



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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Jesse Rosenbaum

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA: FEBRUARY 13, 2023

I. CORRESPONDENCE

A. NYC DOT Carshare Program: This program started in 2018 with Zipcar and Enterprise Carshare with 230 on-street spaces and 55 municipal parking facilities. The two-year program averaged 24 trips, per space, per month. The program’s performance is credited with a 7% reduction in gas emissions and 6% reduction in vehicle miles traveled by its members. Three locations in CB8: 87-29 144 St., 151-57 72nd Rd and 67-01 152nd St. Zipcar reports 85% of NYC members don’t own cars, 25% got rid of their cars after joining, and members drive 40% fewer miles since joining.

B. DOT – Continuation Outdoor Sidewalk and Roadway Dining was approved by the Appellate Court in October 2022. Policies are not finalized. There are 1,500 open restaurants in Queens, 200 have roadway dining and 1,000 have sidewalk dining.

Proposed Regulations

1. NYC DOT License is required for outdoor dining. Public hearings took place between December 6, 2021 and January 5, 2022 in all boroughs. Final requirements have not been released as of this time. Approved locations must be adjacent to business frontage. Approved spaces must have 8 feet of sidewalk clearance, 15 feet from fire hydrant, and 8 feet from crosswalk. The in-street maximum width is 8 feet and must have snow sticks 30” to 36” high; interior walls and be filled with soil or sand. The outside structure must have reflecting tape. The structure cannot be bolted down or taller than the store frontage (or 1 story, whichever is less) and structure may not obstruct: street signs, fire-escapes, or Siamese connections. Electric heaters are permitted while natural gas is allowed on sidewalks only and no propane heaters. No amplified sound permitted; roadway seating is suspended during snow alert. If the location is not occupied for 30 days, it is deemed “abandoned” and may be removed by city the owner can apply for reinstatement at any time. SBS Hotline 888-727-4692.

C. Correspondence dated November 7, 2022, from Laborers International Local #1010 stated that repaving on Cross Island Parkway from Exit 30 to 35 has remained un-striped

for over 2 1/2 months while residential blocks in Queens remain un-striped for over 80 days. With “all back work that stands unfinished or completely untouched, there is no possibility that striping will be done within the required 30 days of paving.” The Union is concerned that the situation will continue to deteriorate if left alone.

D. MTA – Complains that vagrants sleeping are disturbing fellow passengers on the buses - MTA stated the driver’s responsibility is to contact dispatch and have NYPD meet them at a later stop. “MTA is not a social service agency and operators are not always best equipped to handle passengers, who are in the throws of crisis.” If the passenger is not overly disruptive, operators will wait till the end of their route and get the passenger to leave safely.

E. MTA - Proposal to restructure subway station agents responsibilities, currently there is customer service with one booth in each station which is manned 24/7. Operators have not sold fare media since COVID-19 pandemic began, as MetroCard and OMNY vending machines are available on platforms. Operators will be permitted to close for lunch. Customers will be directed to use Help Point Intercom. MTA proposes that station agents work outside the booth. These new roles to start early 2023. Currently, there are 1,711 vending machines; mobile sales vans; and more than 1,400 merchants and convenience stores that sell MetroCards; and 4,000 merchants in the OMNY network.

F. N.Y. Coalition for Transportation Safety sent an update on Traffic Vision Zero in Queens. The report from 2012 to 2023 indicates a 16% decrease in traffic injuries and a 30% decrease in fatalities. In 107th Precinct those numbers are 6% and 6% respectively. For the year 2022 to 2023, the numbers are 21% and 60%, in general. The number of traffic injuries, fatalities and moving violations have decrease in years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Although not stated, I believe these statistics reflective of COVID 19 pandemic and the public’s overwhelming fear of crowds.

G. DOT- A request to convert 147th Street from two way to a one way flow, from Melbourne Ave. to Union Turnpike was submitted directly to DOT by Council Member Fazima Azam of Brooklyn’s 39th District. It was assigned tracking numbers DOT #558448-J7N4 and DOT#558449-Y9Z8. DOT forwarded the request to CB#8 informing the Councilmember that it should go through the Transportation Committee and then a petition of request by the affected residents.

II. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT – Trench Restoration on 186th Street, between 73rd & 75th Avenues. This is to include re-surfacing done under DDC Project #HWTRQX1 and is starting soon.

B. MTA– Follow-up letter from Marie Adam-Ovide regarding the Q25/54 bus stop in front of 82-30 Parsons Blvd. We requested reconsideration to move the bus stop north of the communal driveway. ‘T’ Building has not been used as a medical center in over a

decade. Moving the stop would not lose parking spaces as there is an existing fire hydrant and commuters would still benefit from crosswalk nearby. Residents are complaining now although they have not in the past. This change would provide relief for residents who are not able to exit/enter communal driveway when busses are present.

This request was again rejected by MTA (August 15, 2022) as moving the bus stop would require construction of a new bus pad for 120 feet, filling grassy area adjacent to street and removing a tree which is not under the jurisdiction of the MTA. The estimated cost would be \$100,000.00.

