

ESCR CAG Meeting -- May 30, 2024
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Frank Avila Goldman (only on briefly) Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Dov Goldman Richard Heitler Dianne Lake Michael Marino Camille Napoleon Robin Schatell

DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

1. ESCR Tabling & Community Events
 - a. ESCR to Your School program – Let us know if there are any schools who might be interested.
 - b. Reach out if you'd like us to come to your building/development or on the sidewalk near a location.
 - c. We're going to try to be in the park as well.
2. Earth Day (in April)
 - a. We partnered with Parks and led 40 volunteers in site clean-up and planting of over 100 perennials and shrubs, including pollinators.
3. Hiring Compliance – *Stephen Anderson, Bui Studio*
 - a. Employment resources
 - i. SBS/MWBE Small Business Expo yesterday – We participated in this well-attended event and met small businesses interested in construction projects like ESCR.
 - ii. Bronx Construction Career and Training Resource Fair to be held on June 12; DDC to host.
 - iii. ESCR Quarterly Information Session on June 18 will cater to local residents looking for entry-level positions.
 - b. ESCR current staff
 - i. Total PMCM Staff: 230 (*see slide 8*)
 1. Project Area 1 (PA1) New Hires: 74
 2. Project Area 2 (PA2) New Hires: 27
 3. Total New Hires: 101 (11 of the new hires are working on both PA1 and PA2; 75 of total staff are working on both PA1 and PA2)
 4. Staff from MWBE Subs: 40.0% (92 of 230)
 5. Total Minority: 27.8% (64 of 230)
 6. Males: 74.3% (171 of 230)

7. Females: 24.3% (56 of 230) – Industrial average for women in construction management is 7.7%
- ii. Total General Contractors' (GC) Staff: 1,962
 1. PA1 GC, Staff Total: 1,310
 - a. Existing Staff: 55.4% (726 of 1,310)
 - b. New Hires: 44.6% (584 of 1,310)
 - c. New Hires from MWBEs: 5.8% (76 of 1,310)
 - d. Total Minority: 37.5% (491 of 1,310)
 - e. Males: 97.5% (1,277 of 1,310)
 - f. Females: 2.3% (30 of 1,310)
 2. PA2 GC, Staff Total: 652
 - a. Existing Staff: 62.7% (414 of 652)
 - b. New Hires: 37.3% (238 of 652)
 - c. New Hires from MWBEs: 4.6% (32 of 652)
 - d. Total Minority: 47.7% (304 of 652)
 - e. Males: 96.9% (634 of 652)
 - f. Females: 2.8% (18 of 652)
- c. Current progress – staff by residency (*see slide 10*)
- d. Current progress – MWBE goals and utilization & Section 3 hires (*see slide 11*)
 - i. MWBE goals and utilization
 1. PA1 and 2
 - a. HNTB-LiRo, PMCM
 - i. Projected to meet the 29% goal for PA1
 - ii. 37%, exceeding the 31% goal for PA2
 - b. IPC, GC for PA1
 - i. 25%, exceeding the 16% goal
 - c. Perfetto, GC for PA2
 - i. 17%, exceeding the 12% goal
 - ii. Section 3 hires
 1. PA1 and 2
 - a. PMCM – 6 new hires
 - b. PA1, GC – 9 new hires
 - c. PA2, GC – 2 new hires
- e. Strategy & good faith efforts to meet goals
 - i. Ongoing efforts
 1. GC's continued outreach to Labor Unions to assign local individuals to the ESCR project
 2. Continued support from DDC ODIR in collaboration with various city agencies
 3. Quarterly Information Sessions (virtual & in-person)
 4. Email outreach, Community outreach / tabling with Workforce1 mobile unit, continued website updates with resources and job postings as they become available
 - ii. City and local partners
 1. NYC Dept. of Small Business Services - Workforce 1
 2. Henry Street Settlement
 3. Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
 4. Lower East Side Employment Network (LESEN)
 5. NYCHA Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES)
 6. ESCR Community Advisory Group

