

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024

Chair: Ethan Norville; Vice Chair: Felice Robertson; Secretary: Paco Abraham

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville; Yaakov Pearson; Felice Robertson; Benny Rosenberger

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Calista DeJesus; Jeffrey Grannum; Valerie Fleming (*remotely*); Andrew Magnus

Absent (Board Members): Raphaella Godoy

Absent (Community Resident Members): None

Guests: Hector Robertson, Nicolas Almonor, Daniel Goldberg & colleague (Transportation Alternatives Youth Committee)

Agenda:

- I. Welcome/Greetings
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 7:10pm, 10/09/24
- II. Presentation - Transportation Alternatives Youth Committee
 - a. High School student Daniel Goldberg presented a petition that he and his colleagues are seeking to expand discounted Citibike memberships so that there would be a flat rate of \$5 per month for all New York City Public High School and CUNY students (ages 16 and older).
 - i. The petition is found here and already has over 900 signatures.
<https://act.transalt.org/a/citi-bike-4-students>
 - ii. He made the comparison to existing Citibike memberships in which SNAP recipients and NYCHA residents already get this discounted rate of \$5/month (~\$60 annually whereas a regular membership is more than \$200 currently).
 1. Andrew Magnus asked questions including
 - a. if the wording of the petition might be improved to simply say ‘any school receiving City funding’?
 - b. Also mentioned Councilmember Lincoln Restler introduced a similar bill.
 - c. Wanted to ensure this membership covered both acoustic & electric bikes
 2. Felice Robertson asked if the riders were registered or insured.

3. Paco Abraham asked how many community boards this has been presented to already and what the reception was. Daniel said many have signed on already.
4. Ethan Norville said we don't need to make a decision on this today and we can hold the vote itself in the new business for November.

III. Unfinished Business

- a. Incorporating Bike Lane Feedback - Chairman Norville reviewed the bike lane feedback from recent meetings and suggested we look at potential conditions we could add if we were to support the DOT plan, as presented in June, for pedestrian improvements and bicycle infrastructure added to Brooklyn & Kingston Avenues (from Empire Blvd to Winthrop). The biggest items of concern were...
 - i. Emergency vehicle space
 - ii. Ensuring pedestrian space on protected bike lanes
 - iii. DOT data
- b. Free-flowing discussion on these points and more led to the following motions.
 - i. Calista DeJesus **motions to remove the design of parking-protected bike lanes on Brooklyn & Kingston Aves, between Empire and Lefferts, and replace it with class 2, conventional bike lanes made with paint, that would not alter the location of the curbside parking lane.**
 1. Paco Abraham seconds the motion.
 2. Ethan Norville & Benny Rosenberger dissent, but the motion still passes by committee majority.
 - ii. Ethan Norville **motions to remove the design of parking-protected bike lanes on Brooklyn & Kingston Aves, between Empire and Lefferts, and simply stripe a wide curbside vehicle parking lane without any bicycle notation.**
 1. Paco Abraham seconds the motion.
 2. Calista DeJesus dissents, but the motion still passes by the committee majority.
 - iii. Ethan Norville **motions to ask DOT to investigate possibilities of further improving pedestrian safety, including - but not limited to - increasing the width of the buffered areas, narrowing the width of the bike lanes presented, and adding tactile rumble strips at spaces with heavy pedestrian traffic.**
 1. Paco Abraham seconds the motion.
 2. Motion passes by unanimous consent.
 - iv. Paco Abraham **motions to ask DOT to reevaluate the anticipated vehicle parking loss and minimize disruption to existing conditions so that DOT only daylight/ removes vehicle parking adjacent to schools and significant places of interest.**
 1. Andrew Magnus seconds the motion.
 2. Motion passes by unanimous consent.
 - v. Andre Magnus **motions to add art and street furniture in the newly designed spaces that expand the pedestrian realm on these corridors.**

1. Felice Robertson seconds the motion.
2. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

IV. New Business

- i. Jeffrey Grannum notes some problem spots in the district including
 1. Hole in the street bed across from Medgar Evers College
 2. Overgrown foliage on Flatbush Avenue, just south of Empire Blvd,
 3. Ethan suggested he alert the district office about these problem spots as well.

V. Adjourn

- a. MOTION - Ethan Norville made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. Calista DeJesus seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous consent**