



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Telephone: (718) 264-7895
Fax: (718) 264-7910
Qn08@cb.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/queenscb8



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

I. PRESENTATION: DOT BOROUGH PLANNER, QUEENSBORO COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
CRISTY VANTERPOOL-GERMAIN

A. Update on Final Proposal of Hillside Ave. Bus Schedule: Faith Chojar, Project Manager (Transit Development)

A. Presentation

1. Transportation Committee Chairman, Jesse Rosenbaum, made the following proposals to all E-Scooter providers as well as CB8 Members and the attending public. We will now review the proposal for accuracy and record updates responses from vendors.

- a. Three vendors are providing service to our area: Bird, Lime, and VEO.
- a. To unlock an e-scooter, it costs \$1.00, and then \$.39 - \$.48 per minute depending on the company used. Average ride is about 10 minutes.
- b. Rider must be 18 years old and have a credit card.
- c. Maximum speed of the scooter is 15 miles-per-hour.
- d. Each scooter has a sensor that can stop it if the ride takes place in areas that are not permitted such as parks and sidewalks.
- e. First rental requires ½ hour training session and quiz.
- f. When the trip is finished, riders must send a picture of the scooter and its placement on the sidewalk, not in the street or on a private property driveway.
- g. The first three rides are taken at a maximum 10 miles-per-hour.
- h. There are 5,000 e-scooters among all vendors in our area.
- i. Enforcement is not done by the NYPD.
- j. Each vendor promised 15 clean sweep personnel to replace depleted batteries, pick up and/or move incorrectly parked e-scooters.
- k. Vendors suggest calling 311 for enforcement, or call vendors with location and scooter ID number, to report incorrectly parked scooters. There is a QR code vehicle registration and contact phone number on each e-scooter.
- l. Hundreds of photos showing incorrectly parked e-scooters were provided to the vendors.
- m. Fine for infraction: \$5.00 for each of the first three violations; Suspension for the 4th violation; and termination for the 5th.
- n. If a rider is suspended from one company, as there is currently no communication between vendors, he/she can simply sign on with another company.
- o. There currently is no way to prevent a parent or friend from renting an e-scooter and giving it to an underage rider.
- p. With the number of fires reported as a result of lithium batteries, we are concerned about bulk lithium-ion batteries or scooters being carried on replacement trucks.

2. Recommendations:

- a. Helmets should be required for all riders. They should be attached to the scooter and photographed in-place upon its return or renter should be charged.

- a. Each scooter should be equipped with a new NYS issued license plate for easy identification and infraction reporting. The cost of the plate should be used to provide enforcement agents.
- b. Scooters should be programmed to stop automatically from driving into parks, on sidewalks, or “no-go” zones.
- c. E-scooters should be programmed to stop automatically in emergency weather situations. Half-hour emergency notice should be sent to renter’s phones notifying that the scooter will stop and a final 5-minute notice given before the scooter shuts down.
- d. Insurance: currently scooter companies are indemnified from liability to the City. However, there is no coverage for rider, vehicle damage, passenger injuries, or possible tripping hazards/injuries. A fee should be added to initial rental to cover this insurance.
- e. Designated rental-return corrals should be required and installed, similar to City e-bike rentals. Areas where “daylighting” exists, next to bus stops, or end of fire hydrant zones should be considered as these would have minimal effect on loss of parking spaces.
- f. Violations should be effective across vendors, and If a rider is suspended from one program, they should be suspended from all!

CB8 AS WELL AS MANY RESIDENTS AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ARE CALLING FOR A SUSPENSION OF THE E-SCOOTER PROGRAM UNTIL THE ISSUES STATED ABOVE ARE EXAMINED AND RECTIFIED.

