

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Maria DeInnocentis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Tami Hirsch, Alan Ong. Also in attendance: Jatnna Reyes - CB#8 Staff.

I. DOT PRESENTATION

A. Improved Pedestrian Safety Report on Homelawn St. & GCP.

POSTPONED TO THE FALL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. DOT – request to improve Ponding condition on Salerno Ave between Dunton St & Clio St has been added to the Capital Budget for 2022 as item #25 with tracking #408202225C.

B. Correspondence from NYC BAR Committee on Transportation – requesting support for BQE reconstruction. They are asking for NYC Council oversight hearings on the present state of BQE replacement. Sixty-five-year-old cantilevered bridge is suffering from water and salt infiltration “punch troughs” of the deck have been noted, wire mesh screens have been hung beneath vulnerable joints to protect cars and pedestrians below from falling debris. They say this is similar to the 2018 Morandi Bridge collapse in Genoa, Italy where 43 people died. They urge the city to replace the existing narrow 6-lane with a 4-lane highway.

1. This will require Federal approval. The Biden Admin. Just appointed ex-NYC Trans. Commissioner Polly Trottenberg as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. As Commissioner she led efforts to resolve the BQE question. Letter of Support to Borough Presidents and elected officials is requested.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REBUILDING DETERIORATING BQE CANTILEVERED OVERHANG IS APPROVED. AS A RESULT OF HIGH TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THIS LOCATION, THE COMMITTEE OPPOSES ANY REDUCTION IN TRAFFIC LANES FROM 3 TO 2.

C. MTA - 24-hour service on the subway was reinstated on May 17, 2021.

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY JUNE 10, 2021 MTA WILL DISCONTINUE BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE INSTITUTED TO ASSIST LATE NIGHT PASSENGERS IN ARRIVING AT THEIR DESTINATIONS.

D. DOT – correspondence from Fresh Meadows Tenant Assoc. President – complaining that cars are racing and doing “donuts” in Fresh Meadows commercial parking lot and driving loudly and wildly on 188th St. and on Francis Lewis Blvd. (*See II. F*)

PROPRIATORS OF LOCAL SHOPPING CENTERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING ALL ENTRANCES AND EXITS TO PARKING LOTS WHEN THE SHOPPING CENTER IS CLOSED.

E. DOT – The Mayor has announced additional reduction of speed limits on high-crash corridors citywide to 25MPH.

1. Currently, school zone cameras are in operation 6am-10pm on weekdays. Mayor proposes making cameras operational 24/7.

2. Since July 2019, DOT has installed cameras in 750 school zones with 1300 speed cameras active, with the goal of 2000 active cameras by the end of 2021. Speeding has been reduced by 17% where cameras are active and injuries down by 7%. New regulations will have expanded cameras with a radius of 1/4 mile from a school rather than limited to streets abutting the school. Fee violations remain at \$50 and are issued to those who exceed the posted limit by 10 MPH.

F. DOT – summary of active bills in NYC Legislature:

1. A579 (Rozic) / S77 (Hoylman) Furious Act: “Fighting Underground Racing in our Streets Act” – this law will permit the city to operate speed cameras at any time in a School Speed Zone (See E. 1 above). Complaints of drag racing are 5 times higher than in 2019.

LETTER OF SUPPORT IS AUTHORIZED; APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE MUST BE POSTED THAT SPEED LIMIT IS IN EFFECT 24 HOURS PER DAY ON ALL AFFECTED STREETS.

2. A7765 (Rozic) / S6557 (Liu) Reckless Driving in or Upon Off Street Parking Facilities – “Willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property” in an “off street parking facility”. This affects facilities held open for use by public parking, including privately owned facilities where no fee is charged. (SEE II-D)

LETTER OF SUPPORT IS AUTHORIZED.

3. A7532 (Rosenthal D.) / S6057 (Gounardes) – will impose liability on owners of vehicles who fail to comply with vehicle sound limits. They propose to establish a noise camera demonstration in the five boroughs. Noise complaints have increased by more than 4 times from 2019. During this time, car and motorcycle owners have made modifications to the muffler and exhaust system in order to increase noise pollution. Noise cameras have been deployed in London & Singapore to catch violators.

LETTER OF SUPPORT IS AUTHORIZED CB8 TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS AMENDING THIS BILL TO INCLUDE MEASURING NOISE LEVELS WITH ANNUAL INSPECTIONS. NOISE POLLUTION VIOLATORS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RENEW REGISTRATION IF THEY FAIL THE NOISE INSPECTION.

G. MTA – is planning to revise the base evening subway schedules of these lines to facilitate the movement of work trains needed for ongoing and upcoming capital projects and maintenance work around the system on B, D, N, Q, and R Lines. Subway Schedule Changes Effective Fall 2021.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT – Ponding condition 189th St & 81st Ave. - has been mitigated by installing new catch basin.

B. DOT – installation of 5 speed humps on Park Drive East between 72nd & 77th Ave have been completed. Residents have noticed a slowing down of vehicles. They are now requesting additional speed humps between 72nd Ave & 136th St.

1. DOT will return next year to complete Park Dr. East to the North.

2. DOT installed a traffic signal at Park Dr. E. and 136th St.

3. Traffic calming device has been scheduled for installation by Mauro Park.

UPDATE OF THE NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL STATUS AT THIS LOCATION IS REQUESTED.

