

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn, New York 1125**  
**Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 13, 2023**  
**Meeting ID: 824 4280 6395**

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville, Committee Chair; Felice Robertson; Benny Rosenberger  
Attendance (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Valerie Fleming; Jeffrey Grannum; Stanley Greenberg; Calista DeJesus

Absent (Board Members): Lorianne Wolseley

Absent (Community Resident Members): None

Guests: Nicolas Almonor; Maxine Barnes; Nicola Cox; Lashaun Ellis; Karen& Roger; Andrew Magnus; Theresa Westerdahl; Zach Youngren; Moussa Houssan, Co-Chair Transportation Committee CB14,

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager; Dante Arnwine, District Manager

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1. Welcome/Greetings
  - a. Committee Chair, Ethan Norville called the meeting to order at 7:10pm
2. Introductions
  - a. Introductions were made by all members of the committee and guests
3. Committee Expectations and Procedure
  - a. Chair Norville & District Manager Arnwine gave an overview of the committee and encouraged discussions and resolutions from the group for the upcoming year.
4. Election of Committee Leaders
  - a. Felice Robertson nominated & appointed to Vice Chair role, approved by common consent
  - b. Paco Abraham nominated & appointed to Committee Secretary role, approved by common consent
5. Identifying Issues & Setting Committee Goals for the Year
  - a. Chair Norville & District Manager Arnwine gave an overview of the committee and encouraged discussions and resolutions from the group for the upcoming year.
  - b. Open discussion of issues for the committee to tackle.
    - i. Stanley Greenberg noted CB9's lack of protected bike lanes, a lack of updates on the planned Ocean Avenue bike lane alongside Prospect Park, & the general lack of attention from NYC DOT.
    - ii. Felice Robertson noted ongoing dangers on Washington Avenue and the need for a traffic calming mechanism such as a traffic light or speed humps.
    - iii. Calista DeJesus agreed on a need for more bike lanes and also noted concerns about hit & runs in the district, in particular need the intersection of Flatbush Avenue with both Beekman Place and Maple Street. She also noted the district's lack of open streets and encouraged Lincoln Road between Ocean & Flatbush Avenues as a good candidate.

- iv. Benny Rosenberger noted e-bikes & mopeds dangerously using sidewalks and asked if NYPD or DOT could do anything about it. Felice Robertson said she'd discuss it with local enforcement as a liaison to the 71st precinct.
- v. Karen & Roger **TBD LAST NAME** echoed concern about speeding vehicles and then focused on constant dangers caused by illegal sidewalk parking at the FDNY engine 249 ladder 113 station on Rogers Avenue between Maple & Midwood streets. Personal vehicle block sight lines and delayed police from noticing a recent assault made between the vehicles. They asked for employees to park parallel to the curb.
- vi. **TBD VOICE** noted concern about lack of notice of vehicle parking spots being removed for Citibike and car share vehicles.
- vii. Valerie Fleming noted the long delay in getting bike racks placed at Major Owens Community Center.
- viii. **TBD VOICE** noted a worry that newly designated spaces for car share cost companies just \$475/ space annually.
- ix. Nichola Cox also noted hit and run incidents in the area, on Bedford Avenue, Maple Street, and also Beekman Place. She noted in particular that Maple Street intersection at Flatbush Ave had been renamed for Ben Edwards, a longtime CB member and community leader. She then voiced opposition to Calista's idea of an open street on Lincoln Road because of fear that it would be too congested and is already adjacent to Prospect Park.
- x. Stanley Greenberg noted that he'd already been discussing Lincoln Road concerns with DM Arnwine. He asked for an update about a potential relocation of an Ocean Ave bus stop at that corner and pointed out that much of the current parking at Lincoln/ Ocean is taken up illegally by MTA employees using their vests as placards. Stanley then asked if the CB could look ahead to Labor Day 2024 and get Flatbush Avenue closed from Empire Blvd to Lincoln Road.
- xi. Paco Abraham seconded the concerns about illegal FDNY parking and suggested removing the AM No standing zone on the west side of the street to open up parking for FDNY employees. Paco asked for follow up on several issues that CB9 Transportation Committee has discussed in recent years - the dangerous intersection of Empire, Ocean, & Flatbush Avenues, the need for traffic calming on Brooklyn Avenue, and the crosswalks east of Utica Avenue being routinely blocked in the blocks east of the newly created Remsen Avenue pedestrian plaza.
- xii. Calista DeJesus asked that the committee resurrect an old tradition of doing community walks and bike rides to better acquaint ourselves with the locations that we discuss in meetings. Chairman Norville said he only sees a good outcome from this idea.
- xiii. Theresa Westerdahl noted that the recent car share rollout was very poorly done and suggested locations ought to be on commercial blocks, rather than residential blocks.
- xiv. Jeff Grannum seconded the dangers at Flatbush and Maple and said it was a blind curve. Acknowledged that DOT will not realign the streets and so it's incumbent on the community to make neighbors aware of the crossing's dangers. Jeff also pressed our committee to seek more enforcement because design alone may not change all bad behaviors on the road.
- xv. Felice Robertson encouraged everyone to clearly document the issues they're seeing for the CB to fully understand issues and help identify solutions.
- xvi. Stanley Greenberg acknowledged that Carshare & Citibike rollouts were not perfect but also expressed frustration hearing people speak against these items as they're a public good and felt the street is to be shared.

