

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9  
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11225**

**Minutes of Transportation Committee Meeting  
November 4, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members:**

Carmen Martinez (Committee Chair, CB 9)  
Calista DeJesus (Committee Co-Chair, Comm. Member)  
Stanley Greenberg (Community Member)  
Felice Robertson (Community Member)  
Valerie Fleming (Community Member)  
Suman Ganguli (Community Member)  
Jeffrey Grannum (Community Member)  
Nicholas Troccoli (Community Member)

**Absent Members:**

Rabbi Chanina Sperlin

**Elected Officials Rep.**

Kim Robinson, Council Member Ampry-Samuel

**Visitors / Guests:**

Alexandra Girgis, NYC DDC  
Emily Riquelme-Beaufort, NYC DOT  
Dash Henley, NYC DOT  
Warren Berke, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, CB9  
Nicholas Almodor, CB9 Member  
Beverly Newsome, CB9 Member  
Hector Robertson, Community Resident  
Solomon Neubort, Community Resident

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Committee Chair Carmen Martinez convened meeting at 7:10PM, welcomed committee members and guests, followed by discussions.

Ms. Alexandra Girgis, NYC Department of Design & Construction, provided update on the status of the Empire Boulevard Reconstruction Project, NYC DDC Project ID #HWK779W. The Project is moving according to schedule. Some bus stops along Utica Avenue from Crown to Maple Streets are being relocated during ongoing construction and, in particular the bus stop on Maple and Utica will be closed and passengers will be re-routed to Empire Boulevard and Utica Avenue. Questions were raised by Committee member Valerie Fleming about how the closure of the triangle at Empire Blvd/Washington/Franklin moved forward in view of the community's opposition. Committee Chair Martinez emphasized that it also moved forward without further communication with Board 9 since about 2015 when all communication between DOT and CB9 ceased, and prior to DDC's involvement. Committee member Jeffrey Grannum requested details as to how the exit from Western Beef to Washington Avenue was going to be affected once the triangle was closed. Both Emily Riquelme-Beaufort (DOT) and Alexandra Girgis (DDC) shared the information they had available. Ms. Riquelme-Beaufort offered to provide updated information about the project's impact on Western Beef and Ms. Girgis will also provide further updates on the Empire Reconstruction project at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Ms. Riquelme-Beaufort provided information about the Clove Road project. Introduced her colleague, Dash Henley. Mr. Henley just started as a Planner at the Brooklyn Borough President's office and was recently selected to be part of the Plaza Program. CB9 First Vice-Chair Warren Berke and Committee Chair Martinez both provided some background information about the Clove Road project and shared the Board's concerns about how the project moved forward despite there already having been similar plans presented to DOT by the Board in previous years and DOT ultimately shutting down all communications. The last CB9 heard about the project was when an inquiry was made in 2018, at which time the Board was informed that the project was stalled due to the disagreement over how the cobblestones at the site would be handled. However, all of a sudden, the project is moving forward. Questions were raised about the funding of the Clove Road project. Mr. Henley indicated that the project will be privately funded by a developer. Committee member Valerie Fleming expressed concerns about the project being privately funded and the developer's involvement in the project versus the community. Per Mr. Henley, there are different elements to the timeline and it will be about three years before the project is completed. Ms. Riquelme-Beaufort indicated that DOT would like to do a workshop in January 2021 and needs

some proposed dates. There is currently no design in place. The architect submitted a plan and DOT accepted the plan that was submitted.

Community resident Solomon Neubort raised concerns about the Clove Road project's infringement on the private properties on Malbone Street. He owns a couple of properties on that street as well as four parking spots that will be affected by the Clove Road project. He feels that DOT should not disregard the homeowners on Malbone and should take them into consideration and include them in any discussions and decision-making about the project.

Community resident Hector Robertson expressed his and the community's concerns about how DOT relates with CB9 and the community-at-large.

Committee Chair Martinez suggested that DOT consider doing the workshop about the Clove Road project on the scheduled January 2021 Transportation Committee date, in lieu of the committee's regular meeting. Ms. Riquelme-Beaufort will discuss with the Borough Commissioner.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Carmen L. Martinez, Chair Transportation Committee  
November 24, 2020.