

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES: MONDAY, SEPT. 23, 2019

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum Chair, Susan Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, CB8; also present: Izabela Szczepanska, NYSDOT Inter-Governmental Outreach Consultant Thomas Bayer, NYSDOT Project Manager Nasim Shani, NYSDOT Section Leader Supervisor Richard Stempel, Jacobs Construction Transportation Group Leader Michelle Jordan, Jacobs Construction Project Manager Jason Rocco.

Observers: George Fontamilla, Amanda Mathura, Clara Wajngurt.

I. Presentation by NYSDOT

A. LIE Safety Improvements between 48th St. & Little Neck Pkwy., from February 2021-March 2023:

1. Most improvements include lengthening merging lanes on (6) entrance and (6) exit ramps (4 in CB8);
Scope of work in CB8: Main Street to Francis Lewis Blvd.
2. Extend 3 acceleration entrance lanes and three deceleration exit-ramps, move curb lines, add new catch basins, relocate existing pipes and wires.
3. Improved lighting, guard rails, signs, crash impact attenuators, pavement and object markings.
4. Work will be done off peak hours with no lane closures.
5. Schedule: design 2019, approved final design summer 2020, construction begins spring 2021, construction ends 2023.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. MTA Bus Schedule Revisions fall 2019 (23 routes affected):

1. B38, BX35, Q12 are being converted to articulated buses.
2. Seven routes will have additional service; six routes will have reduced service; seven routes will have schedule changes to reflect faster travel times (Schedule available in CB8 office).

B. MTA Train Schedule Revisions fall 2019 to night-service on B, R, W, A, & C, lines.

1. W line – will stop service between Ditmars Blvd. & Whitehall Street weekdays at 9:35 p.m. instead of 10:10 p.m. Service will be picked up by N line with transfer to R line.
2. R line weekday night service will be discontinued for one trip daily between 75th Ave. & Bayridge.

C. MTA – as of Oct 7, 2019, the express bus stop at Park Pl. and Church St. will be eliminated for the QM7, QM8, QM11, and QM25.

D. MTA – Queens Bus Network Redesign of Existing Conditions:

1. Priorities include: increased reliability, shorter travel times, better connections, and easier use. 136-page document can be viewed at: www.new.mta.info/queensbusredesign/ecr

E. DOT - City School Speed Zone Camera Program effective July 11, 2019. The school speed zone cameras will be increased from 140 to 750 citywide, at a rate of 40 per month in 2019, to 60 per month in 2020. Expecting completion by June.

1. Double the speed camera hours to year-round operation weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
2. Extended camera zones will be expanded to ¼ mile radius rather than ¼ mile along an abutted street.
3. Fines will remain unchanged at \$50 for speed violation in excess of 10 mph above posted limit.
4. Vigorous notification advertising campaign was initiated June 9, 2019.

F. DOT – correspondence from Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal – All-way stop sign has been denied at the intersection of 77th Ave. & Vleigh Place. As a result of recent accidents, he is asking for DOT reconsideration. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

G. NYC Dept of Sanitation – Request by Council Member Rory Lancman to suspend Alternate Side Parking for street cleaning during construction repairs at P.S. 131. Dept. of Sanitation has approved issuing no violations from 9/9/19 – 6/20/20 on 172nd St. between 83rd & 84th Ave., and 84th Ave. between 170th & 172nd St. **NO CHANGE OR COVER UP OF ALTERNATE SIDE OF THE STREET PARKING SIGNS WERE NOTED, HOWEVER DSNY IS NOT ISSUING VIOLATIONS TO MOTORISTS WHO ARE IN VIOLATION OF THIS STATUTE.**

H. NYSDOT Construction Notice - Kew Gardens Interchange Phase IV: detour and parking removal at WB Union Tpk. near Park Dr. East.

1. Only local residents and emergency vehicles will be permitted on WB Union Tpk. service road between 138th St. & Park Dr. East. **NOT DONE.**

I. Verizon has agreed to reimburse 188th St. residents who have replaced copper water pipes connected to their homes. The Company agrees to pay for one-time replacement and a release must be signed.

