

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA: THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

I. DOT PRESENTATION

A. Permanent Open Restaurant Text Amendment

1. New DOT program includes both sidewalk and roadway cafes.
2. Program balances all needs of street and sidewalk.
3. Sidewalk Café Program is developing guidelines for permanent programming.
4. Prior to COVID, NYC had 1,022 sidewalk cafes, 100 small sidewalk cafes, 102 enclosed cafes, and 25 street seats. During COVID, 11,000 restaurants established outdoor eating, creating approx. 100,000 jobs.
5. In October 2020, NY City Council established an outdoor dining program.
6. DOT will be responsible for supervising the following:
 - a) Both sidewalk and roadway seating
 - b) Enforcing barriers, stricter clear paths and roadway seating criteria, and ADA compliance.
 - c) NYPD will enforce noise issues. DSNY will continue to be responsible for garbage removal.
7. Sidewalk café seating.
 - a) All restaurants with ground space are eligible for year-round access, must be ADA compliant. Space must be clear of obstructions based on pedestrian level and sidewalk widths. Must have removable chairs, tables, and barriers; have seating against building wall; and only permitted on restaurant frontage.
8. Fee structure to be determined
9. Must allow city operational needs such as snow clean-up and garbage removal.
10. Safety consideration to be determined regarding outdoor heaters.
11. Applications can be filed online with shorter review periods. There will be a 4-year license with periodic checks for compliance. “Bad actors” will be fined and or license will be withdrawn.
12. Currently, in CB8 there are 32 sidewalk restaurants, 4 roadway, and 25 that are both.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. CB5 requests letter of support to DOT in regard to consistently advocating for pedestrian and traffic safety. Too many drivers are in a hurry and view pedestrians as obstacles. They request frequent safety reminders on TV, radio, printed publications, and social media as was done with the last two city administrations.

B. DOT request from Councilman Gennaro's office – to convert a portion of 168th Pl (between 84th Dr & Gothic Ave) from two-way to one-way operation. Two speed humps have been installed and have not been helpful to slow down traffic. CB8 Trans. Comm. has been opposed. A public hearing was held on January 30, 2020.

1. This Committee believes this conversion will NOT decrease congestion and will force traffic through surrounding residential streets. It was suggested that parking be removed from one side of the street to improve traffic flow.

C. MTA launched an OMNY Fare-Capping Pilot Program on February 7th. Any rider who exceeds 13 trips in one week, the rest of the rides in that week will be free. OMNY-Tap technology provides enhanced flexibility to subway and bus customers, and in Staten Island, railroad riders. No customers will pay more than \$33/week, the same rate as an Unlimited Ride Metro Card.

D. MTA – Queens Bus Redesign regarding proposed changes to Union Tpk Express bus service on the QM1,5, and 6.

1. Express bus service on Union Tpk. between 188th St & Main St would be significantly cut with service ending at 7PM nightly, and buses running every 90 minutes off-peak and weekends. This proposal also reduces service on the Q46.

2. Chair of Amalgamated Transit Union #51722 states that the Redesign will saddle Queens bus riders with less service, longer walks to stops, and frequent need to transfer to another bus or more when they previously took one route. The plan ignores the borough's mobility needs to longer rides that are not part of the typical commute. The plan fails to recognize Queens' challenging connectivity issues. It does not address service to schools, and summer capacity issues when riders seek to access Queens' beaches. Speed of service will be improved by eliminating lightly used stops, however, these stops are skipped when no one is present. In this case, faster does not deliver better customer service.

3. The Redesign proposes instituting a Q73 bus line which would run from Forest Hills (Jewel Ave) to Queensborough Community College (73rd Ave).

a) Public response has been in opposition as the Q64 travels on Jewel Ave. This new line would add congestion. 73rd Ave is a heavily used thoroughfare and adding this bus line would increase noise and pollution. The Q73 line bus stops would remove valuable parking spaces. Additional buses that currently service Queensborough Community College are the Q75,77, and 88.

4. Residents have requested a Public Hearing to discuss the Redesign Plan and the institution of the Q73 bus route.

5. MTA was formally invited to attend a Public Hearing by the Chairman of the Trans. Comm. and District Manager at the monthly CB8 meeting which was held on June 8th. Response from MTA: was unable to attend this meeting due to inadequate notice. Additionally, the MTA agreed to provide documents "listing/explaining changes to routes within our district." In a conversation with Marie Adam-Ovide, on 5/23/22, an MTA representative agreed that "this document will be sent to us in addition to coming to us in the Fall, not instead of. Furthermore,

the MTA will not implement any changes until they meet with our community.” MTA was notified of CB8 meetings on 9/14, 10/26, 11/9, and 12/14/22. They were asked to select two dates and make a power point presentation.

