

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Meeting called order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Allen Eisenstein-Transportation Committee, Saaif Alam -Transportation Committee, Dr. D. Lavelda Davis, Bhitihara Martha Fulton, Harbachan Singh (CB#8), Marie Adam-Ovide District Manager CB#8, Ruby Benitez Assistant Director Government & Community Relations NYC Transit, Patrick Scalise Principal Transportation Planner MTA, also present Richard Legarda - Co-President, Palatin Dindayal, Karen Odaira – Co-President (Holliswood Civic Association), C. Bryant, Marilyn Chapoteau, Jill Cheatham, Jasmine Deonandan, Jann McKanic (Residents).

I. DOT PRESENTATION

- A. DOT Presentation: to discuss the projects of the rehabilitation on the Van Wyck Expressway bridges from LIE to Whitestone Expwy.

DOT PRESENTATION WAS TABLED AS NO DOT REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT.

- B. MTA F/M Subway Line Swap scheduled to go into effect December 8, 2025

1. The affected area is between Queens Blvd and Manhattan Corridor.
2. The swap will take place on weekdays from 6AM to 9:30PM
F and M Lines a total of 8 stops will be affected.

<u>Current Service</u>	<u>New service</u>
Old F stops 21 St. Queensbridge Roosevelt Island Lexington Ave-63 St 57 St - 6 Ave.	Queens Plaza New F stop(with E) Court Sq.-23 St. Lexington Ave. 53 St. 5 Ave. - 53 St.
Old M stop(with E) Queens Plaza Court Sq.-23 St. Lexington Ave. 53 St. 5 Ave. - 53 St.	21st St. Queensbridge New M stops Roosevelt Island Lexington Ave. 63 St. 57 St - 6 Ave.

3. This modification will increase reliability and decrease delays.
4. Reduce crowding at 63rd St. stations
5. Add a direct connection 63rd St. line and Queens Blvd, station.
6. Passengers will be notified of modifications with customer ambassadors, new maps, look ahead posters, hand out brochures, website and digital feeds. Announcement on platform and trains as well as on train and stations signage

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED THAT THE “SWAP” MODIFICATIONS REVERT BACK TO CURRENT STOPS ON WEEKENDS AND LATE NIGHT WHICH COULD BE CONFUSING TO PASSENGERS.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. MTA Queens Bus Network Re-Design Phase I, started on June 29th.

1. Includes 124 routes consisting of 94 local and 30 express. A net increase of 11 routes at a cost of \$33.7 million annual investment operation.
2. MTA launched a Customer Ambassador Program where there were field reps from August 18-Sept12. Since February MTA has printed 18,500 guide-to-ride inserts. Visit the Main Project page MTA.info
 - a. Route-lookup tool
 - b. Project phasing guide
 - c. Trip planner
 - d. Queens bus timetable

IMPROVEMENTS

3. Starting June 29th, riders who use tap-to-pay can get a second free transfer when using the same device.
4. Final plan has 29 routes that improve service by 10 minutes or better from 6am-9pm weekdays. 20 routes have either increased frequency or expanded hours of operation.
 - a. 25 have more direct routing and faster travel. 25 routes will have greater stop spacing to improve travel times (decreasing number of stops).

- b. Updates, establish new connections with other bus routes, subway and LIRR, and better ADA access.
- 5. Install a new Q80 bus line with overnight service from Lefferts Blvd to JFK AirTrain.
- 6. Improve Q33 service with connection from LaGuardia Airport to Jackson Heights.
- 7. New Q7 service along Rockaway Blvd between Liberty & Jamaica Aves with new connection for J & Z trains and Cypress Hills.

B. MTA - changed out/replaced panels on specific bus stops and may also install Guide-A-Ride (GAR) inserts. Started on Feb 18. Implementation by August 31.

C. MTA, Port Authority, & NYS Thruway Authority announced an upgrade to EZ Pass. The new website consolidates EZ Pass and Tolls by Mail to include more self-service functions and easier interface. Make payments via website or mobile app. E-ZPass.ny.com

D. Dining Out sidewalk cafe applications. Comments on applications must be returned from CB no later than 40 days after receipt. If application is denied or approved with modification, CB must receive the signature of applicant on Community Board feedback form.