1. Verizon has concluded that the damage was caused by “stray current” underground.

J. Transportation Alternatives suggest the following modifications on Queens Blvd. as the result of 8 deaths and 218 pedestrian and cyclist injuries since 2013:

1. They recommend safer crosswalks, exclusive time to cross street before cars turn, wider medians, protected bike lanes, added greenery and street furniture (such as street art and benches).

K. DOT – update on Chicane pilot project proposed for 71st Ave. between Kissena Blvd. & 150th St. (adjacent to P.S. 165). Implementation completed in August: installation of rubber (Chicane) speed humps and street markings. **STREETS ARE MARKED BUT NOT DONE.**

L. Correspondence from Council Member Rory Lancman in response to request made by one constituent for one-way conversion of 72nd Ave. between Main St. & Park Dr. East. **DENIED, THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS OPPOSED TO THIS CONVERSION. 72ND AVE. IS ONE OF ONLY 3 THROUGH STREETS TO MAIN STREET. CONVERSION OF 72ND AVE. WOULD CREATE MAJOR CONGESTION ON THE REMAINING 2 THOROUGH FARES.**

M. DOT – request Yield to Pedestrian sign or traffic signal on Homelawn St. going toward Hillside Ave., and a speed hump on Cedarcroft Rd. off Kingston St.

1. DOT has assigned tracking #429191-D8Z5 for speed hump request on Cedarcroft Rd. **DENIED.**

2. DOT has assigned tracking #429187-R7Q4 to “Yield to Pedestrian” sign on Homelawn St. & Cedarcroft Rd. **FOR DOT STUDY**

DOT will contact individual and CB8 after review.

N. DOT request – comments on the 186th St. trench restoration and reconstruction scheduled for 2021. Plans are in CB8 office. Comment period ends 2/14/20. Member Trans Comm.

O. DOT - Clearview Expressway exit #2, southbound ramp will be closed Sept. 16 to Sept. 20, 2019 for repaving. As of today, repaving is complete, they are working on striping. Ramp is open and operational. **ROADWORK AND STRIPING IS COMPLETE.**

P. Clearview Expressway exit #1 southbound to entrance of eastbound GCP is closed Sept. 18 to Sept. 25 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to facilitate bridge expansion joint replacement project.

Q. MTA announces 70 NYC transit stations are scheduled to receive \$5.5 Billion in accessibility improvements 2020-2024 to assist seniors and the disabled.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. Correspondence from resident in regard to ponding condition at 181-39 Aberdeen Rd. to Council Member Rory Lancman, State Senator John Liu, and CB8 – re-inspection and correction is requested (accompanied by photos taken on 8/29, 8/30 and 9/1/2019). **THIS LOCATION WAS INSPECTED AFTER A WEEK WITH NO RAIN, SIGNIFICANT WATER ACCUMULATION WAS NOTED WITH A BUBBLING EDDY OF WATER OBSERVED IN THE CENTER OF THE PUDDLE. THIS TYPE OF WATER ACCUMULATION IS CONSISTENT WITH BROKEN OR CRACKED WATER SUPPLY LINE GOING INTO THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE. THE HOME OWNER WAS CONTACTED AND INFORMED THAT THEY SHOULD FOLLOW UP WITH DEP.**

B. DOT request – NO TRUCK signage on 75th Ave. from 192nd St. to Utopia Pkwy. DENIED as it is the responsibility of truck and commercial vehicle drivers to be aware of designated truck routes. This is an enforcement issue. **AS THESE REQUESTS ARE ALWAYS DENIED THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SUGGESTS AN EXPLANATORY DENIAL LETTER BE SENT TO REQUEST ORIGINATOR.**

C. DOT request – Daylighting at the intersection of 69th Ave. & 198th St. (April 30, 2019). “NO STANDING” regulations already exist.