- E. MTA held a Public Town Hall meeting on May 19th to discuss plans of an interior express train linking Brooklyn and Queens utilizing unused rail lines. The project would create a new transit option for close to 900,000 residents, along with 260,000 riders who work in these boroughs.
- F. MTA appointed Richard Davey as President of NYC Transit on March 23, 2022.
- G. MTA published timetables showing largest service increase in LIRR history. Proposal adds 274 trains per weekday, from 365 to 939. Forty-four trains are added to the morning Manhattan rush hour, from 76 to 120. In the evening, from 98 to 158 trains, an increase of 60. The reverse peak trains per weekday from 81 to 134.
 - 1. Virtual information meetings will be held on the following Thursdays from 6-7PM: 6/23, 6/30, and 7/7/2022.
- H. MTA – introduced a new bus line, Q70, from 74th St in Jackson Hts to LaGuardia Airport was started on May 21, 2022. At that time, the service was free as announced by Gov Hochul.
- I. The Office of Technology and Innovation proposed a LINKNYC kiosk coming to Briarwood (139-01 Queens Blvd.) on June 12, 2022. The LINK will provide free hi speed internet, free nationwide calling, free charging ports for mobile devices, as well as 911 and 311 access. This program is being instituted in lieu of public telephones.
- J. School Construction Authority (SCA) proposed the construction of a 540-seat middle school addition to MS216Q. Pursuant to NYC SCA Act, they were required to give notice that this plan was being filed to CB8 with a response deadline of 5/25/22. Notification was received by CB8 on 4/11/22 and a presentation was made at the Board Meeting on May 11th. A multitude of issues were raised by members of the Board including parking for additional teachers and staff; determination of where students will come from; how much space will be left in the playground area after construction; replacement of defective boiler that has been replaced by temporary boilers for a long period of time; issues of poor water drainage during heavy storms; etc. None of the issues raised received a detailed response. As a result, the CB voted to table this proposal. On May 13th, correspondence from SCA addressed the following issues: no plan was made to provide parking for teachers; the boilers would be replaced after school re-opens after the insurance case is resolved; and the existing scaffolding (for exterior modernization and window replacement) would come down during the summer. No representative from SCA attended the June 8th meeting, and due this inadequate response, the Board did not approve the proposal.
- K. DOT – the issue of illegally parked commercial vehicles on residential streets has become an increasing nuisance to local residents in regard to parking, noise, and air pollution. A letter from Safe Neighborhoods Committee indicated that a \$65 fine for this infraction was not much of a deterrent. Research by CB8 indicates that parking a tractor trailer on residential streets between 9PM and 5AM incurs a fine of \$250 for a first offense, and \$500 for the second offense. This information was relayed by the District Manager to Deputy Inspector Chan and NCO Burke for enforcement.
- L. DOT resurfacing list for the year 2023 is available in the CB8 office.
- M. DOT has informed CB8 that installation of new lighting from non-contiguous locations must go through Capital Project Budget. Office of Management and Budget will only permit expense dollars for

new lighting. A new traffic signal was approved for 186th St & 75th Ave but is delayed waiting for new contract.