E. Public Design Commission (PDC) Process Survey - they are gathering feedback on the survey to determine how the Community Board and its members interact with PDC. They have jurisdiction over permanent structures, landscape architecture, and art proposals.

F. DOT - is currently rehabilitating pedestrian ramps at corners in many locations in CB8 to become ADA compliant. Please observe signage.

G. DOT Carshare - current operators include ZipCar, and TruQit (Get-Around Carshare has stopped all operations) they have 294 on-street spaces and 60 municipal parking locations.

- 1. 137-47 Main St. (West corner)
- 2. 144-01 144 St at 87th Rd (North corner)
- 3. 69-18 Melbourne Ave at 152nd St (East corner)
- 4. 147-07 72nd Rd (N corner)

H. DOT - Raise Crosswalks Project. "Raised crosswalks elevate a portion of the roadway to the grade of the sidewalk providing a level pedestrian path that functions as a speed reducer and calms vehicle traffic.

Raised crosswalks increase pedestrian visibility, further improve street safety conditions and increase accessibility and mobility.” Raised crosswalks may require upgraded pedestrian ramps, pavement restoration, relocation of streetlight poles, traffic signals and drainage structures.

1. Highland Ave & 164th St on the West leg
2. Gothic Dr & 168th St
3. Hillside Ave & 130th St

NOT DONE

I. Tide Gate Bridge over Flushing Creek in Flushing Meadows Park is closed until completion of the reconstruction project. **NOT FINISHED**

J. DOT - tentative resurfacing list for 2025 is available in the office.

K. E-Scooters - Since June 2024, there have been over 60,000 riders and more than 900,000 trips. 65 parking corrals in the Kew Gardens Hills and Pomonok neighborhoods are scheduled for installation. The list is available at the CB8 office.

1. DOT held a public hearing on July 14th to discuss adding speed restrictions on E-bikes, Electric scooters, and Pedal Assisted Commercial Bicycles on NYC streets.
2. Many E-Bike Corrals were seen in daylighting zones while inspecting Kew Gardens Hills requests.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A.DOT - request speed hump on 75th Ave between 167th & 174th Sts. APPROVED. Installation will take place when funds are available.

B. DOT - request, to investigate timing of left turn signal at Main St & 72nd Ave. No changes recommended. Adequate time to turn left without conflict. Any additional time for the left turn signal would reduce efficiency.

C. MTA - follow up request for bus cameras to be turned off at car wash at 138-17 Queens Blvd. Motorists are being ticketed while waiting on line at the joint bus stop for the Q20A, Q20B, and Q60. **FOLLOW UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED**

D. DOT - Alternative Congestion Pricing Plan was presented by a resident - Increase sales tax by .375% should generate \$1billion per year. Congestion toll price should match one-way subway fare. Truck

pricing should be slightly more than for cars; taxi/VHS (For Hire Service) should have no change; overnight remains free of charge. Congestion tolls are per trip rather than taxed daily.

E. DOT - Enforcement of Hillside Ave bus violation. We're waiting for response regarding enforcement of vehicles parked in loading zones. Would it be done by bus cameras or NYPD? **FOLLOW-UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED**

F. QDOT - Follow up requested on pothole complaint at 82-86 165th St (7/28/25). #DQ2025209017. Marie reports the entire street needs repaving. It is not on the resurfacing list for 2025. Will it be scheduled for 2026. She suggests strip-paving as a temporary repair. **FOLLOW-UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED**

G. DOT has approved an "Open Street" on 84th Ave. from 168th St. to 164th Place near Thomas A Edison HS from 7/1/25- 6/30/26. Drop off 7:30-9:30 AM, pick up 1:30-4:30 PM, recess 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

H. DOT Request - resurfacing 138th St. between Jewel Ave. and 68th Dr. has been forwarded DEP for follow up and remediation as needed. **FOLLOW-UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED**

I. DOT- Sammy's Law has been enacted, NYC has the authority to reduce speed to 20 MPH on individual streets and to 15 MPH near schools and to 10 MPH on streets with additional traffic calming devices.