D. DOT request – Daylighting at the intersection of 69th Ave. & 199th St. (April 30, 2019). DENIED as unnecessary.

E. DOT request – Daylighting at the intersection of 73th Ave. & 198th St. (April 30, 2019). DENIED as unnecessary. **DAYLIGHTING AT THIS LOCATION SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED IN 18 MONTHS.**

- F. DOT request – additional traffic controls at the intersection of Chapin Pkwy. & 85th Ave. (1/9/19). DENIED, additional controls do not meet national standards. DOT TRAFFIC STUDY WAS UNDER TAKEN ON 4/1/19 DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. **THIS LOCATION BECOMES DANGEROUS AFTER DARK WHEN MOTORISTS DON'T CLEARLY SEE THAT THE TWO-WAY BECOMES A ONE-WAY ENTERING CHAPIN PKWY. RE-INSPECTION FOR "DO NOT ENTER" SIGNAGE SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER DARK.**
- G. DOT request – resurfacing 141st St. north and south of Union Tpk. (1/1/19) DENIED, inspection indicates this street does not meet criteria.
- H. DOT request – timing change in traffic signal at the intersection of GCP and 168th St. (1/14/19). DENIED as signals are operating properly. **IT APPEARS THAT THE TIMING OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THIS CONGESTED INTERSECTION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MODIFIED.**
- I. DOT request – additional traffic controls at the intersection of 69th Ave. & 192nd St. (2/19/19). DENIED, additional controls do not meet national standards.
- J. DOT request – daylighting at the southwest intersection of Goethals Ave. & 166th St. (2/22/19). DENIED as unnecessary. (See V.N) **DAYLIGHTING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON THE SW CORNER ON GOETHALS AVE.**
- K. DOT request – resurfacing 67th Ave. between Utopia Pkwy. & 185th St. (3/1/19). This location is included in the resurfacing schedule for Fiscal Year 2020. (See V.H)
- L. DOT request – installation of speed camera on 188th St. from 64th to 73rd Ave. near Early Childhood Education Center (4/23/19). APPROVED on 188th St. from 64th to 69th Ave. **NOT DONE YET.**
- M. DOT request – traffic controls at 84th Dr. & 152nd St. DENIED, additional controls do not meet national standards. **THIS LOCATION HAS A SCHOOL/CHURCH WITH MANY PEDESTRIANS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS. AN ALL-WAY STOP SIGN IS RECOMMENDED FOR RECONSIDERATION ASAP.**
- N. DOT request – speed hump 73rd Ave. between 174th St. & Utopia Pkwy. (2018). Have been approved for installation on 73rd Ave. between 174th & 175th St. and 175th St. and Utopia Pkwy. Installation by Sept. 24th, 2019. (See IV.F and IV.G)
- O. DOT request – All-way stop sign and daylighting on SW corner Dalny Rd & Wexford Terr. All-way stop was approved and should have been installed by 7/25/19. (See IV.B) **NOT DONE**
- P. DOT request – additional traffic controls at the intersection of 73rd Ave. & 186th & 187th St. DENIED, additional controls do not meet national standards. (CB8 requested “Stop Here” markings for this location. Since DOT does not paint marking for uncontrolled intersections, it was forwarded to Signal Division).
- Q. DOT request – speed hump on Richland Ave. between Hollis Ct. Blvd. (Hollis Hills Terrace) & 215th St. Richland Ave. between Hollis Ct. Blvd. & 208th St. meets criteria for speed hump. Between 208th St. & 215th St., numerous curb cuts prevent installation of speed humps. **(Not in our district).**
- R. DOT request – re-paving 168th St. between 73rd Ave. and eastbound LIE. Was not done as a result of conflict with utility work. This location is scheduled for resurfacing in 2020.
- S. DSNY request – Individual has requested implementation of Alternate Side Parking on the GCP Service Rd. from 166th to 168th St. (167-03 GCP SR), to permit mechanical broom street cleaning. DSNY proposed he submit a petition of all affected neighbors and that a public hearing then be held. (8/7/19). A sample petition was sent to resident by CB8 to be returned by 9/6. **NO PETITION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO DATE.**