- xvii. **LaShaun (spelling?) TBD LAST NAME** commented about car share and suggested the carshare spots in the community are no longer truly public as they are now leased by private companies.

## 6. DOT Carshare Locations

- a. Chairperson Norville spoke of the DOT rollout of car share locations and acknowledged general community concern with car share locations and lack of notice. He spoke of issues known with the Sullivan street locations. He then invited open comments and requested each comment be less than 2 minutes.
  - i. **LaShaun (spelling?) TBD LAST NAME** requested that the car-share locations on Sullivan Pl, Ludlam Pl, and Stoddard Pl, by the corner of Montgomery ought to be swapped for more commercial locations.
  - ii. Zack Youngren spoke in favor of car-share and requested more locations, specifically on Lincoln between Nostrand and Rogers.
  - iii. Paco Abraham asked for point of information if there was precedent of DOT having ever moved car share locations during its existing 5-year pilot in other community boards
  - iv. Valerie Flemming requested both care share spots removed from Crown Street at Rogers Avenue. She has seen Citibike being popular there and that has already taken vehicle parking spots but has not seen carshare get used much yet.
  - v. Theresa Westerdahl also asked for the Sullivan Pl, Ludlam Pl, and Stoddard Pl, car share locations to be moved to commercial areas like Empire Blvd & Bedford and Rogers Avenues.
  - vi. **LaShaun (spelling?) TBD LAST NAME** noted that car share isn't new here... it's just changed that it is new to being on public curbs, rather than permits out of private lots.
  - vii. Felice Robertsson said it was disrespectful of the agency to put in car share without notice to the community.
  - viii. Paco Abraham requested data on usage for the committee to make proper evaluations.
- b. Felice Robertson motions for NYC DOT to provide our committee with information about all car share locations within CB9 (both current and proposed) and explains reasoning why the locations were selected and explains how to go about relocating any of them which the community feels are not working properly.
  - i. Discussion on motion that the goal should be to get DOT in person but barring that at least get a map of locations. Also concerns about why this never came to committee first.
  - ii. Motion is seconded by Benny Rosenberger.
  - iii. Motion passes by unanimous consent

## 7. Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign

- a. Chairperson Norville spoke of the MTA's bus network redesign. Asked if anyone has thoughts they'd like to share.
  - i. Felice Robertson said she has heard there is talk about changing the B43, B48, B49 routes. She claims this was never brought to the committee and has concerns about changes.
  - ii. Chairperson Norville spoke specifically about the B49 being moving from Bedford Avenue to Nostrand Avenue, and it is having a potentially detrimental impact upon the seniors in the community.
  - iii. Andrew Magnus notes that there have been meetings before and this was discussed within our committee, where we in fact asked to have a town hall on it

and get DOT/ MTA to explain more of their rationale. He also explains the confusing nature of new things like the bus, express, and a limited all proposed for the B44.