- 1) Approved on Melbourne Ave from 149th St. to 150th St. by Townsend Harris HS and P.S. Q255.

J. J. DOT request to install additional traffic controls at 68th Dr. and 136th St. **DENIED by DOT** as unnecessary, it can be reconsidered Feb 2027.

K. DOT requested that 68th Dr. be converted from two-way to one-way operation from 140th St to Main St. **DENIED**, as this will affect and delay traffic on all surrounding streets. DOT recommends removing parking on one side of the street to make vehicle passing easier. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HAS HAD MANY REQUESTS TO CONVERT NARROW TWO WAY STREETS TO ONE WAY OPERATION. AS NOTED ABOVE THIS CHANGE COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TRAFFIC FLOW AND CONGESTION ON ADJACENT STREETS. THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGREES THAT CONCEPT OF CONVERTING NARROW STREET FROM TWO WAY TO ONE WAY OPERATION SHOULD BE**

CONSIDERED WITHOUT REMOVING THE LIMITED AVAILABLE PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREET. THIS COMMITTEE REQUESTS A MAJOR GRID REVIEW TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY. THE AREA TO BE CONSIDERED IS FROM PARK DRIVE EAST (WEST) TO 164TH STREET (EAST) AND FROM THE SERVICE ROAD OF THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY(NORTH) TO UNION TURNPIKE (SOUTH).

L.DOT- Marie Adam-Ovide questioned not being notified of the changes in alternate side of the street parking regulations on Hillside Ave. Proposed changes to the Alternate Side Street Parking regulations, see DOT presentation May 2025. New regulations show

1. Queens Blvd. to 193rd St., northside no parking: M-F 8-9 AM, southside M-S 7:30-8:30 AM
2. 193rd St. to Springfield Blvd. no parking northside W-8:30-10 AM, southside S-8:30-10 AM.

M. DOT-request speed hump on 73rd Ave between 183rd & 184th Sts.

APPROVED. Installation will take place when funds are available.

IV. NEW REQUESTS

- A. TLC requests Letter of No-Objection to renew Base for Hire License #B02929, Ottoman Transportation, 61-43 186th St, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Jennifer Espinal.

1. We have no record of this company
2. We are awaiting documentation of where unused vehicles are parked.

COMMITTEE APPROVES LETTER OF NO OBJECTION TO THE RENEWAL FOR HIRE LICENSE UPON RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS THAT CONFIRM THAT VEHICLES NOT IN USE ARE STORED OFF THE CITY STREETS.

- B. DOT/NYPD - resident complaint that a vehicle has not been moved in months at 144-40 87th Ave. The vehicle has a metal bookshelf chained to the front bumper and a sawhorse zip tied to that. It is taking up two parking spaces and has not been ticketed in more than a year. It was reported to 311 who closed the first case of an abandoned vehicle. Removal of vehicle is requested. (Member CB8) **VEHICLE HAS BEEN REMOVED**