- 7. Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
 - 8. Labor Unions
 - f. M/WBE | Section 3 | Local hiring goals (*see slide 13*)
4. Overview of Contracts – most of the work is ongoing - (*See slides 14 & 15*)
 - a. PA1 is moving forward with many of the ongoing activities
 - i. South of the Williamsburg Bridge it's about site restoration and building the park back
 - ii. North of the bridge we have underground utility work and excavation
 - iii. Ongoing utility work at E. 10th St.
 - iv. Passive lawn has been fully closed for the upcoming bridge staging
 - v. Continued work on ballfields 1 and 2
 - b. Floodwall operations to resume at Montgomery and South Streets on June 1; ongoing for six months (*see slide 16*)
 - i. Developments should reach out if they want us to present a TA meeting.
 5. Delancey St. pedestrian bridge installation – main focus for next week (*see slide 17*)
 - a. Temporary partial closure of FDR South Service Road and Delancey St. South- June 6 to June 10
 - b. FDR full closure from Fulton to E. Houston Streets overnight of June 8
 - c. Photos of bridge abutments and bridge rendering (*see slide 18*)
 - i. Bridge bearing pads, west staircase (*see slide 19*)
 - ii. Bridge staging area (*see slides 20 & 21*)
 6. PA1 Construction Photos: Esplanade installation (*See slide 22*)
 7. PA1 What We've Heard
 - a. Fireboat House: The alternatives analysis is ongoing, and the City will present to the consulting parties once completed. See ESCR CAG Page for presentation and recording from last April CAG meeting where Julie Freeman from the NYC Office of Management & Budget provided an overview of the Section 106 process as it related to the Fireboat House.
 - b. Compost: City Hall, Parks & DDC are working with LESEC on future compost area design.
 - c. Phase One Openings: Updates will be presented – likely through the summer – once DDC, PMCM, contractor, and Parks finalize a plan for access and turnover
 - d. Responses to CAG Questions are in progress
 8. PA2 Construction Photos: floodgates (*see slide 25*)
 9. Planting at Stuyvesant Cover Park (*see slide 26*)
 10. PA1 Air Quality Monitoring (*see slide 29*)
 - a. There have been a few exceedances; many of them were around the 15–25-minute mark. A few were a bit longer. Now we're entering the summer, and the contractor will use the watering truck more. They've also been applying dust suppression techniques and will do so more frequently in the summer.
 11. Local Law 72 notification – transparency regarding hazardous lead levels in soil (*see slide 30*)

- a. Soil testing earlier this month (as part of usual compliance procedures) detected a lead concentration of 5.56 mg/L which exceeds the USEPA limit of 5.00 mg/L. The soil is not homogenous given that it's urban fill material, so differences can be expected. Moving forward, any soil excavated from that area will go through air monitoring that is in addition to the pre-existing air monitoring locations.
12. PA2 Air Quality Monitoring (*see slide 32*)
- a. Not a lot of work is happening in PA2, so the numbers are low.
13. PC (Parallel Conveyance) Progress (*see slide 34*)
- a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Water St. & Corlears Hook Park
 - i. Utility relocation & Test Pits
 - ii. Prep for excavation for south interceptor gate chamber
 - iii. To begin sewer work
 - iv. Sidewalk & Trench restoration (South St.)
 - v. Upcoming Water St. continuation of new 24" sewer work. Upcoming road closure from Water Street from Gouverneur Slip E to Jackson St.
 - b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St.
 - i. Utility relocation & Test pits
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St.
 - i. Utility relocation & Test pits
 - ii. Water main installation
 - d. Location 4 – Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Bus stop intermittent closure
 - e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th
 - i. Test pits
 - ii. ConEd steam main abatement work
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
 - i. Upcoming water main/hydrant relocation (under FDR)
 - ii. Test pits
14. PC Corlears Hook Park construction activities (*see slide 35*)
- a. Ongoing work
 - i. Test pits
 - ii. Utility work
 - iii. Staging for excavation
 - b. 2024
 - i. Excavation for and installation of interceptor gate chamber – night work required to accommodate FDR land closures; more info. to be provided when it becomes available.
 - c. 2025
 - i. Construction of interceptor gate building
 - ii. Restoration and return of ballfield
15. PC Water Street closure between Gouverneur Slip East and Jackson Street (*see slide 36*)
- a. To begin as early as the week of June 10, 2024
 - b. Ongoing for approximately 3 months
 - c. Typical work hours 7:00am – 4:00pm
 - d. Draft detour provided; we'll continue to finalize it

- e. Ongoing coordination with Gouverneur Gardens on parking lot access and pick-up / drop-off access
- f. More details to follow in upcoming Advisory

16. PC Construction Photos: floodgates (*see slide 37*)

- a. ConEd cable splicing, test pit, jet grout permeability test
 - i. It may seem that roads are closed when no work is happening, but it's in anticipation of ConEd work that may only be for a portion of the day, and we need to provide them with that access. We appreciate your understanding.

