

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11225
Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville, Committee Chair; Felice Robertson; Benny Rosenberger; Lorianne Wolseley

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

Absent (Board Members): N/A

Absent (Community Resident Members): Stanley Greenberg; Calista DeJesus; Valerie Fleming; Jeffrey Grannum;

Guests: Zach Youngren; Theresa Westerdahl; Carol Schuchman; Roger Kamholz

1. Welcome/Greetings

- a. Committee Chair, Ethan Norville called this year's first in-person meeting to order at 7:05 pm

2. Review of Previous Decisions

- a. Resolution on Empire Blvd Bike Lane
 - i. Passed the general board meeting in April. Committee members spoke in support of the resolution
 - ii. The resolution received positive press on the matter - <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2024/04/26/community-board-calls-for-protected-bike-lane-on-empire-boulevard>

3. Unfinished Business:

- a. Community Fair Planning- Saturday, June 1st, 10 AM – 1 PM at Ronald McNair Park
 - i. Items for the Community Fair
 1. Reflectors
 2. Easels
 3. Printed Maps & Boards
 4. Notepads and writing material.
 - ii. MOTION- made by Lorianne Wolseley for the Transportation Committee to formally participate in the CB9 Fair. Motion seconded by Paco Abraham and the motion was passed by unanimous consent.
 - iii. Andrew Mangus raised the idea of a flyer, or an iPad on hand to help people in our district sign up for possible exemption to congestion pricing tolls going into effect next month.
- b. FDNY Sidewalk Parking
 - i. Chairperson Ethan Norville recapped the known safety issues and mentioned the scheduled meeting himself, Paco Abraham, and the CB9 district manager Dante Arnwine to meet with representatives from the firehouse.
 - ii. Guest Carol Schuman & Roger Kamholz are community residents who mentioned the public safety concerns with parking. They have created a petition gaining over 60 signatures from community members.
 - iii. Valerie Fleming noted that this is worth considering within a larger context. Is there a street plan for getting city agencies to park properly as the sidewalk parking concern also comes near the DSNY station, NYPD station, post office, and others within CB9.

4. New Business:

a. Traffic Calming – Lefferts Avenue Shared Transportation Guidelines

i. Citi Bike

1. Committee members reviewed printed maps with bike share locations in the district.
2. Group discussion on the number of stations, scale of each station, and general placement.
3. Benny Rosenberger wondered if we had a specific date on usage during the day. Andrew Magnus noted that docks came in sizes of ten and fifteen only. Valerie Flemming noted the need for DOT to not up or downsize stations but rather ‘right-size’ them based on the data. Theresa Westerdahl noted a preference for bike racks to be placed on wide sidewalks.
4. MOTION- Calista DeJesus made a motion that DOT prioritize placement on the sidewalk rather than the road for any new changed stations in CB9. Lorianne Wolsey seconded the motion.- Motion passed by unanimous consent.

ii. DOT Carshare

1. The committee reviewed printed maps with car share locations and saw how heavily it was clustered in the district's west side.
2. Group discussion about how poorly DOT rolled out the plan, and how improperly signage is posted and sometimes does not respond to changed locations. Also, a discussion on how some spaces is dedicated to ‘Get Around’ a company that no longer operates in NYC and the confusion this causes drivers to get tickets there.
3. Paco Abraham asked for clarification on the Transportation Committee’s objective since the car share rollout. CB9 passed a resolution in October detailing the preferences for site locations on commercial, rather than residential, blocks. Chairperson Norville noted that he hoped committee members could present additional ideas to DOT and qualify the board’s previous motion.
4. MOTION- Chairperson Norville made a motion for the care share location in CB9 to be less clustered by spacing each site (which has two vehicle parking spaces) approximately a quarter mile apart from one another (around three typical blocks in the district.) It would also remind DOR to give community notice whenever there are changes to the allocated spaces within CB9. Lorianne Wolsey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

iii. Bike Lane Network

1. Chairperson Norville discussed the bike lanes motion previously adopted by this committee, asking DOT to extend existing paths on Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues into CB9
2. Chairperson Norville spoke of concerns raised by the business along Kingston Avenue. Collectively they would be supportive if the committee resolution shifts a segment of the north bound bike lane request to New York Avenue rather than the commercial sections of Kingston. Adopting this idea would mean requested route instead be as follows –
 - a. Northbound bike lane on Kingston, from Winthrop to East New York Avenue
 - b. Connect with the existing westbound lane on East New York Avenue
 - c. Continue north New York Avenue from East New York Avenue to Eastern Parkway
 - d. The southbound Brooklyn Ave bike lane proposal remains unchanged and has the support of the Kingston Avenue business community.

2. The southbound Brooklyn Ave bike lane proposal remains unchanged and has the support of the Kingston Ave business community.
3. MOTION – Andrew Magnus made a motion to amend the Transportation committee’s previously passed motion on the Brooklyn/Kingston Ave proposal to accommodate the business community requests. Paco Abraham seconded the motion, with the caveat the newly created turns ought to have clear wayfinding signage. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

a. Lorianne Wolseley made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

b. Motion is seconded by Andrew Magnus. Motion passes by unanimous consent.