- C. DOT - request right turn on red light signage on the NE corner of 199th St & Union Tpke. (Individual) **APPROVED**
- D. DOT request - Light changing pedestrian push button on 164th St & 85th Ave. (Member CB8) **APPROVED, DOT SHOULD CONSIDER A SIMILAR DEVICE ON THE CORNER OF 84TH DRIVE AND CHAPIN STREET BY MARGARET TEITZ REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER TO ADD SAFETY FOR DISABLED PEDESTRIAN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN CROSSING THE STREET.**
- E. DOT request - Daylighting NW corner 165th St & 85th Ave. (Member CB8) **APPROVED**
- F. DOT request - Conversion of 191st St from Foothill Ave to Palo Alto St from one-way to two-way operation. (Holliswood Civic Assoc). A petition with 20 signatures is enclosed. **THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED IF THERE IS AGREEMENT BY $\frac{2}{3}$ OF THE AFFECTED RESIDENTS IN RESPONSE TO A HOME POSTCARD SURVEY.**
- G. DOT request - Conversion to one-way operation of 76th Ave between 141st Pl & 137th St. (Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- H. DOT request - "No Parking Mon-Fri 8Am - 5PM" in front of Hillside Horizons Day Habilitation Center, 197-27 Hillside Ave. to facilitate drop-off and pickup of developmentally disabled adults. (Director Day Hab) **THIS LOCATION HAS NO PARKING AS A RESULT OF A BUS STOP AND FIRE HYDRANT IN FRONT OF THE FACILITY. A PICKUP AND DROP-OFF LOCATION IS APPROVED FOR THE NORTHWEST CORNER ON 198TH STREET AND HILLSIDE AVE.**
- I. DOT request – Red-light camera 164th St & 85th Ave. (Member Trans Comm)**APPROVED**
- J. DOT request - All-way stop sign 75th Ave & 172nd St. (Resident) **DENIED**
- K. DOT request - Multiple Red-light cameras 150th St. From Union Tpk to Melbourne Ave. (Member CB8) **DENIED, THIS REQUEST IS NOT SPECIFIC TO EXACT LOCATIONS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.**
- L. DOT request - Bike racks on Parsons Blvd between 186th & 187th St. (Member CB8)**APPROVED**
- M. MTA request - removal of overlay bus rest stop at 188th St & 186th Lane blocking view of Fresh Meadows Garage. Parked buses obstruct the

view of vehicles entering and exiting the garage. In addition, there's a No Standing sign with the arrow facing the wrong way. (Fresh Meadows Tenants Assoc)**APPROVED - THE LAYOVER SHOULD BE MOVED FURTHER SOUTH ON 188TH STREET WITH DAYLIGHTING AT THE DRIVEWAY TO IMPROVE MOTORIST SAFETY**

N. MTA request - Halt of Hillside Ave Bus Lane implementation, (Individual) **DENIED**

O. DOT request - Removal of "No Standing Anytime" in front of 80-25 Parsons Blvd. It was previously a bus stop. (Individual) **DOT STATED THAT THE PERMANENT REMOVAL OF THE BUS STOP IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, ADDING PARKING SPACES HERE WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE.**

P. DOT request - outline/paint street parking spaces on surface of 204th St from Francis Lewis Blvd (west bound) to dead end. (Hilltop Village Bd of Directors) **DENIED, AS CAR OUTLINE MARKINGS ON THE ROADWAY WILL DECREASE THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF VEHICLE PARKING SPACES.**

Q. DOT request - Parking exemptions for ambulance transport vehicles (which are similar to Access-A-Ride) while transporting patients to appointments. They should not be ticketed for double parking, parking in bus lanes, and waiting in no-standing zones. (NYC United Ambulette Group)**APPROVED**

R. DOT request - Grid change with conversion from two-way to one-way of all streets from 72nd Ave (not including 73rd Ave) to 78th Rd from 164th St to Parsons Blvd., with all-way stop signs on 160th & 162nd Sts. at corners of 77th, 78th, and 79th Ave. (Individual) **SEE III-K**

S. DOT request - Convert 75th Ave at triangle between Kissena Blvd. & Parsons to one-way westbound. (Individual)**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**

T. DOT request - Left-turn signal on westbound Union Turnpike at 179th Street turning onto Surrey Pl.(individual) **APPROVED**

U. DOT request - Daylighting on the Northwest corner of 167th Street and 82nd Rd. (individual).**APPROVED**

V. DOT Request, inspection, adjustment and extension of the traffic signal eastbound on Union Turnpike (at Utopia). Additional timing is requested

to permit more vehicles to turn eastbound on to Union Tpk. from 170th St. Residents complained that cars are backed up for more than a half hour from 2:30-3:30 PM on 170th St.(individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**

W.DOT Merchants are complaining that in the modified Hillside Ave Bus Design, passengers have difficulty when exiting buses to enter local establishments. It is having a negative effect on their business. DOT study is requested to assist local businesses (member CB#8). **THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN RESCINDED**

Meeting Adjourned 9:30 PM