



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

# Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

**March 1, 2018**

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

## 1. Introduction

- A. Committee Description: The public safety & transportation committee represents the community's interests with regards to sanitation, crime, fire-ems, quality of life, NYS liquor license application recommendations, street activity permit applications, street re-naming application, transportation and acts as a liaison between community members and the New York Police Department & Fire Departments, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Department of Sanitation & NYS Liquor Authority.

## 2. Speakers

- Alvin Feng, NYSDOT
  - Last time, Mr. Feng came in October and came back to give update on Hunt's Point Interstate Project
  - There is a Public Hearing in June and would like board members to attend
  - Public Hearing is on a project that is 2 miles on Bruckner Expressway starting on 141<sup>st</sup> Street going to Westchester Ave on the Sheridan crossing Bronx River on to Evergreen Ave, which is a little past Bronx River Avenue
  - There were two sculping meetings and they are working on an environmental impact statement, which will be released to public in May
  - There will be a record of decision in September and construction will start around the beginning of 2019
  - Purpose of Project: Improve access to Hunt's Point peninsula (trapped between AMTRACK and Bronx River Ave) between Bruckner and Sheridan Expressway for businesses along the way; there are very few entrances to the peninsula and they are trying find locations to add to that; trying to reduce street congestion on local level
  - State DOT website has project sculping reports, which looks at all the alternatives and screened them
  - The environmental impact study report looks at what a reasonable alternative would be
  - The study looks at 2 concepts: Edgewater-Leggett Split Interchange, there's an access point at Edgewater and one on the Leggett (exits are a mile part)
  - Concepts that were dismissed: Oak Point Avenue Concept -doesn't provide multiple access points; there are a lot of issues on Oak Point Avenue and Randall Avenue like a lot of driveways and double parking cars; DOT would have to cross 20 active railroad yards from Bruckner, which they have to negotiate; AMTRACK was concerned with columns that would have to go under Bruckner in order to fly a ramp off Bruckner to get to Oak Point Ave; new property development in Oak Point Ave and Barry Street; AMTRACK and CSX were not fond of this alternative
  - Typical topics in Social and Environmental Impact Study: air quality and noise, socioeconomics, environmental justice, historical cultural resources, parks recreational facility, visual resources, hazardous and contaminated materials, coastal resources, general ecology and endangered species in the river, land acquisition, indirect and cumulative effects
  - Truss will be removed and is taking up room; it carries over AMTRACK

- Coming down Sheridan there will be ramps
  - Will reduce traffic on Bronx River Ave
  - Would be able to walk through Garrison Park and under ramps of Edgewater
  - There will be bike lanes
  - Looking into putting security cameras and blue lights
  - One will lane will go down to Bronx River Ave and one lane will go towards the highway
  - Will make 3 lanes with Bruckner in the middle and the Sheridan on the outside including a center divider
  - The ramp on Hunt's Point Ave that you take to Sheridan North will be closed, which will alleviate a lot of traffic, because there's an Edgewater ramp and can still connect to the Cross Bronx
  - Road that comes from Westchester Ave off the Sheridan has terrible traffic but with Edgewater ramp, there will be less traffic on Westchester and Whitlock
  - It will relieve the exit on the Southbound Sheridan and trucks can take Edgewater
  - Will start with Edgewater construction and then Edgewater and Sheridan construction
  - AMTRACK will also be in the first project
  - Total: \$1.7 B
  - It will take about 6 years
  - Railroads are federal, so state/city doesn't have eminent domain
  - There will be a future Metro-North station in Hunts Point and 3 traffic lights on Sheridan
  - Will send new renderings to Nick or Shirley
  - Sheridan construction will start this summer after project is confirmed
  - This will include pedestrian bridge and putting 3 traffic signals
  - Looking for place for June Public Hearing
- Richard Vitacco, East Bronx History Forum
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant John Nicholas Sekhool was a WW2 serviceman; flight took off in August 1944 on bombing run in Germany and crashed 90 miles south of Hanover; they were taken hostage and prisoner; Barnstool was shot and taken in by a farmer; there were 9 people on the plane and 3 survivors; Sydney Brown, Barnstool and Adams; brought to prison camp through train but tracks get blown, so they had to walk through town to get to Russelheim; people pick up shovel, stone, sticks to beat the survivors; Opal factory made ammunitions for Germans instead of cars; 2 survivors kept from getting murdered by managers of Opal factory because of air raid sirens going off; They were carted off to cemetery and 2 survived after playing dead
    - 2 Books Written about it: Wolf's Angel and Last Mission of the Wam Bam Boys
    - Russelheim and Georgia honored the serviceman
    - It also makes sense to honor him in the Bronx
    - Wants to co-name the block of 2263 Newbold Ave; Newbold Ave bw Castle Hill Ave and Havemeyer Ave
    - CB9 will support request of street conaming
    - Have been in contact with Layla Martinez and CM Diaz
    - Hoping it will be presented at City Council by June and hopefully get it conamed by his death anniversary
    - Wants to coname it to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant John N. Sekhool Place
    - Should talk to residents of the block first
    - CB9 will write recommendation letter for co-naming
    - Nick suggests that he gets people's signatures for support

### 3. New Business

- UNICAR Cab Service – DIDN'T ATTEND MEETING
- Angela sent request to DM Rivera to forward to CB10 on Brush Ave coming on to Unionport Road, both lanes should be turning lanes to the left to come on to the bridge; made 2 lanes and a third lane leaning to the left
  - They have now made two lanes turning on to drawbridge to come back into Bruckner and Zerega; They made coming to Zerega one lane and going to the light from Zerega one lane
  - Waiting for them to change Castle Hill back to what it was (2 years since approval)
  - White Plains project (3 years since approval)
  - It seems like the state and city don't communicate

- They added bus lane in Hunt's Point
- Community boards should join forces and collaborate
- They took out a full lane at Hunt's Point and added a bike lane
- Should meet with new commissioner and get together as a borough
- Fellowship Breakfast on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aurora will be sending out letter
  - 10 AM – 1 PM at Sotomayor

#### **4. Old Business**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 PM**

#### **OFFICE INFO**

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