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

- A. DOT request – Speed hump on Charlecote Ridge between Homelawn St. and Croydon Rd. Did not receive residential approval. However, a traffic signal at this location would control blocking the intersection and permit vehicles to enter Homelawn St. & Charlecote Ridge.
1. Results of resident canvassing: 29 postcards sent: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 2 returned. **RECONSIDERATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL IS REQUESTED.**
- B. DOT request – All-way stop sign and daylighting on SW corner Dalny Rd & Wexford Terr. All-way stop was approved and should have been installed by 7/25/19. *(See III.O)* **DOT SHOULD STUDY THE DAYLIGHTING REQUEST AFTER THE ALL-WAY STOP SIGN HAS BEEN INSTALLED, AS IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY.**
- C. DOT request – All-way stop sign at 67th Ave. from Fresh Meadow Lane to 164th St. **THIS REQUEST IS NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH; HOWEVER, A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD STATED THAT AN ALL-WAY STOP SIGN ON 67TH AVE. AT 174TH ST. WOULD FACILITATE CROSSING STUDENTS AT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES.**
- D. DOT request – All-way stop sign at 183rd St. & 67th Ave.
- E. DOT request – All-way stop sign at Dunton St. & Keno Ave. to improve safety as motorists are using Dunton St. to bypass Hillside Ave. to get to GCP East.
- F. DOT request – Speed hump 73rd Ave. between 175th St. & Utopia Pkwy. Results of resident canvassing: 26 postcards sent- 1 in favor, 9 opposed, none returned. *(See III.N)*
- G. DOT request – Speed hump 73rd Ave. between 174th St. & 175th St. Results of resident canvassing: 16 postcards sent- 2 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 returned. *(See III.N)*
- H. DOT request – Curb replacement only. Two locations approved: 64-54 Utopia Pkwy, and 65-44 171st St. Homeowners request confirmation from DOT that these addresses are on approved list. **THERE ARE NO CURBS IN FRONT OF THESE RESIDENCES.**
- I. DOT request – although not on the repaving list, 164th St. between Highland Ave. and GCP, has recently been re-milled. CB8 wants to know why they were not notified.
1. SW corner of 85th Ave. & 164th St., (by the curve where ponding occurs) has not been re-milled or re-graded. **DONE.**
 2. A stream of concrete was unloaded on the edge of 85th Ave. between 164th St. and Normal Rd. while making the curbs ADA compliant. When is Ferrera Cement Co., the contractor, coming back to make repairs? **DONE.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT request – Daylighting on NE & NW corner of 176th St. & 75th Ave. **INDIVIDUAL THERE IS A SCHOOL/CHURCH ON THIS BLOCK. DAYLIGHTING IS APPROVED. THERE IS A SPEED HUMP ONE BLOCK WEST ON 75TH AVE. A SECOND SPEED HUMP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF IT IS REQUESTED BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND APPROVED BY AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**
- B. DOT request – traffic calming device at the corner of 184th St. & 73rd Ave. **INDIVIDUAL DENIED**
- C. DOT request – All-way stop signs at Jewel Ave. & 170th St., and Jewel Ave. & 172nd St. (requested by Rabbis, Presidents, and members of YIH and Torah Center of Hillcrest). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY. A PETITION FROM THE AFFECTED CONGREGANTS MIGHT ASSIST DOT'S DETERMINATION.**
- D. MTA request – removal of bus stop on 188th St. & 81st Ave. **INDIVIDUAL DENIED.**
- E. DOT request – stop signs 168th St. & 82nd Rd going North & South. Member Trans Comm. **APPROVED.**
- F. MTA request – to stop posting expected arrival times at bus stops. **INDIVIDUAL DENIED.**

