

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:MINUTES-TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020

Virtual Video Conference on Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Maria DeInocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Tammy Hirsch, Paul Lazaukas also present Marie Adam-Ovide CB#8 District Manager, Jattna Reyes CB#8, Kristen Jeffries for NYC Council Member Rory Lancman, Susan Seinfeld for NYC Council Member Barry Grodenchik, Andrew Arcese NYC DOT Borough Planner, Chelsea Gill-James NYC DOT, Patrick Dougherty MTA Bus Planning, Kyle Gebhart NYC DOT, Nolan Levenson NYC DOT, Avraham Metal NYC DOT, Unidentified residents: Carol Baskin, Joe exotic.

I. **Presentation by NYC DOT**: Transit and Safety Improvements for the intersection of Main St. & Union Tpk.

- A. Mayor 2019 mandate to improve bus speeds by 20-25% across all boroughs.
 1. To improve pedestrian safety and decrease bus congestion at this busy intersection.
 2. This location is one of 24 priority projects
 3. Affected bus routes Q44 SBS (Bronx-Jamaica Queens), Q20 A/B (Jamaica- College Point). These routes carry 33-44% of northbound traffic during rush hours.
 - a. 4% ridership increase on the Q44 vs 1% increase citywide
 - b. To reduce bunching and improve scheduling adherence
 - c. Bus lanes have improved bus travel time by 12%
 4. This location has documented 119 injuries 2013-2017 with 10 severe injuries.
 5. Buses carry 11,500 riders daily 5,000 northbound and 6,500 southbound
- B. Proposed Improvements for the intersection of Main St. & Union Tpk.
 1. Paint or concrete median tip extensions to provide pedestrian refuge, shorten crossing distances and add traffic calming benefits.
 2. Remove left turn lane (11 sec) at Main St. Southbound to go eastbound onto Union TPK.
 - a. Southbound traffic on Main St. will be diverted east bound on residential side streets at 73rd Ave., 75th Rd., 76th Rd., and 77th Rd. Motorist will then turn southbound to Union Tpk at 147th St., 150th St, or Parsons Blvd. to proceed eastbound
 - b. Vehicles approaching Main St. eastbound from 78th Ave. will be required to turn right on the GCP service road westbound and enter Union Tpk. near the Kew Motor Inn parking lot.
 3. 11 sec. time removed from the Main St. southbound left turn lane will be added to northbound Main St. right turn lane to provide 22 seconds of motorist turning onto Union Tpk eastbound.
 4. Middle lane will be given as a shared lane between buses and bike riders. Remaining left lane will be used for through traffic
 5. Bus Stop Lanes will be extended from 8 to 10 feet.
- C. Input from CB#8, elected officials and residents is requested in Spring 2020, implementation of plan is scheduled end of 2020.
- D. Transportation Committee cannot provide a letter of support for the proposed bus speed improvement proposal at this time.
 1. The committee is concerned with increased motorist congestion and safety concerns to residents on side streets.

2. The committee suggest that DOT consider increasing the overall traffic light cycling with extra turning time added at all turn signals.
3. The committee has no objection to the proposed pedestrian safety improvements.
4. A public hearing for all affected residents is recommended
5. After public hearing, recommendations will be offered to DOT for consideration at the next transportation committee meeting.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. NYS Assemblyman David Weprin to DOT – request one-way conversion of Palermo St. between McLaughlin Ave. & Palo Alto St. Street is narrow and curvy, impossible to see cars coming in the opposite direction. (see III-P)

1. Letter of objection to this change has been received from Holliswood Civic Association.

B. NYC Councilman Barry Grodenchik to DOT on behalf of principal of PS/IS 178Q (189-10 Radnor Rd.) – request “NO U-TURN” sign, illegal u-turns at the school’s rear entrance on Avon Rd. are endangering students. **IT IS BELIEVED THAT MANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS MAKING ILLEGAL U-TURNS ARE PARENTS PICKING UP OR DISCHARGING STUDENTS. NYPD ENFORCEMENT IS REQUESTED. PARENTS OF STUDENTS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BY THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO INITIATION OF ENFORCEMENT.**