C. DOT request – resurface 194th St between Union Tpk & 75th Ave. Project #FAQ2021-08-06 was scheduled for spring 2021.

D. DOT request by individual – angle-parking 87th Ave. has been DENIED numerous times. A Letter of No-Objection from the FDNY was requested but not presented. Individual would like to meet with Councilman Grodenchik.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS OPPOSED TO THIS REQUEST UNLESS FDNY SENDS AN OFFICIAL LETTER INDICATING THAT THERE IS NO ISSUE WITH TURNING FIRE ENGINES AT THIS LOCATION. DOT AGREED TO INSTALL A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CIRCLE TO PREVENT RESIDENTS FROM PARKING IN THE CENTER OF THE CUL-DE-SAC UNTIL FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A PERMANENT CONCRETE STRUCTURE. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION IS REQUESTED.

E. DOT – Update on improvements on 188th St between HHE & 69th Ave.

1. Signalize all legs of traffic circle at 188th St & 64th Ave. **NOT DONE.**

2. Expand median tips at the NE and South legs. **IN PROGRESS.**

3. Install Pedestrian Island on West leg. **DONE.**

4. Add pedestrian crossing across South leg. **IN PROGRESS.**

5. Upgrade all existing pedestrian ramps to be ADA compliant. **DONE.**

6. Install markings for two lanes through the circle in both directions. **NOT DONE.**

7. Install left-turn-only lane on the North leg. **NOT DONE.**

F. DOT – Traffic signal has been approved for 188th St & Avon Rd. to stop cars from blocking the intersection. **NOT DONE.**

G. DOT- request for Traffic Signal at McLaughlin Ave. and Palo Alto Street has been assigned case number DOT-492201-G7X0. **NOT DONE.**

H. DOT- request for speed camera at 170th St. between Goethals and Union Turnpike has been approved.

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THIS INSTALLATION IS REQUESTED.

I. DOT- repaving of Foothill Ave., Clover Pl., and Clover Hill Rd. has been tentatively approved for the end of 2021. **NOT DONE.**

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

A. DOT – a “Green Street” has been installed in the parking lane in front of 75-04147th St & 137-51 75th Rd. This construction took away 2 parking spaces on blocks where parking is at a premium in KGH. No notice was given to CB8, no opportunity for input was provided. It is requested that DOT identify all locations where Green Streets are to be planned and forwarded to the affected Community Board. It should be considered that Greens Streets are placed in No Standing Zones to prevent removal of needed parking. (*See V. D*)

B. DOT – request DOT study for stop sign at 69th Ave & 185th St. New traffic study is requested since it has been more than 18 months since the last request. (*See V. B*) **APPROVED.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

A. DOT request – Daylighting on the east side of 65th Ave & 180th St. across from Utopia Jewish Center. Member Trans. Comm.

DAYLIGHTING ON THE SE CORNER OF 65TH AVE IS APPROVED.

- B. DOT request – stop sign on 185th & 69th Ave. (*See IV. B*) Member Trans. Comm. **APPROVED.**
- C. DOT request – Clover Pl. is mapped as a city street. BSA application by Holliswood Hospital owner is asking permission to build in part of this area. Holliswood Civic Assoc. is asking Trans Comm. input on this application.

THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN TABLED UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS RECEIVED FROM THE APPLICANT IN WRITING OR IN PERSON AT THE FALL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A PAPER STREET HAS BEEN FILED WHERE STREETS HAVE BEEN MAPPED BUT NOT PAVED INDICATING WHERE STREETS ARE ANTICIPATED IN A NEW CONSTRUCTION DRAWING. THE BUILDER MAY BE REQUIRED TO CARRY THE EXPENSE OF THIS PAVING. IN ADDITION, THE PLOT DIAGRAM (DEPT. BUILDINGS JOB NO. 421797666) SHOWS A SINGLE ENTRANCE AND EXIST FROM THE DEVELOPMENT ON TO PALERMO ST. HOLLISWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION IS PROPOSING A NEW SOUTH BOUND EXIT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLOVER HILL DR. AND CLOVER HILL PL. SUCH AN ALTERATION WOULD AFFECT THE ENTIRE TRAFFIC FLOW INFRASTRUCTURE AND INPUT FROM AFFECTED RESIDENCES SURROUNDING THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AND CB#8.

- D. DOT request – return of parking 75-04 147th St (*See IV. A*) Individual **SEE CORRESPONDENCE FROM CB#8 TO DOT (IV-A). CONCRETE CURBS AND PLANTINGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED MAKING THIS CONSTRUCTION PERMANENT. A LETTER OF EXPLANATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THE REQUEST INDICATING THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE CONSTRUCTION BUT BASED ON HIS NOTIFICATION AND OUR CORRESPONDENCE WITH DOT WE WILL TRY TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN WITHOUT INPUT FROM AFFECTED RESIDENTS AND CB#8.**

- E. DOT request – Speed camera on Union Tpk (Eastbound) between 164th St and Utopia Pkwy. Member Trans. Comm. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

- F. TLC – request Letter of No Objection for NOVAK Global Inc, DBA Skyway Car Service, 77-35 164th St, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366.

“LETTER OF NO OBJECTION” IS APPROVED WHEN CAR SERVICE PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION OF WHERE THEIR OFF-SERVICE VEHICLES ARE STORED.

- G. DOT request for safety improvement at the intersection of 141st St. and 73rd Ave. Median ends before crosswalk, vehicles are turning before the end of the block in the crosswalk endangering pedestrians (individual).

DONE-SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AT THIS LOCATION. THE CENTER MEDIAN HAS BEEN EXTENDED WITH A “ZEBRA STRIPE” FROM THE MEDIAN TO THE END OF THE CROSS WALK TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS AND A HATCHED LANE HAS BEEN INSTALLED TO ASSIST DRIVERS IN MAKING THE TURN.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 P.M.