1. Chairperson Norville pointed out we can ask for action on multiple routes, not just B49 or B41.
  - iv. Maxine **TBD last name** commented that the community is upset about a potential B49 change and that more stuff shouldn't be added to Nostrand Avenue which is already busy.
  - v. Paco Abraham said he understands the rationale for eliminating the Bedford Avenue bus route because it often gets buses stuck in traffic whereas Nostrand Avenue has a dedicated bus only lane.
  - vi. Jeff Grannum noted that the bus redesign is bigger than just our CB. He suggested we'd need help from elected officials if we were to try and change MTA/ DOT minds.
  - vii. Theresa Westerdahl also said the seniors on Bedford need the B49 and encouraged support for keeping the route stay in place.
  - viii. Felice Robertson asked about the possibility of adding another bus rather than replacing the B49's current route. Urged us to fight against this.
  - ix. Valerie Flemming argued that the city has added too many modes to the streets without a larger transportation plan.
  - b. Jeff Grannum motions to recommend that CB9 request that the MTA/DOT leave the B49's existing route in place as it advances the Brooklyn Bus Redesign.
    - i. Motion is seconded by Benny Rosenberger.
    - ii. Motion passes by unanimous consent
  - c. Andrew Magnus asked if we could expand the scope to include the B41 and more so work with neighboring CBs to make CB9 a more bus friendly and efficient corridor.
    - i. Group conversation about if it needs to be included. Andrew Magnus agrees to table the discussion.
8. Citibike Locations
- a. Discussion of Citibike in general.
    - i. Benny Rosenberger asked about moving bike racks to bus shelters & then asked if some stations could be scaled down when he notices they don't seem fully occupied.
    - ii. Zach Youngren spoke in support of Citi bike locations and pointed out that some racks always need to have empty spots for people to dock their bikes. Zack asked to see data on bike share usage.
    - iii. Valerie Flemming asked about data as well and questioned if they have data before stations are included about usage. Valerie then questions if DOT ever actually moves station after the initial install and the finances of the program and debates how the community is benefiting from profits.
    - iv. Paco Abraham notes that he's seen stations moved before so it is possible and has precedent. Paco then questioned what data Valerie is asking for and wondered how there could be data before stations are in place?
    - v. Valerie Flemming clarified there she asked if there is data that shows the number of rentals at each station. Said it was similar to the lack of data on carshare. Chairperson Norville replied that there is car share data from a five-year pilot, but noted the agencies may not always be good about sharing the information.
    - vi. Andrew Magnus asked what the goal is of having Citibike locations on the agenda.

- vii. Chairperson Norville replied there has been talk within the community about issues some residents are having with bike share stations.
  - viii. Andrew Magnus commented that one car spot that converts to a bike share spot for 8 bikes is a net gain for the community. He explains frustration that there is a question if bike share benefits the community when there is not a similar question about benefits that cars provide to the community.
    - 1. Assorted crosstalk between Valerie Flemming and Andrew Magnus about pros and cons of various modes of transportation.
  - ix. Maxine **TBD last name** added that she hasn't seen any data of bicycle usage that people are referring to. She then said she's had damage to her car by a bike and believes they do not follow traffic laws and wonders if this is an enforcement issue.
  - x. Zach Youngren spoke in favor of data collection as well but asked about it in terms of car ownership in CB9 and the number of spots available. Suggested about 50% of people in our district use cars but they get 95% of the curb.
  - b. Felice Robertson motions to get data about bike share usage in CB9, in advance of next month's meeting.
  - c. Motion is seconded by Benny Rosenberger.
    - i. Paco Abraham adds a point of information that the information on usage is open data and is readily available with an internet search. Paco advises that we do not ask an agency to do something that may already be done and thinks it may be better for our committee to take this question upon ourselves.
    - ii. Cross debate about what other data we should request involving cars, ghost plates and illegal vehicle registration.
    - iii. Chairman Norville encourages getting data, even if readily available, as it shows the committee is active.
  - d. Motion passes by majority (*Paco Abraham votes against for the reason above*).
9. Adjourn
- a. Chairperson Norville motions to adjust the meeting at 10:00 pm. Jeff Grannum seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.