N. CB4 Brooklyn sent a letter of correspondence to DOT suggesting improvements of the “Vision Zero” approach.

1. DOT should meet with affected residents, businesses, and organizations to combine their input in formulating new collective proposals.
2. DOT planners should model these changes and make it part of their presentation.
3. Statistics presented should be comprehensive and accurate rather than presenting statistics in their best light.
4. Although it would appear this approach will delay implementing any program, the long-term result would streamline the process as input and objections have already been considered.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT request – additional street lighting on Cuomo Ave & Clio St. Has been APPROVED. To be completed in the future. (2/2/21)
- B. DOT request – speed reducers on 84th Dr between 152nd St & Parsons Blvd. Speed hump has been approved at this location to be installed when resource become available.
- C. DOT request – additional traffic controls on 160th St & 84th Dr. (6/10/21) Data collected indicates this request does not meet nationally recognized traffic standards.
- D. DOT request – improve roadway condition on Foothill Ave between Clover Pl & 193rd St. (11/18/21) This location was resurfaced in the Spring of 2021. Foothill Ave was found to be in good condition. In regard to the balance of the street, it was determined that existing asphalt pavers cannot be replaced by in-house resources. Examination indicates that pavers are in good condition.
- E. DOT request – speed hump on Foothill Ave between 191st & 193rd Sts. Inspection concluded that this location meets criteria for installation of speed reducer when funds are available.
- F. DOT request – speed hump on Foothill Ave between 197th & 198th Sts. Inspection concluded that this location meets criteria for installation of speed reducer when funds are available.
- G. DOT request – speed hump on Foothill Ave between 198th & 202nd Sts. Inspection concluded that this location meets criteria for installation of speed reducer when funds are available. Two speed humps have been APPROVED.
- H. DOT request – install speed humps on 72nd Ave between Park Drive East and Main St. Between 136th & 141st Sts meets criteria; between 141st St & Main St meets criteria; between Park Dr East and 136th St does not meet criteria as blocks are too short. To be installed when funds become available.
- I. DOT request – resurfacing 181st St between 64th Ave & Union Tpk. This is part of Project #Q2022-08011, which is currently active.
- J. DOT request – Resurfacing Utopia Pkwy between 73rd Ave & Union Tpk. (3/25/22) Has been DENIED as it has not been 5 years since the last resurfacing. However, general maintenance has been approved (See DOT#539062-N2S5; DOT#539469-N3Z3).
- K. DOT request – Resurfacing 164th St between 73rd Ave & Union Tpk. (3/25/22) Has been DENIED as it has not been 5 years since the last resurfacing. This is part of active project #SAQ2020-0805, scheduled for 2023.
- L. DOT request - Resurfacing 179th St between 73rd Ave & Union Tpk. (3/25/22) Has been DENIED as it has not been 5 years since the last resurfacing. This is part of active project #SAQ2021-0805-002, scheduled for 2023.
- M. DOT request – speed hump 84th Dr. between Parsons Blvd & 164th St. (Member Comm. Bd.) This request was DENIED by DOT June 2021 and cannot be brought back until Jan 2023. If wording for

June 2021 was for speed hump only, it would be appropriate to consider a stop sign request as an alternative.

N. DOT request – for countdown timer on 75th Ave and Utopia Pkwy to allow blind church member to cross safely without assistance. This was requested two years ago. Response from Andrew Arcese from DOT indicates that the audible signal was installed.

O. DOT request – All-way stop sign at Rabbinical Seminary of America, 76th Ave & 147th St. Individual. This request was forwarded to DOT on behalf of this individual by the Office of NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. Assigned case #DOT547719-RFH2. A traffic study was done at this location 5/12/16, DOT#342243-F6Y8. Request was DENIED as did not meet criteria (crash data collected 10/31/15-10/31/18 yielded too few car accidents). Reconsideration is requested. (*See V.J*)

P. DOT request – re-naming 164th Pl and Goethals Ave as a tribute to late Detective Raymond Abar. Was unanimously APPROVED by CB8.

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

A. Request NYPD enforcement at PS131, 170-45 84th Ave. Parents double and triple park and make illegal u-turns when dropping off/picking up their children. (Chairman CB8 & Principal of PS131)

B. Request urgent traffic study at the intersection of Utopia Pkwy and HHE near Francis Lewis H.S. to improve students' safety while crossing. Numerous accidents and 'near misses' have been reported. (Principal Francis Lewis HS)

C. DOT Request – to convert 168th St to one-way operation between 73rd Ave & HHE. (Individual) Was DENIED by this committee. District Manager requested NYPD enforcement. It was further recommended that school buses line up on 73rd Ave rather than on 168th St to relieve congestion at dismissal time.

D. DOT request – to study and extend the timing of left turn signals at Union Tpk & Francis Lewis Blvd.

E. DOT request – streetlight study on Francis Lewis Blvd between Union Tpk & GCP. There are pedestrian safety concerns due to poor lighting.

F. DOT request – All-way stop sign on 81st Ave & 170th St. DENIED more than two years ago. (DOT#4039210-C8Y4). Reconsideration is requested.

G. DOT request – daylighting SW corner Goethals Ave & 166th St. DENIED 7/14/19 (DOT#407335-V9C6). Reconsideration is requested as this location is more congested with traffic than it was in 2019.

H. DOT request – alternate side parking on 188th St between Soho Dr & McLaughlin Ave. Correspondence sent to individual indicating that mechanical broom service is generally limited to commercial areas. It must then be approved based on need and resources available. The request is then sent to DOT to change regulations. This is rarely done for one block at the request of an individual. If they want to pursue this, a signed petition from the majority of the residents needs to be submitted.

