



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes May 3, 2018

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Brandon Ganaishlal, Juan Torres, Jennifer Ellison Lackard, Isabelo Adames, Cleneth Dais, Abunoman Rahman

Board Members Not Present: Henry Pelayo Jr.

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

- Darisa Alcantara (DOT)- Proposed road diet on Bronx River Avenue between Westchester & E. 174th St

Safety Improvements on Bronx River Ave (DOT presentation)

- Ben Shwadde, Project Manager for DOT
 - Looking at East 147th St to Westchester Ave in the South
 - Near James Monroe High School
 - History of requests to address speeding on corridor including a request from Assemblyman Marcos Crespo
 - 12 people severely injured in this 0.5 mile corridor
 - Looked at off-peak hour speed; 81% of cars were speeding and the top speed was 58 mph
 - 145 total injuries in this corridor
 - 2 lanes in each direction of Bronx River Ave and 60 ft wide road

- There is parking on each curb
- A lot of streets coming into the corridor, so causes drivers to take fast aggressive turns because they don't have to take full turns
- These intersections are giving pedestrians a long distance to cross and a lot of missing crosswalks
- At Westchester Ave, there are 2 lanes from Bronx River coming North as well as the angled Close Ave; a lot of conflicting turns
- Too many lanes coming into too few lanes
- Proposed conditions:
 - One standard width travel lane in both directions
 - Center, median and turn bay
 - Biker Lane on each direction (standard width bike lane)
 - Defined width parking lanes
- Defining a narrow width travel lane for the vehicles encouraging them to drive at safer speeds
- Bike lanes put the bikers where people expect them to be and cyclists know where to ride; opportunity to connect to Soundview neighborhood and connecting to other sites (Starlight Park, East 172nd St and Westchester Ave)
- Center, median and turn bay separates oncoming traffic and also organizes the road i.e cars can make turns on intersection without blocking or swerving other cars
- Parking lanes further organizes the road
- Predicts 25-50% of reduced injuries with reduced speeding
- Will paint curb extensions to encourage safer turns
- Will add crosswalks to intersections to reduce crossing distances and cars will turn slower
- Update land markings approaching the intersection clearing confusion because everyone will have clear designated space
- Create a left turn only to Close Ave
- Update land markings on East 174th St
- At medians of the North side and West side of Bronx River Ave going to the bridge, they will paint pedestrian expansion to provide refuge for pedestrians crossing the street at busy intersections and makes cars take slower turns at intersections
- To summarize benefits, reduce speeding and calm traffic at Bronx River Ave
- Improving pedestrian safety by updating land markings and pedestrian expansion
- 2012-2016: 12 severe injuries but didn't know the time of day the injuries took place
- Numbers correlate with where the injuries are on the map
- What are provisions for trucks and traffic?
 - Not reducing traffic because not limiting number of cars
- How long have they been studying?
 - For a year
 - Received extensive traffic, looked at different times of traffic (AM Peak & PM Peak)

- Number of trucks vs. number of cars?
 - Will get that info
- 700 Vehicles per hour = congestion
- Reducing lanes won't create more traffic?
 - Wouldn't create more traffic
 - Because of high volume of cars, the same number of lanes
- Modifications won't affect below Westchester Ave
- Volume drops at Westchester Ave bw 174th Ave and Bronx River Ave
- Can't include speed bumps because truck route
- Trucks parked along Bronx River
- How will bike lanes help if trucks will double parked?
 - Then there will be only one lane if they're double parked
 - One lane will be between 174th and Westchester
- Street will be as wide as it is and people will be able to maneuver around or go over the median
- Coming off of Sheridan, have they considered making a right turn lane to Bronx River Ave South
 - Can take another look there
- Should let more people go before the left turn
- Cycle will be consistent depending on the signals set up
- Do you consider utility companies and trucks that have to double park?
 - Travel lane will stay the same, they will take away one travel lane but length is still the same
 - Not blocking center median, so emergency vehicles can go around utility truck
- Can put grant locks on both spaces to keep cars from flying through and there is a stop sign at the intersection, which no one hit it; there is big enough space for DSNY to street sweep; there are also access points strategic for them
- Not projecting more delays, so will have minimal environmental impact
- Presentation has been sent to Marcos Crespo
- DM will talk to assemblyman and NCO officers
- They would like to implement in the summer (July or August)
- CB9 can write a recommendation letter to DOT
- DOT did the same thing on White Plains Road but it was a disaster
- CB9 wrote recommendation letter regarding shopping center and traffic
- State DOT will make marks on Sheridan
- This plan will create more congestion; they should have started a block after the intersection
- That's why DM has to speak with assemblyman
- Turning signals may actually help

- Jennifer: Ask about signal on Elder Ave; Will look at right changing light from Westchester Ave to Bronx River Ave and look at Bronx River to Westchester Ave; said will do research on number of trucks vs. number of cars
- They don't like to send the presentation out beforehand
- DM Rivera: All the background work I do, I don't tell you because there is a lot of behind the work and I'm advocating for you; will update the committee on what the office and DOT communicates on.
- Jennifer: 12 out of 145 are serious injuries?
- DM Rivera: Marcos Crespo is practical and will go out on site visit with DM Rivera. He also knows the area. The NCO officers can get more information from the precinct.