C. Senator Leroy Comrie, NYS Assemblyman David Weprin, and NYC Councilman Rory Lancman to DOT – request feasibility study for traffic calming device and a westbound one-way conversion for Highland Ave. between 162nd St. & Parsons Blvd. to improve student safety in front of Hillcrest High School. Pedestrians and students have been injured by speeding vehicles. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ENDORSES DOT STUDY.**

D. DOT is offering opportunities to open franchise concessions in designated licensed plazas. Review committee will negotiate concession agreements in regard to food, drink, locally manufactured products and merchandise in approved pedestrian plazas. Interested parties should mail requests to: NYC Dept Trans Office of Cityscape and Franchises, Attn: Concessions, 55 Water St, 9th Fl. New York, NY 10041. (212) 839-6550; or email: Concessions@DOT.NYC.GOV.

E. DOT Informational Hearing held January 30, 2020 at Hillcrest Jewish Center concerning Downtown Jamaica Transportation Study to convert 168th St to two-way operation between Hillside Ave & GCP. Meeting called to order by Kevin Forrestal

1. DOT indicates 168th Pl between 84th Ave & GCP is too narrow for two-way traffic with parking on both sides. Two-way traffic would require elimination of 77 parking spaces (Mon-Fri 7am-7pm). This alternative would relieve congestion on adjacent streets. In addition, there are 47 private driveways that could make up the parking deficit if each driveway held two cars.
2. Keeping 168th Pl. one-way Southbound. This alternative would congest adjacent streets, but no loss of parking spaces. Residents have expressed serious concern over loss of parking spaces.
3. Residents of 168th Pl. suggest reconfiguration of 168th St., 169th St., and Highland Ave.

4. Results of public hearing indicate additional study is required.
5. An opportunity for comments from Meeting Chair Kevin Forrestal is being offered.

AREA/MEETING CHAIR EMPHASIZED THAT RESIDENTS STRONGLY OBJECT TO ANY DOT PLAN THAT REDUCES ON-STREET PARKING.

- F. DOT Travel Advisory: Eastbound GCP Exit#14, Union Tpk & Main St – Lane diversion expected from Jan 25 – Dec 31, 2020. **EXIT LANE IS CURRENTLY BEING ROUTED ONTO UNION TURNPIKE.**
- G. MTA Scheduled Revisions April 2020: there will be 41 bus route changes. A complete listing of the changes is available in CB8 office.
- H. OMNY Public Transit Contactless Fare Payment System is coming to the MTA by the end of March in NYC. The System accepts direct payment from major credit cards as well as digital wallets such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, & FitBit Pay. When complete, this form of payment will be accepted on all buses and trains. Expected date of completion is the end of 2021. Metro cards are expected to be phased out by 2023.
- I. MTA double sanitizing efforts began on March 11 to disinfect stations twice daily to help stop spread of COVID-19.
- J. MTA proposal for Queens Bus Redesign – input from multiple area meetings were scheduled to be summarized at an informational hearing on March 16th. As a result of mandated large group restrictions, the meeting was indefinitely postponed. MTA has agreed not to implement redesign changes until this meeting is held and CB#8 board members have an opportunity to provide input.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT request for temporary suspension of “No Parking” in front of Young Israel of Hillcrest, Jewel Ave 169th-170th Sts. Has been APPROVED.
1. The 107th Pct has been contacted to do a vector analysis for bollard installation as a permanent solution.
 2. Borough Engineering Division is “open to doing this” but will only proceed with a letter of support from NYPD Counterterrorism Unit.
 3. NYPD-the report clearly understands and approves the need for bollards and curb protection to installed and paid by the synagogue.
 4. Local politicians have been contacted to determine if public funding is available and if bollards must be installed around the entire synagogue perimeter.

NO PARKING SIGNS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SYNAGOGUE ENTRANCE.