Q & A

Dov: Near Pier 42, we noticed that some of the new plants were already dying. A construction worker told me there was no irrigation system set up there. I don't know if that's correct, but I wanted to bring it to everyone's attention.

Desiree: Pier 42 is not part of ESCR. Paula and I talked about this the other day, and she reached out to the CCL for the Pier 42 project (Rick Fogarty) about it.

Paula: Yes, but I haven't heard back yet.

Robin: What time at night will the bridge process start, and when will it be open for us to use?

Desiree: It starts at 12:01 am on June 8th. We anticipate it will open in September when we open ball fields 1 and 2.

Robin: I guess the bus is being re-routed. Will that whole access road be closed at Houston so that no cars can go down it?

Desiree: There will be a partial closure on the south service road. We've had this detour in the past, so folks go up Delancey Street down to Lewis Street.

Dianne: The work that's going on in ball fields 3, 4, and 5. Between the esplanade and the ball field where the strip of grass and trees used to be there's a big excavation that looks like a moat, and it keeps filling up with water and draining and filling up with water and draining. Is this a normal part of the construction, and what is going on in that space?

Desiree: They're building the tide gate chambers down in there; we want come back with a little more information about this at the next CAG meeting. Earlier on in the process during the beginning stages of utility work south of the Williamsburg Bridge we spoke about the dewatering process. I will go back to our team and try to find out some more information about that, but we do have that dewatering process down there as well.

Dianne: OK, great, because it looks like it's sloshing in and out with the tide. The water's not still; it moves.

Wendy: We made a list of questions about the north end of PA1, and I thought we'd get some answers about them tonight.

Paula: We sent that list to Parks, and we heard from them today that they're working on them but won't have any answers ready for tonight.

Wendy: The few trees that are left are doing so much good work in that area around 6th Street and 10th Street. Is there any timing around or possibilities of looking for looking at more of a gate situation there rather than mowing everything down?

Desiree: As we've mentioned, the trees need to be removed due to the grade changes in the park. We don't have exact timing on when we're going to move forward. As

promised, we're not closing any further portions of the park until we open the lower portion.

CAG-only portion

Michael: I was hoping Frank was going to be on the call today... At Corlears we're having issues with construction workers parking illegally all along the park every day. I send pictures to Desiree every day, we started going 311 requests, and people are starting to get tickets now, but they're parking right on the tree beds. I don't know what else we can do about it. I wonder if Frank and Gouverneur Gardens are having the same issue. When I used to send the photos to Parker, he would share them with the construction manager. It's not really something for the CAG to get involved with; it's just an annoyance for me.

Ayo: Why don't you call your precinct to see if they can issue some warnings?

Michael: They've come and ticketed a few times, but I do have an email out to Detective Soto.

Ayo: My next suggestion is that you paper their cars with notices from the community.

Wendy: The new DEP person for resiliency was at this month's CB 3 meeting; they're the agency in charge of all the movable gates around the city. I think it would be good for them to come to the CAG sometime, especially with all the operations-related questions about how that would work. Also, regarding one of the commitments, we still haven't had any preparedness training in the community, and there are new systems in place in some of the most vulnerable buildings that people don't know about. There's something that could be useful coming out of a meeting with DEP and their new resiliency department.

Wendy: On Avenue C at 10th Street there's a major repair of the steam system going on; does it have anything to do with the work going on in the park? They're putting a mini-tunnel of some sort underneath the 10th Street bridge. I know there's a lot of construction equipment in that area.

Katie Loeb: To my knowledge they're not connected, but I can find out. The parallel conveyance work is between Avenue D and the FDR, and the steam work is around Avenues C and D. We can find out if they're impacted by each other, but I believe they're two different projects.

Wendy: I hear there are all kinds of issues in that area with steam coming out of the ground.

Richard: It's been that way for years. We've had steam leaks on Avenue C up as high as between 11th and 12th Streets. The corner of 10th and C has had repeated cave-ins. They did a major project a year or two ago that seems to have held for a while, so it's kind of disconcerting that they're there again.