3. Liquor Licenses

- Las Camilas Bar & Restaurant Corp. #1175821, Renewal Application (1802 Westchester Ave)
 - Have been there forever
 - When they were first established, they had some noise issues 6-7 years ago but since then, there was no issues
 - Unanimous vote for the renewal application; no objections and no abstentions
 - Motion to accept the renewal application passed
- Zerega Indoor Paddleball Inc. #1275029, Renewal Application (2365 Newbold Ave)
 - Started as recreation facility
 - 4 years ago, applied for liquor license and Henry, a retired law enforcement agent, vouched for them
 - Committee approved and there haven't been any issues since
 - Has café, handball for the youth and paddleball
 - Unanimous vote for the renewal application; no objections and no abstentions
 - Motion to accept the renewal application passed
- GMB Restaurant Inc. (Step-In) #1107628, Renewal Application (1309 Metropolitan Ave)
 - Oldest serving restaurant since 1977
 - Had some noise issues and some fights but that was a long time ago
 - DM Rivera: Ever since 2 C3O's ago and our involvement in the board, there hasn't been any issues
 - They renovated the restaurant and now it's more family-oriented
 - They combined the bar and the restaurant, which made a significant difference in the type of clientele that goes there
 - Brandon: Questions from the board? Questions from the public?
 - Two weeks ago, there was an issue
 - Bouncers escorted people without IDs out of the bar; no police were called
 - There was a fight after they got thrown out of the bar
 - Abunoman: I was parked outside and some people got into a fight right outside the club. I don't know whether it was the bouncer or not. The cops showed up after 30-40 minutes but everything cleared out by then

- Restaurant Owner: Our bouncer staff wasn't involved. I was away during this time but I think the police were called. The people were escorted out and it escalated outside but died out from there.
- Abunoman: But a couple of them pulled out a pocket-knife and was chasing others towards the subway station. It was around 10 to 11.
- Restaurant Owner: There was argument inside, so the bouncer escorted them out and left it outside. The bouncer came inside and nothing happened inside.
- DM Rivera: So for the future, if you see that it escalates, you have to call the police because you are responsible for the front of your establishment. You're responsible if those people can prove that they were drinking at your establishment and started at your establishment going down the street. I agree the bouncer shouldn't stay outside but call the police.
- Restaurant Owner: Someone did call the police but by the time they came, there was nothing on the scene. I think it's Charlie's sector.
- DM Rivera: I'm going to ask and find out. I'm going to speak to Chris about it. Don't throw out both parties at the same time. If you see that it will escalate outside and the bouncers aren't outside, then you should call the police and wait for the police to come. Thank you for bringing it up but other than that I don't have any other issues
- Unanimous vote for the renewal application; no objections and no abstentions
- Motion to accept the renewal application passed
- DM Rivera: That's Eddy's sector. Can you let Eddy know about this and tell him to speak to the gentleman?
- Cazahuates Corp. (Estrelita Poblano), New Application (2227-2231 Westchester Ave)
 - Owners weren't present at meeting
 - Establishment has been here for more than 10 years
 - Family-style restaurant
 - They are changing their name because they're adding an officer to the corporation and the SLA(State Liquor Authority) notifies the community board
 - Is this a renewal or a new application?
 - This is a transfer application, so the license sustains but they're adding an officer
 - So, usually if they're adding an officer, they change the name
 - They aren't changing anything else; everything is the same
 - They're going to have construction soon of gas main and they know about it because a lot of people park in front of the restaurant
 - DM Rivera: This is actually Community Board 10 but SLA takes CB9 letters and they have been coming to CB9 for liquor licenses. They keep sending it to us even if they get it right in the application.
 - Does anybody have any questions?
 - Unanimous vote for the renewal application; no objections and no abstentions
 - Motion to accept the renewal application passed
- C Lounge Inc., New Application
 - Another transfer and his partner is being included in the business

- Jose has been there for 9 years; he's adding a partner
- If they want a new license, they have to let their representative know
- Juan Torres: Before I second anything, I just want people to know that we get sent these applications and we look over it. I defer to the police department and if they don't have any issues with noise or unruliness and I usually just pass it along.
- DM Rivera: For these applications, I speak to Eric Hernandez, the NCO and the NCO sergeant, William Busch. I met him because of noise complaints. Prior people in his office didn't handle noise complaints as well as he did. Busch put investments in and worked to soundproof.
- 3-4 years ago, there was an incident and they met with the NCO sergeant, the detective and security. Every establishment has their issues once in a while but it's about how they collaborate with the community board and how they work with the police. We are constantly working with these restaurants and bars.
- Unanimous vote for the renewal application; no objections and no abstentions
- Motion to accept the renewal application passed
- For those that the licenses were approved for, they will send letters to SLA on Monday and send copies

4. New Business

- DM Rivera: I'm fighting DOT for the two lanes on Castle Hill for the section of Bruckner, Cross Bronx and Westchester. It looks like it's going to happen. There is no median there and what happens here will happen at Castle Hill. Trucks are going to be double parked. Trucks won't block the bike lane because a summons for parking in the bike lane is about \$200. White Plains Road is going to be changed soon too. They're doing the re-milling now. We are pushing the main corridors and then go into Westchester Ave in the west. They do rate their streets but they like to re-mill and re-surface near each other because it's easier to move the equipment. We are going to see roads that are disasters that aren't going to get re-milled. They like to do areas close together. We are the largest board in the Bronx, so there is more square yardage re-milling.
- DM Rivera: I sent email to Sergeant Busch about a yellow-chaser tow truck. I have been getting complaints that it drives around like crazy. I have pictures but I have to check the garage he's from. The sergeant can do an operation on tow-trucks again or catch this one. It's getting warm so the dirt bikes are going to be an issue

5. Old Business

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 PM

OFFICE INFO

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