edgerton Blvd. to Wareham Place and change the adjacent block on Henley Road to one way operation in the opposite direction. This request was accompanied by a petition of 7 residents who live on the block (individual). **DENIED. REQUESTING A ONE-WAY CONVERSION ON THIS MAJOR THOROUGHFARE FOR A SINGLE BLOCK IS A SELFISH REQUEST THAT WOULD ONLY BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THIS BLOCK.**

N. DOT Request camera on the north side of the 188th St. Traffic Circle at 64th Ave. a truck knocked down a sign and watering the foliage at this location has resulted in over watering and muddy flower beds. (member CB8) (See I-B).

CAMERA INSTALLATION AT THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN DENIED. DOT IS AWARE THAT A TRUCK KNOCKED DOWN THE SIGN, AS A RESULT THE ROADWAY WAS EXPANDED TO AVOID THIS ISSUE IN THE FUTURE AND THE SIGN HAS BEEN REPLACED. IN REGARD TO WATERING, THIS LOCATION IT IS CONTROLLED BY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NEARBY HOUSING. DOT ADDRESSED THIS REQUEST AT THE PRESENTATION IN I.B.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 PM