C. E-Scooter Share Program Update: Lily Gordon-Koven, Director (Policy and Dockless Pilots)

II. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Councilmember James Gennaro endorsed co-naming the NW corner of 182nd St & 73rd Ave. to Brinkerhoff Memorial Way. This correspondence (received on 11/15/24), it will be added to the unanimously approved proposal of 11/13/24.
- A. Dining-out-NYC final date to remove roadway outdoor dining set up was 11/29/24. Program usually runs from April 1st to November 29th annually.
- B. MTA - MTA will terminate MetroCard Fare Program on March 22, 2025. All credit balances must be used by then or they will be forfeited. The OMNY Fare payment plan will replace MetroCard.
- C. MTA - released final Queens Bus Network Redesign Program on 12/17/24.
 1. Tuesday, Jan. 14th online meeting run by Kate Contino, Director Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives, MTA provided bus-line by bus-line changes to each route. Affected members of each community board were invited to attend.
 2. There will be a public update for all who wish to attend “Town Hall Meeting” on January 22nd, 2025 at 6:30pm. Information for this meeting is: <http://mta.zoom.us/j/84937382792>. Questions should be submitted to: www.contact.mta.info/s/forms/bus-network-redesign.
 3. MTA will vote on proposed plan in the winter, 2025
- D. NYC DOT - Sixth and Final phase of Queens Blvd Redesign - This plan has significantly reduced injuries (65%) and fatalities (68%).
 1. Improvements include: expanding and reconstructing service road medians, by providing a continuous raised pedestrian mall, and grade separated bicycle lanes.
 2. Reconfiguring several slip ramps to improve safety for all road users, reduce crossing distances, and create calmer, more predictable driving behavior.
 3. Improve accessibility at all bus stops.
 4. Install planted buffer barriers to protect pedestrians.
 5. Adding new lighting, public seating, and landscaping.
 6. The result of these safety improvements has been to eliminate traffic in the service lanes.
- E. New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)- published the annual listing of obligated projects for fiscal year 2024. Documents are available for download and comments from Jan 3 to Feb 3, 2025.
 1. Over \$4.4 billion of federal transportation funding was obligated for 408 transportation projects (2023-2027).
 2. Projects in Queens include rehab. 7 bridges on GCP, construction on LIE by Springfield Blvd/ Oceania St. Bridge at the Clearview exp., Van Wyck and GCP viaduct rehabilitation.

- F. Individual Disability and Exemption Plan - Vehicles registered to the IDEP are exempt from Congestion Pricing. For assessment of eligibility, call 844-233-3377, from 9am to 5pm, Mon-Fri.
- G. TLC- proposes yellow cab fare increase in the minimum per-mile pay rates to counter driver increased expenses. A public hearing will be held online using ZOOM on 2/5/25 @ 10:00 am. Current fare \$3 start + 70 cents for 1/5 mile (\$3.50), 50 cent city surcharge, \$2.50 congestion pricing surcharge (@2.50 green cab .75 on rideshare). Flat fee from airport to NYC \$75 = \$5 peak hour surcharge.

To participate, go to: TLCrules@nyc.gov.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. Councilmember James Gennaro requested a traffic study to improve 73rd Ave. from 199th St to Francis Lewis Blvd. DOT reviewed this request last year. They claimed to have modified the timing of the signals to improve traffic flow. (adjusted timing letter received from DOT 11/15/24)
 - A. Councilmember James Gennaro endorsed co-naming the NW corner of Queens Blvd & 84th Dr. to Jack Giacomo Way. This correspondence (received on 11/15/24) will be added to the unanimously approved proposal of 11/13/24.
 - B. DOT - request to check noise levels with sound devices at the corner of 188th St & Radnor Rd. Please follow up on the installation of the promised sound device on the light post. It has not been installed. (Resident0.
 - C. DOT - request for enforcement camera on EB 69th Ave from Utopia Pkwy to 185th St. Has been approved as it falls within the radius of a school district.
 - D. DOT - has approved the private installation of bollards in front of the Young Israel of Hillcrest, 169–07 Jewel Ave.
 - E. DOT - following the enactment of Sammy’s Law, NYC has authorized reduced speed limits from 25 to 20 mph on individual streets, 15 mph near schools, and 10 mph on streets with additional traffic-calming measures.
1. 250 locations will be qualified by the end of 2025.
 2. New zones within CB8 include:
 - a. 86th Crescent from 162nd St to 86th Ave.
 - a. 165th St from Hillside Ave to Clinton Terrace.
 - b. 84th Dr from Pershing Crescent to 84th Rd.