COST ESTIMATE FOR BOLLARDS AT SYNAGOGUE ENTRANCES IS \$100,000 AND BOLLARDS AROUND THE ENTIRE PERIMETER IS \$400,000. THE CONCEPT OF SPEED HUMPS TO REDUCE VEHICLE SPEED WAS DISCUSSED WITH YIOH COMMITTEE CHAIR. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SPEED HUMPS WILL CHANGE VECTOR ANALYSIS AND REDUCE THE INSTALLATION COST AS CARS WILL HIT THE BOLLARDS AT REDUCED SPEEDS. THE DRAWBACKS OF SPEED HUMPS TO RESIDENTS AND PARISHIONERS WAS DISCUSSED. THE SYNAGOGUE COMMITTEE WILL ADVISE US ON HOW THEY WISH TO

PROCEED. IF NECESSARY, AFFECTED RESIDENTS WILL BE POLLED TO DETERMINE IF INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS HAVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

- B. DOT request – for additional traffic controls at the intersection of 193rd St. & Aberdeen Rd., and 193rd St. & 81st Ave. DENIED as traffic condition did not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering safety standards. (*See IV. B*)
- C. DEP – sinkhole depression at 135-40 77th Ave. has been restored to grade. **DONE, PATCH IS NOT SMOOTH ADDITONAL ASPHALT IS NEEDED.**
- D. Redesign of Jewel Ave. from Queens Blvd to Utopia Pkwy – Individual reports that increasing use for cyclists will endanger both cyclists and motorists. Member Trans Comm. states that DOT cannot make any recommendation without regard to effect on traffic flow. Two main thoroughfares are Queens Blvd. & Union Tpk. - decreasing traffic lane width will decrease traffic flow and increase congestion. **DOT STUDY RESULTS ON THIS TRAFFIC CORRIDOR IS REQUESTED.**
- E. DOT – construction of traffic circle on 87th Dr. off 188th St. – DOT has APPROVED zebra stripe markings to facilitate turn clearance for emergency vehicles. No parking is permitted around the striping. The current plan calls for paint. If additional funds become available, granite blocks or barriers will be installed. NYPD enforcement for parking offences is recommended. **NOT DONE, CARS CONTINUE TO PARK IN THE CENTER OF THE CUL-DU-SAC.**
- F. DOT – installation of two Speed Humps on 75th Ave. between 194th & 195th Sts, and 196th St. & 196th Pl. President of West Cunningham Civic Assoc. representing 1200 homeowners, “strongly believe that no speed humps should be installed on 75th Ave.” List of objections are enclosed. (*See IV.E*)
- G. DOT traffic signal at Park Drive East & 136th St – was investigated by DOT and APPROVED for installation. To be completed by the end of January 2020. **DONE**
- H. DEP – sunken catch basin @81-03 188th St. – was repaired January 17, 2020. **DONE**
- I. DOT request – “Do Not Enter” signage at the intersection of Fresh Meadow Lane and 65th Ave. DOT study indicates signage is appropriate; however, signs need to be adjusted to enhance visibility. To be completed by Feb. 28, 2020. **DONE**
- J. DOT request – bus shelter East & West on 188th St. & 64th Ave. Maximum number of shelters (3500) under contract with J.C. Decaux is almost complete. Request kept on file to be installed if possible.
- K. DOT request – marking adjustments to Parsons Blvd. & 168th St. overpass (over GCP) – Dual left-turn in both directions is not feasible. DOT has installed “No Standing” during Peak rush hours to alleviate congestion. Signal timing at these locations has been adjusted to ease traffic flow. **PARSONS BLVD. DONE (“NO STANDING”AND “WAIT FOR GREEN LIGHT” SIGNAGE INSTALLED). 168TH St. DONE (LEFT TURN SIGNAL INSTALLED TO GO WESTBOUND ON THE GCP SERVICE ROAD).**
- L. DOT request – additional traffic control at 73rd Terrace & Park Drive East. DENIED as traffic condition did not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering safety standards. This is in front of Mauro Park. Traffic Signals Study Report was done during rush hours. Traffic signals were requested in order to minimize danger to children and carriages crossing street to use the park. **THIS STUDY SHOULD BE REDONE AND TAKE PLACE AFTER SCHOOL HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS WHEN PARK HAS MAXIMUM UTILIZATION.**
- M. DOT request – All- Way Stop Signs at 85th Ave. & Chapin Pkwy. DOT-403921-M3Y8. (6/10/19) This request was DENIED. Reconsideration was requested on 10/15/19. As a result, additional signage was approved, to be completed by 3/31/2020. **DONE**
- N. DOT request – Daylighting at select corners along 64th Ave. between 183rd & 185th Sts. to accommodate turn clearance of larger vehicles which are driving over the median curb. APPROVED to be completed by the end of June 2020. **183RD ST. NE CORNER HAS A PUMP, SE CORNER HAS**