I. DOT request – a speed hump has been installed on EB Goethals Ave. This information was provided by the community. The following correspondence was sent to DOT: "it was made clear to us a few years ago that Community Boards had been excluded from the vetting process. I did not anticipate that we would be excluded from notification as well. Was that an oversight? This letter from former DOT Commissioner read: that we would be notified when a speed bump is being requested, studied, and once it was approved." This was not done.

J. Correspondence to DOT requesting tentative resurfacing schedules for our district which has ceased since April 2018. Request to reactivate notification was sent both to Borough Planner Andrew Arcesi and Assistant Commissioner Albert Silvestri in April 2022. (We have started to receive notifications) (*See II.L*)

K. DOT request – Additional Street lumen study at Jewel Ave between 136th St & 141st St.

L. MTA – correspondence in response to letter dated 12/21/21, denying moving the Q25/34 bus stop in front of 82-30 Parsons Blvd to the North side of the driveway. Request to re-visit issue as the "T"

building across the street has not operated as a medical center in over 10 years. Our request was not to eliminate the stop only to shift it to the other side of the driveway. The proposed bus zone would lead to minimal loss of parking spaces as there is a fire hydrant present. While no one complained in over a decade, the residents are complaining now. Finally, most importantly, this change would benefit residents who currently cannot exit the communal driveway safely due to buses in the way.

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT request –repair of pedestrian pathway located near 73rd Terrace between 136th & 137th Sts. (CB8 Member)
- B. DOT request – daylighting at the following locations (Assemblywoman Nily Rozic):
 - 1. 67th Ave & 170th St
 - 2. 67th Ave & 171st St
 - 3. 67th Ave & 180th St
 - 4. 75th Ave & 171st St
- C. DOT request – relief from speeding on 75th Ave between Utopia Pkwy & 164th St. Speed camera recommended by Mid Queens Community Council. (KG Hills Tenants Assoc., & member Trans Comm)
- D. DOT request – safety improvement at the intersection of 68th Dr & 136th St. There is major congestion during rush hours as this street is used as a bypass to Jewel Ave. (Individual)
- E. DOT request – speed camera at PS26 Rufus King School on 69th Ave in Fresh Meadows (Individual and Council Member Linda Lee).
- F. DOT request – traffic signal on 75th Ave & 174th St. (Individual)
- G. MTA request – the bus stop on SE corner Union Tpk @Utopia Pkwy be moved across the street to the SW corner of Union to reduce congestion at medical building. (Previous District Manager)
- H. DOT request – repaving 84th Rd between Main St & Landers St. This has not been repaved in at least 24 years. (Individual)
- I. DOT request – temporary suspension of alternate side street parking on Dalny Rd between Somerset & Hillside Ave, and Eton St between Somerset & Wexford Terr. while Nat’l Grid replaces the gas lines. (Member CB8)
- J. DOT request – All-way stop sign 76th Ave & 147th St. (*See III.O*)
- K. DOT request – daylighting @180th St & 69th Ave. Although this request was denied in 2021, conditions have deteriorated. The last accident was on 5/22/22. Reconsideration is requested. (Individual)
- L. DOT request – resurfacing 197th St between 73rd Ave & 69th Ave. (Member CB8)
- M. DOT request – repaving 78th Rd between Union Tpk & 147th St. (Member Trans. Comm.)
- N. DOT request – resurfacing 188th St from 73rd Ave to GCP service road. (District Manager)
- O. DOT request – additional streetlights at Francis Lewis Blvd & Foothill Ave. On 5/22/22, twenty-two vehicles were vandalized while parked on Foothill Ave. Although high-definition cameras were operating, NYPD could make no ID of the perpetrators as a result of inadequate street lighting. (Pres. Hilltop Village)
- P. DOT request – daylighting on both the North and South sides of 82nd Rd at 168th St. (Member Trans. Comm.)
- Q. DOT request – repaint East and West crosswalks at 168th St & Goethals Ave. (Member Trans. Comm.)
- R. DOT request – resurfacing 85th Ave. from 150th St. to Parsons Blvd. (Individual).
- S. DOT request – resurfacing 84th Dr. from 151st St. to Parsons Blvd. (Individual).
- T. DOT request – resurfacing 151st Street from 84th Dr. to 85th Ave. (Individual).
- U. DOT request – daylighting on Dalny Road from Radnor Street to Wexford Terrace (Member Trans. Comm.).