- G. DOT request – red light or speed camera and turn signal at the intersection of 68th Dr. & Main St. **INDIVIDUAL. DENIED.**
- H. DOT request – resurfacing 67th Ave. from Utopia Pkwy. to 185th St. Member Trans. Comm. (See III.K) **DENIED.**
- I. DOT request – stop sign or traffic signal at the intersection of 196th St. & Union Tpk. (entrance to Cunningham Park). **INDIVIDUAL. APPROVED.**
- J. DOT request – safety improvements near Ryan Middle School 216Q (request made by Principal Landau, Jr)
1. School crossing guard at 175th St. & 64th Ave, 175th St. & 65th Ave., Utopia Pkwy. & 64th Ave. **175TH ST. & 64TH AVE., 175TH ST. & 65TH AVE. HAVE CROSSING GUARDS. UTOPIA PKWY. & 64TH AVE. DOES NOT. APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
 2. DO NOT ENTER sign at the corner of Fresh Meadow Lane & 65th Ave. at the beginning of one-way street. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
 3. Street markings for crossing at 175th St. & 64th Ave, 175th St & 65th Ave, Utopia Pkwy. & 64th Ave., Fresh Meadow Lane & 65th Ave. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- K. DOT request – Daylighting at the south east & south west corner of 65th Ave. & 180th St. Member Trans. Comm. **APPROVED - PARKS DEPT. SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR TRIMMING AS TREE LEAVES OBSCURE MOTORIST VIEW OF SIGNAGE.**
- L. DOT request – resurface 181st St. – 65th Ave. to 73rd Ave. Member Trans Comm. **THIS LOCATION IS NOT IN POOR CONDITION ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME NEED TO REPAIR SECTION BETWEEN 67TH AND 69TH AVE.**
- M. MTA request – bus shelters east & west on 188th St. at the 64th Ave. Circle. Existing stops have been shifted. Member Trans. Comm. **EXISTING SHELTERS ARE BRICK AND MORTAR AND CANNOT BE MOVED. DOT SHOULD STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF INSTALLING NEW SHELTERS.**
- N. DOT request – daylighting SW corner 166th St. & Goethals Ave. Member Trans. Comm. (See III.J) **DAYLIGHTING APPROVED ON THE SW CORNER ON GOETHALS AVE.**
- O. DOT request – traffic study Vleigh Pl. between 78th Ave. & Union Tpk. for motorist and pedestrian safety at this location which is particularly congested during a.m. and p.m. rush hour **INDIVIDUAL. REMOVAL OF CURB LANE PARKING DURING RUSH HOURS IS RECOMMENDED TO PERMIT RIGHT TURN FROM TWO LANES AND DECREASE CONGESTION. THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE RESUBMITTED 18 MONTHS AFTER THE LAST DENIAL BY DOT.**
- P. TLC – request “Letter of No Objection” for new livery service – Madinah Car Service, LLC, 150-15 Hillside Ave, Jamaica, NY 11432. All documentation including off-street parking when vehicles are not in use was provided. Therefore, letter of No Objection was sent July 9, 2019. **DONE.**
- Q. TLC – request “Letter of No Objection” for renewal of livery service – Unity Car & Limo, Inc, TLC License #B01056, 87-62 Parsons Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11432. Proof of off-street parking when vehicles are not in use was provided. **APPROVED.**
- S. DOT- mill and repave 181st St. from 65th Ave. to 73rd Ave. (Member Trans. Comm.) **DENIED ROADWAY IN FAIR CONDITION.**
- T. DOT- mill and repave 67th Ave. Utopia Pkwy. to 185th St. (Member Trans. Comm.) **DENIED ROADWAY IN FAIR CONDITION.**
- U. DOT- mill and repave 73rd Ave. Utopia Pkwy. to 188th St. (Member Trans. Comm.) **DENIED ROADWAY IN FAIR CONDITION.**

******NOTE: ALL FUTURE MILLING AND PAVING REQUESTS SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE CB8 OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE ON THE NYC'S REPAVING SCHEDULE IN THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS. THE REQUEST SHOULD NOT BE PUT ON THE TRANSPORTATION AGENDA AND THE REQUESTER SHOULD BE NOTIFIED.**

V. MTA- request bus shelter 188th St. at 186th Lane across from Nursery school (Member Trans Comm.) **SIDEWALK IS TOO NARROW AT THIS LOCATION. THERE ARE TWO BENCHES IN PLACE THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR A SHELTER BUT ARE LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND NOT ACCESSIBLE FOR CITY WORK.**

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 p.m.