C. MTA – Request to move bus stop from SE to SW corner of Union Turnpike & Utopia Parkway has been denied. The current location is a transfer point from Q30 to Q31 bus, passengers would be required to cross Utopia Parkway. Moving the stop from in front of the medical building would negatively affect the riders. The current stop is ADA compliant with an existing bus pad long enough to accommodate several busses. The proposed site would require the removal of trees and the installation of a bus pad. Moving the stop would affect even spacing of stops around it.

D. DOT - Request for speed reduction 84th Ave between 164th Pl. and 168th St.- has been approved for speed hump.

E. DOT -Request speed reduction at 134th St., between 82nd Road & Hoover Ave. This request has been approved for a speed hump.

F. DOT -Request installation of speed cameras on 75th Ave from Utopia Pkwy to 188th St. This location will be considered as it is within ¼ mile of school.

G. DOT -Request reconsideration to reverse 191st St from Hillside Ave. to Foothill Ave. to be returned to a two-way operation. Individual has made this request several times in the past.

H. DOT -Requested all-way stop signs at 69th Ave. and 185th St. This location has not been studied since 2018. DOT has agreed to reconsider.

I. MTA – Opposition to removal of bus stop in front of 83-10 188th St., Waiting for response from MTA, this request will kept on file with DOT.

J. DOT -Request for safety improvements near P.S. 131 at 170-81 84th Ave.

1. Crosswalk markings at corner of 84th Ave. and 172nd St. were installed last summer.

2. All-way stop sign was installed at intersection of 84th Ave and 172nd St. in September, 2022.

3. DOT suggested possibility of “Slow Zone,” speed cameras, speed humps on blocks surrounding the school. DOT’s, “Open Street Program” where streets may be closed during drop-off and pick-up times.

K. DOT - Request for “Letter of No Objection” for license renewal #B01128 for Pak-Eagle D/B/A Jewel Car Service located at 72-55 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY, 11367. The letter was sent after receiving an off-hour parking agreement and no resident complaints.

L. DOT – Request for speed hump 68th Dr between 136th St. and 138th St., meets criteria.

M. DOT-Request for traffic control at the intersection of 170th St. and 81st Ave. The request was denied as a traffic light or an all way stop sign “ will not provide the maximum safety benefit to address the concerns that” were reported.

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

A. DOT –Request; street surface in disrepair bounded by 164th St to the West, 170th St to the East, Union Turnpike and North, Grand Central Parkway. South. sections of the road have multiple utility cuts and potholes especially at 168th St and Goethals Ave, as well as 165th through 168th Streets. DOT agreed to log and assign.

B. DOT- In follow up to Community Board #8 public participation report at February’s Board by an individual that the Q73 bus line was in operation, a letter was sent to Lucille Songhai of the MTA. The correspondence reminded them that “MTA would not institute any changes until we’ve had a chance to be heard”. They were offered public speaking opportunities at the monthly board meeting from May, 2022 until present. A schedule for presentation at an upcoming board meeting was offered for April, May or June, 2023. MTA’s response on February 9, 2023 states “Just to reiterate...there will be ample opportunity for Queens riders to offer feedback. We have a ways to go before we reach implementation.”

IV. NEW REQUESTS

A. DOT – complaint that DOT is slow in repairing potholes. Multiple holes on 188th St and 87th Rosd, opposite Palo Alto St. Repairs called to 311 requested in November,2023, are now done (Individual).

B. DOT - Request Dalny Road be converted from two way to one way roadway from Edgerton Blvd. to Wexford Terrace. Request made by Sister Joan Petito of Mary Lewis Academy for Girls High School.

C. DOT - Request repair/resurfacing the following streets in Kew Gardens Hills (member Transportation Committee):

1. 78th Road eastbound Main St. to 147th St.
 2. 73rd Terrace at Park Drive E. Northeast side of street near 135-04 73rd Terrace.
 3. 76-29 and 76-35 Vleigh Pl. at the 76th and 77th Ave intersections.
- D. DOT - Request speed camera on the center divider of Francis Lewis Blvd between Foothill Ave\Whitehall Terrace and McLaughlin Ave. (Member CB8)
- E. DOT - Request check synchronization of new traffic signal on 188th St & Avon Rd with signals on Radnor Rd, entrance to GCP West, & McLaughlin Ave. (Member Transportation Committee)
- F. DOT - Request all-way stop sign at Aberdeen Rd. & Chevy Chase St. (Individual) [See petition with 100+names enclosed.]
- G. TLC- Request “letter of No Objection” for Base Renewal #B01332 Skyway Car Service Express Inc. 68-20A Fresh Meadow Lane Fresh Meadows N.Y. 11365. We are waiting for off hour parking agreement. No resident objections have been received.
- H. DOT-Request ‘Pedestrian Only” sequence on the west bound GCP Service Road at Utopia Parkway to improve safety at this location. This is a busy intersection; vehicles are in constant motion on green light or using left turn signal. (Member Transportation Committee)
- I. DOT – Request 76th Rd. between Parsons Blvd and 160th Rd. be converted from two-way to one-way operation. School busses are damaging parked cars on the way to and from Parsons Jr. High School.
- J. DOT-Request red light/speed camera at the corner of 75th Ave. and 188th St. cars speeding through the intersection to make the light. (Member Transportation Committee)