IV. REQUESTS BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE

- A. DOT - extension requested to suspend alternate side of the street parking 160th St between 65th Ave & 161st St; and 162nd St between 65th Ave & 161st St. As construction has not been completed.
- A. DOT - request review of alternate side of the street parking regulations on 72nd Ave from 139th St to 141st St. Resident states: "signage shows No Parking on Friday 8am - 11am on both sides of the street."
- B. DOT - request for alternate side of the street postings on Utopia Pkwy to permit Sanitation Dept mechanical broom cleaning. District Manager’s response: this request must be accompanied by a petition from all affected residents, with 75% approval.

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. NYPD - request enforcement of vehicles without license plates, proper registration, or are permanently parked on Utopia Pkwy from the LIE to Union Tpke. (individual)
- A. DOT - request MTA automatic bus photography be suspended at 138-37 Queens Blvd. in front of “718 Super Car Wash”. Bus cameras are photographing vehicles waiting on line to have their cars washed. The customers are not double parked as the violation says, they are waiting in line to turn in to the car wash. (Individual/business owner).
- B. NYSDOT - request installation of exit on WB Grand Central Pkwy between 168th St & Queens Blvd. to improve traffic flow. (Member CB8)
- C. DOT - request one-way conversion 84th Ave from 170th St & 172nd St. near PS 131. School (Principal, Abigail Adams School0. DOT asked for CB8 input. This request required a petition with the approval of 75% of affected residents. **THIS REQUEST WILL BE TABLED UNTIL PETITION IS RECEIVED.**

- D. DOT - request traffic calming device WB service road to Grand Central Pkwy from Utopia Pkwy to 168th St.(Individual)
- E. DOT - request for safety improvements on 170th St between GCP Service Rd and Union Tpke. (Individual)
 - 1. Speed hump 170th St - St John's garage exit **THIS COMMITTEE DOES NOT REVIEW SPEED**

HUMP REQUESTS.

- 2. All-Way Stop signs at 81st Ave & 170th St
 - 3. Repainting crosswalks East/West at 170th St; North/South at 81st Ave
 - 4. Install solid line along the center of 170th St between GCP Service Rd & Union Tpke.
 - 5. Provide signage: "Garage Ahead" before you get to St John's Garage entrance.
 - 6. Additional speed controls on 170th St.
 - F. DOT - Main St from 71st Rd to 75th Ave.- Large concrete barriers have been installed by DOT. Cars parked alongside cannot open doors. DOT study is requested.
 - G. DOT - request for safety improvements in Hyde Park Gardens. The request was accompanied by photographs and a petition with over 300 names.
 - 1. Additional speed humps 136th St, 138th St, & 68th Dr. **THIS COMMITTEE DOES NOT REVIEW SPEED**
- HUMP REQUESTS.**
- 2. Installation of raised crosswalk 136th St & 68th Dr.
 - 3. Installation of traffic signal 136th St & 68th Dr.
 - 4. Installation of traffic signal Jewel Ave & 138th St.
 - 5. Improve signage and road markings
 - a. "Speed Limit and Curve Ahead" sign - 68th Dr & 136th St
 - a. Centerline stripe on 136th St.Park Dr. east to main st.???
 - b. "Illegal to Dump" and "Hidden Driveway", signs; and flashing yellow lights ahead of curves - Park Dr East from Jewel Ave to Union Tpke
 - 6. Speed and/or red light camera at Jewel Ave & Park Dr East.
 - 7. NYPD enforcement to control vandalism, theft, and speeding cars.
 - 8. DOT - sidewalk construction Park Dr East (west side) - **THIS IS A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, NOT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.**
 - 9. DOT lighting study - along Park Dr E.
 - 10. DOT - Resurface 138th St. AT Jewel Ave.
 - I. . MTA - request cleaning wall tiles in subway station at the Parsons Blvd & Hillside Ave station.
 - J. DOT- Requisition conversion 68th Ave. from two way to one way operation (individual).