

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

**Minutes of Transportation Committee Meeting
January 6, 2021**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

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

Absent Members:

Rabbi Chanina Sperlin, CB 9
Rosemarie Evering, CB 9

Visitors / Guests:

Alexandra Girgis, NYC DDC
Louis Pappas - Voi
Warren Berke, 1st Vice Chair, CB 9
Nicholas Almodor, CB 9 Member
Solomon Neubort, Community Resident
Ronen Koniarski, Community Resident

Committee Chair Carmen Martinez convened meeting at 7:07PM, welcomed committee members and guests, followed by discussions.

The minutes of the Transportation Committee's November 4 and December 2, 2020 meetings were unanimously approved.

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 sewer replacement at the Utica Avenue side of the Project is 100% completed and 90% of the water main replacement. They are currently working with Con Edison to complete the water main portion. Work is currently underway at Empire Blvd. and Washington Avenue. The water main replacement is being done on Washington between Sterling Street and Sullivan Place and the sewer replacement will follow. The bus stop for South bound B48 and B43 previously located at Empire and Washington have been relocated to Sterling and Washington to accommodate the construction work. Signage is in place and the relocation will be in effect for about one month. Ms. Girgis also provided update on the issues that were raised at the December meeting concerning how the exit from Western Beef to Washington Avenue will be affected once the triangle was closed. Per Ms. Girgis, the Western Beef driveway will not be moved or affected. The driveway will only be closed intermittently during the construction.

Committee members inquired about signage at the Western Beef parking lot exit (Stop, Yield, Right/Left turns) and how the traffic pattern was going to be affected after the elimination of the Franklin Avenue traffic lane to the immediate right of the Western Beef exit, and whether there will be a right turn lane onto Empire Boulevard on Washington Avenue. Per Ms. Girgis, the contractor has plans for any changes to the traffic pattern and signage. She will provide further details about the proposed new signage after the closure of the traffic lane on Franklin to ensure pedestrians and motorists safety. Committee Member Nicholas Troccoli shared a mock-up of what the proposed plaza at the existing triangle will look like. Ms. Girgis indicated that Nick's mock-up appears to be accurate as it relates to the plaza. 1st Vice chair Warren Berke inquired about the possibility of bicycle lanes on Washington. Committee Member Jeff Grannum asked for clarification about whether the new signage will be 24/7 enforcement or just as Rush Hours demands, particularly on Sterling Street heading north on Washington to Empire and at Empire/Washington, heading east to McKeever Place. Ms. Girgis will provide updates on these inquiries at the next meeting as there will be lanes striping changes made at the completion of the project.

Mr. Louis Pappas made presentation on behalf of Voi, a company based in Sweden that, along with other companies, applied for a one-year pilot program New York City plans to initiate to provide shared motorized scooters sort of like the Citibike program, for short trips and climate friendly travel. Instead of docks, like Citibike, racks will be put in place for the e-scooters. The program is to formally start in March or sometime during the Spring. There is no information about the locations the e-scooters will operate. Committee Member Valerie Fleming inquired about the safety measures (helmet, age, qualifications). Per Ms. Pappas, New York State law is 16 years of age and over, driver's license and other state issued ID system, curriculum to learn what it means to ride a scooter. Voi will have free helmets give-away at e-scooter demonstration events. Committee Member Grannum inquired as to how e-scooters differs from Revel. Per Mr. Pappas, the scooters are stand-up and are capped at 15 MH, new users will be capped at 10 MH. Jeff raised the issue of dock-less transportation having created a problem in other places because people were leaving scooters everywhere so he wants to know what's going to be done to prevent that problem in New York. Mr. Pappas indicated that he doesn't know exactly how the city is going to enforce docking. Maybe the scooters will have to be locked at the docks. Committee Co-Chair Calista DeJesus asked about how the scooters are going to be charged. Mr. Pappas indicated that they're swap battery models. The clipboard has chargeable batteries and they have e-cargo vans that go around swapping the batteries in the field as needed. Valerie inquired about hoe the scooters will be services/maintained. Per Mr. Pappas, the scooters have "brain" performance and so problems can be detected and tracked. Users can also give feedback and they will go out and make necessary repairs/adjustments. Warren asked about security measures in view of the problems encountered by Revel. Mr. Pappas indicated that education on how to use the e-scooters on the road is mandatory. Users found to be violators will be kicked off the platform and they cannot come back using different ID because there is ID verification. Per Mr. Pappas, the cost is 0.15 cents a minute, comparable to subway fare per usage. More information available on their website www.voiscooters.com

Ms. Emily Riquelme-Beaufort from DOT was to provide update on the Clove Road project but was unable to attend due to a personal emergency. She provided the following information via email concerning the issues raised by homeowner on Malbone Street and how private driveways entrances will be affected by the Clove Road project and the planned community workshops:

- We are waiting to hear back from our Sidewalk Inspection and Management unit regarding curb cuts on that stretch as of yet.
- We have emailed the property owner Solomon Neubort to let him know that we will take any access issues into account.
- We are still working on more details for a workshop and will keep you updated when I heard back from all the appropriate parties on concrete plans.

When asked if their concerns are being addressed by DOT, community residents Solomon Neubort and Ronen Koniarski indicated that they have not been provided with details as to how DOT plans to address their situation. There's a pdf of the project on DOT's website but it's not clear about what the project entails. They don't feel it's appropriate for the project to have been approved without having discussions with the homeowners on Malbone, Associated Supermarket and the church on Empire, all of whom should have had a say in the process. They had attended CB9 Transportation Committee meetings with DOT for over 5 years, then heard nothing further after the disagreements over the use of the cobblestones, then all of a sudden the recent development.

Committee Chair Martinez informed Mr. Neubort and Mr. Koniarski of DOT's planned community workshops about the Clove Road project and encouraged them to not only attend the next Transportation Committee meeting for further updates from DOT, but to make sure that they attend the workshops to voice their concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Carmen L. Martinez, Chair Transportation Committee
January 22, 2021.