SIGNAGE, 184TH STREET SIGNAGE BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET, 185TH STREET PUMP ON NE CORNERS, W CORNER HAS SIGNAGE.

O. DOT request for additional traffic control device at the intersection of 73rd Ave. and 193rd St. DENIED as traffic condition did not meet nationally recognized traffic engineering safety standards. There are no changes in condition since last time it was studied.

P. DOT-NYS Assemblyman David Weprin's request for one-way conversion of Palermo St. between McLaughlin Ave. & Palo Alto St. Street is denied (see II-A) investigation indicates low volume of traffic and low accident reports.

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

A. DOT request – left turn signal at the intersection Charlecote Ridge & Homelawn St. (7/8/19). Under DOT -426389-R3J2. Waiting for response from DOT.

- B. DOT request – speed humps on 193rd St. (DOT-297198-H8P1) from Union Tpk. to Radnor Rd.
1. Union Tpk. & 81st Ave. (DOT-327413-Q4H1) – 15 postcards sent: 1 opposed, 7 in favor
 2. 81st Ave. & Aberdeen Rd. (DOT-337212-Q2B0) - 13 postcards sent: 5 opposed, 4 in favor
 3. Aberdeen Rd. & Radnor Rd. (DOT-348198-C8X7) - 4 postcards sent: 1 opposed, 2 in favor

All requests were denied for insufficient community support. (*See III.B*)

C. DOT request – speed humps on 73rd Ave. (DOT-310331-Z4P8) from 175th St. to Utopia Pkwy. 26 postcards sent: 1 in favor, 9 opposed. Request denied for insufficient community support.

D. DOT request – speed humps on 73rd Ave. (DOT-310331-Z4P8) from 174th to 175th St. 16 postcards sent: 2 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

E. DOT request – speed humps on 75rd Ave. (DOT-340275-B2R7) from 196th St & 196th Pl. 4 postcards sent: 0 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support. (*See III.F*)

F. DOT-GCP Service Road Westbound and 164th St. – letter of support was sent to DOT that the concrete refuge be extended and widened to allow pedestrians a safe place to stand when unable to complete street crossing. Scheduled for completion by summer 2020. **NOT DONE**

G. DOT request – speed humps on Chevy Chase St. (DOT-333403-Q8J5) from Hovenden to Cambridge Rd. 27 postcards sent: 5 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

H. DOT request – speed humps on Coolidge Ave. (DOT-333361-V8T3) from Main St. to Daniel St. 7 postcards sent: 1 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

I. DOT request – speed humps on Coolidge Ave. (DOT-333361-V8T3) from 150th St. to Parsons Blvd. 50 postcards sent: 11 in favor, 10 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

J. DOT request – speed humps on Coolidge Ave. (DOT-333361-V8T3) from Smedley St to 150th St. 67 postcards sent: 5 in favor, 18 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

K. DOT request – speed humps on 85th Rd. from McLaughlin Ave. & 193rd St. 37 postcards sent: 7 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 returned. Request denied for insufficient community support.

L. DOT request – speed humps on Cedarcroft Rd. from Homelawn St. & Kingston Pl. 60 postcards sent: 4 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 returned. Office also sent 70 letters with self-addressed stamped postcards to residents of 170-49 Cedarcroft Rd. by certified mail. Request denied for insufficient community support. **DOT STUDY TO INSTALL A STOP SIGN ON CEDARCROFT RD. AT KINGSTON PL. IS REQUESTED.**

V. **NEW REQUESTS**

A. DOT request – 81st Ave change from 2-way to 1-way operation from 164th to 170th Sts. Major thoroughfare to Queens General Hosp, and a lot of traffic from St. John’s Univ. The request was accompanied by a petition with 11 names. **STREET NARROWS BETWEEN 168TH AND 170TH STREET, THE ISSUE IS ST. JOHN STUDENTS SPEEDING WHILE LOOKING FOR PARKING. REFER TO AREA CHAIR FOR RECOMMENDATION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION MEETING.**

B. DOT request – Daylighting on all corners of 174th St and 75th Ave. to improve visibility and safety. Individual. This request was forwarded to all local politicians and the 107th Pct. **DAYLIGHTING ON 174TH STREET SE AND SW CORNER IS APPROVED.**

C. DOT request – Daylighting GCP Eastbound Service Rd and 172nd St. (SW corner 172 St and SW corner GCP). Cars can’t see oncoming traffic on service road when turning. Individual. **DAYLIGHTING ON THE SW CORNER OF GCP WB SERVICE ROAD IS APPROVED.**

D. DOT request – co-naming the street at the corner of Union Tpk. & Utopia Pkwy. (SW corner of Union) to “St. John’s Way” in honor of the University’s 150th anniversary accompanied by letter of support from one of the affected merchants. Member CB8. **ADDING A SIGN “ST. JOHNS WAY” BENEATH THE UNION TURNPIKE SIGN IS APPROVED FOR THE SW CORNER.**

E. DOT request – installation of traffic signal at the intersection of 85th Dr. and Burden Crescent. Motorists ignore stop signs; danger to pedestrians and children. Individual. **DOT STUDY FOR A “STOP SIGN” AT THIS LOCATION IS APPROVED.**

F. TLC – request for Letter of No Objection to renewal of base license for Skyway Car Service Express Inc., 68-20 Fresh Meadow Lane, Fr. Mead., NY. License #B01332. Off-street parking agreement enclosed. No complaints. Letter of No Objection sent Dec 4, 2019.

G. TLC – request for Letter of No Objection to renewal of base license for La Nueva Quisqueya Car Service, 87-38 148th St, Jamaica, NY. 11435 License #B01626. Off-street parking agreement enclosed. No complaints. Letter of No Objection sent Dec 6, 2019.

H. TLC – request for Letter of No Objection to renewal of base license for Park Eagle, DBA Jewel Car Service, 72-55 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11367. License #B01128. Off-street parking agreement enclosed. No complaints. Letter of No Objection sent Dec 13, 2019.

I. TLC – request for Letter of No Objection to renewal of base license for PJ Car Service, 205-25 Hillside Ave, Hollis, NY. License #B00984 expires 3/31/20. Off street parking agreement enclosed. Complaint against this company was made by member of CB8. He indicated that driver was not properly licensed, held him against his will and did not drop him off at his requested destination. This incident occurred approx one year ago. Clarification requested from member of CB8 as well as response from PJ Car Service before determination of Letter of No Objection can be issued.

1. Affidavit report of the incident was provided by affected member of CB#8 (affidavit is available in CB#8 office).

NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS TO THIS VENDOR WENT UNANSWERD; WE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO MESSAGES LEFT ON THEIR ANSWERING MACHINE. A VISIT TO THE KIOSK SHOWED THAT THE CAR SERVICE IS CLOSED AT THIS TIME. IT COULD BE DUE TO COVID-19 SOCIAL SEPARATION OR THE CAR SERVICE WENT OUT OF BUSINESS.

THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED OVER THE MEMBER’S REPORT AND CAN NOT ISSUE A LETTER OF NO OBJECTION TO LICENSE RENEWAL AT THIS TIME. IN ORDER TO ISSUE THE REQUESTED LETTER, THE COMMITTEE REQUIRES DOCUMENTATION THAT ALL THEIR PARTICIPATING CABS HAVE TLC LICENSE PLATES, AND A DOCUMENT

LISTING ALL EMPLOYED DRIVERS AND ASSOCIATED VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM