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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

November 21, 2023

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was Teleconference on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Danielle Brecker, Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Reilly Owens, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Mary Torres

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Transportation Committee – Public Members

Patricia Pan

Community Board 2 Staff

MaryAnn Gurrado

NYC Department of Transportation

Guests

Public Comments

Angus Greive Smith, Debbie Farley, Joe LoBello, David Morant

Public Comments – Comments by Community Members (1 Minute) up to ten minutes

Angus Grieve Smith discussed his concerns regarding safety improvements on Queens Boulevard and is requesting Queens Boulevard be made safer.

Joe LoBello spoke about traffic safety in the district and is advocating for more opportunities for daylighting as it is difficult to cross the streets.

David Morant requested more daylighting in our community as it is dangerous to cross the street on Queens Boulevard.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

Debbie Farley spoke about outdoor dining and stated she is opposed to the permanent outdoor dining program.

The committee discussed shared vocabulary on certain terms.

The committee discussed what would safety elements be that we could discuss with DOT for intersections such as daylighting being one of them. We can discuss and bring to the full board.

The committee proposed that we discuss the daylighting proposal and bring it to the full board. Daylighting is when vehicles are not allowed to park within 20 feet of an intersection next to the crosswalk. This was a law passed in New York State preventing any vehicles from parking within 20 feet of an intersection. NYC has passed a law that bypasses that law that allows parking.

This is a proposal to adopt the NY State Law for New York City and that we bring this to the full board for an advisory vote to our Council Members and the Mayor that NYC adopts the full NY State Law for daylighting at every intersection, that is no parking or standing within 20 feet and for DOT to use all infrastructure to make sure this happens.

The committee members were in favor to support this proposal.

The committee discussed that in addition to supporting the state law, that we would like to see daylighting included especially areas lacking tree coverage and requested bulb outs for daylighting that includes trees.

The committee discussed the rules for open dining do account for daylighting and the needs for it. There will be rules for restaurants going forward to ensure that structures do not block visibility at the corners.

The committee discussed prioritization for certain intersections.

A discussion about residential parking permits took place. Ideas of permits that provide the disabled and/or caretakers prioritized and lower fee permitting; how permits can reduce commuter parking decreasing the number of personal use vehicles in the area as well as a couple of committee members completely opposed to any permitting regardless of disability or other need were shared.

The committee discussed the need for more loading zones and universal metering.

The committee discussed that this is a climate related issue, and they also discussed the issue of park space and that CB2 must fight for every point of this district and that there is not enough green open space.

The committee discussed issues with the MTA and when they schedule areas with planned disruptions and the need for more robust diversion plans which could include the following:

- Dedicated bus lanes for all shuttle buses
- Bus lane on QB and Queens Plaza would help commuters especially seniors and those with disabilities
- Fair parity on the LIRR
- Fair integration with citibikes and the ferries

The committee reported these issues were presented to the MTA and they discussed the possibility of having MTA come back to the Transportation Committee Meeting to discuss these issues and drafting something to our NY State elected officials.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Discussion on illegal two-wheel vehicles
- Illegal license plates

The 108th Police Precinct was not present at this meeting.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The DOT was not present at this meeting.

- The committee discussed the Complete Streets Program and requested a review of this; Specifically, after learning that there was in fact, no part 2 coming to Blissville following the Maspeth Industrial Business Zone Safe Enhancements. Tom suggested that maybe the Governor's Complete Streets Program that is to pay for 87% of a project that uses complete street methodology could be the answer for Blissville. City projects do not qualify for this initiative.
- Discussion of Residential Parking.
- Maspeth Industrial Business Zone Safety Enhancements part II. Provide an update. This summer DOT:
 - Shortened pedestrian crossings with painted curb extensions at 58th Street and 55th Drive and 55th Drive and Maurice Avenue.
 - Add lane markings on 58th Street approaching 56th Drive to clarify
 - Refurbished all markings on 58th Street, 55th Drive to 56th Drive.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT – DISTRICT WIDE

- Provide an update on the Mayor Adams 1000 Citywide DOT initiative on intersection improvements and the impact on the CB2 District. (Any intersections within CB 2, What is the process to get on the list) (CB 2 Sent a letter - DOT-566033-Z7L8). As per DOT, the unit is currently reviewing requests and will get back before the end of the year/early next year. Response issued to CB 2 TC on January 17, 2023; Safety Improvements made at 18 locations within CB 2. Provide List of Locations.
- Provide update on Open Restaurants. Requesting Formal Guidelines with criteria and fee schedules) NYC's New Permanent Outdoor Dining Program – Dining Out NYC (nyc.gov/dining out) signed into law August 16, 2023. Official Rulemaking Process Anticipated Fall 2023 and will include a 30-Day comment period, including public hearing. Currently, DOT no longer accepting new applications under the temporary program. For more information CB 2 can visit our site as well as learn more here: <https://www.diningoutnyc.info/sites/default/files/2023->

[08/dining-out-nyc-program-overview-summer2023.pfd](#). First season of the permanent outdoor dining in NYC Spring 2024.

REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT

Blissville

- Discussion of reconsideration of DOTs decision that no action is needed at the intersection of Van Dam, 35th Street and Starr Avenue where a construction fence has been erected; curb-to-curb - sending pedestrians into the street with no protection. Signal denial issued at this location May 2023, open to discussing alternative treatments.
- The Blissville Greenway from K bridge to G bridge along Review Avenue connecting Laurel Hill and Blissville and the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Councilman Van Bramer has written a letter of support for this community inspired project that is also contained in the CB2s “Top 10” budget priorities. DOT-484255-K7Q6 – DOT Currently investigating the feasibility of expanding bike connections.
- Request for improvements to Van Dam Street and Greenpoint Avenue – In Early October, DOT received a request for improvements at this location and along Greenpoint Avenue bike lane between Brooklyn and Queens. DOT will consider adding connection to the NYC bicycle network as they develop new projects. DOT currently investigating the feasibility of expanding bike connections.
- “No thru truck traffic signage” - There are only 4 streets in Blissville that allow permit trucks to travel through the street (1) review avenue (2) Greenpoint Avenue (3) Borden Avenue and (4) Van Dam. All other trucks should only be allowed with “truck traffic for local deliveries only” signage. CB 2 is requesting signage alerting trucks of this rule to aid NYPD with enforcement. Specific streets CB2 requests “No thru truck traffic signage” included at 35th Street and 37th Street (DOT-581076-X9W1) Response issued to CB 2 on May 18, 2023, additional signage not recommended.
- The Committee reported the painted lines on the road (THE PAINTED LINE BULB OUT at STARR and GREENPOINT) have vanished and a request was made to have them refurbished. DOT reported, they will investigate getting the markings done as soon as the warm weather returns. Provide an update. (DOT-581065-J1R6) Location refurbished with 2023 marking season.
- Request for bollards to be added to bulb out street painted markings at Greenpoint Avenue and Starr Avenue (DOT-614185-D189)

Court Square

- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update. QBCO will follow-up with the Unit for an update. Internal update street furniture group is looking into design adding bike corrals at the NE side of the block to narrow the roadway and shift the parking lane over. Follow up with Street Furniture to check if GD approved the design. DOT will provide an update on this.

Sunnyside

- Request for DOT to revisit the closing of 39th Avenue from 45th to 50th Street.
- Request for speed camera for PS199 on 38th Street between 48th Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue (DOT-578535-F1B6) (DOT SENT LETTER) PS 199 and Aviation and Technical High School are covered by Existing Mobile and Fixed Speed Enforcement Programs at Eastbound Greenpoint Avenue from 37th Street to 43rd Street, Westbound Greenpoint Ave from 43rd to 37th street, eastbound 48th Avenue and 38th Street and westbound 48th Ave and 38th Street. CB2 issued response 02/14/2023 location covered by our existing mobile and fixed speed enforcement program.
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements at 43rd Street and Laurel Hill Blvd at the entrance to the Kosciuszko Bridge Pedestrian and Bike Pathway. (Letter to DOT)
- Request for safety improvements at 42nd Place between Northern Boulevard and East Side Access rail yard. DOT reported conflicting boundaries, not in public right of way. Discussion with DOT Land Use Division
- Request for repairs to potholes in Sunnyside (DQ 202355032)

Woodside

- Request to DOT for a One-Way Street conversion on 51st Avenue Between 65th Place and 61st Street. Provide an update. (DOT-464313-T7R8) Open and being evaluated, please provide an update.
 - 51st Avenue between 65th Place and 61st Street was reversed 63 Street to NB operation from 50th avenue to Laurel Hill Blvd and converted 65th Street to one-way NB from 48th Avenue to Laurel Hill Blvd., both changes have helped curtail the cut through traffic that was using 51s Avenue and at this point unless the CB or residents feel there is another issue, we don't have any future plans for additional changes.
 - 50th Avenue between 69th Street and 65th Place. We were waiting on the Queens Bus network redesign since that would remove the Q18 bus from 50th Avenue and most likely negate the need for a conversion.
- 58th and Laurel Hill Blvd – heading west. Complaint that the right lane now only lets you turn right onto 58th and now go straight (DOT-531299-VOV2) Provide an update. No changes advised t this time. Response issued 1/27/2022
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements on Broadway and 37th Avenue and on 63rd Street to 69th Street near the BQE Exit (DOT-565073-X3Q1) Study still active requesting update. DOT reported some LPI's installed – 65th Street and Broadway, existing one at 37th Avenue
- Request for a Feasibility Study for the Installation of a Protected Bike Lane on 39th Avenue between Woodside Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue (DOT -565044-C0Y1) (DOT sent letter currently assessing options to connect the Bike Blvd. between woodside, Jackson heights and existing bike network to improve safety working to developing a proposal) Response issued to CB 2 on 2/08/2023, to be considered under future expansion efforts.

- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements at 43rd Street and Laurel Hill Blvd at the entrance to the Kosciuszko Bridge Pedestrian and Bike Pathway (Additional Lighting DOT-566039-Y2G6) This tracking number is for a marking refurbishment at Thomson Avenue and Van Dam Street – QBCO to confirm)
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements at 43rd Street and Laurel Hill Blvd at the entrance to the Kosciuszko Bridge Pedestrian and Bike Pathway (DOT 565915-H2X2) Provide an update. Currently under review.
- Request for AWS at 38th Avenue between 59th Street and 60th Street
- 60th Street and 37th Avenue (Existing Study Open (DOT-577572-V1S1) DOT reported still active.

Woodside Speed Reducers

- Speed Cushion request on 58th Street from 39th Ave to Woodside Ave. (DOT- 433629-RSM3) Request an update - DOT states this is still an active study. Please provide an updated timeline as this is near a school. CB2 submitted a letter to DOT (DOT-537619-L2C2) (REQUEST DENIED AS PER DOT LETTER DATED OCTOBER 31, 2022).

Long Island City

- 11th Street and Borden Avenue under the Pulaski Bridge Entrance and Exit to midtown tunnel requesting a turning lane and a left turn signal (DOT-497660 Z4G6). DOT denied continue discussion. (Site Visit with DOT) CB2 discussion on resubmitting as separate items and breaking up the request. Denial issued to CB 2 1/18/2023.
- Center Blvd north of 47th Road transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update. 47th Road and N Basin Road. Paving stones collapsing in intersection at Center Blvd. north of 47th Road. No updates to provide at this time.
- Request for a one-way conversion on 31st Place between 47th Avenue and 48th Avenue (DOT-497662-R8J2). (APPROVED) Provide Implementation date? Letter of support requested from CB 2 on 10/4/2023. Waiting for Letter of support from CB 2.
- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5th Street (DOT 508287-VOB8) – Provide an update. Location denied, response issued to CB 2 02/08/2023.
- 51st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge (also known as the 21st Avenue Pedestrian Food Bridge) Request an update on a letter from DOT to send to CB 2 to close this project. Tracking number needed.
- Request for a feasibility study for the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at the Lights around CUNY LaGuardia Community College/Bard High School Early College (Request submitted to DOT) (DOT533922H3F1) Please provide an update. Currently under investigation, awaiting update.
- Request for refurbish markings on Queens Blvd btw Jackson Avenue and Skillman Avenue (DOT-578680-J6M7) Response issued to CB 2 on 4/27/2023 Markings added to summer markings schedule. Was this completed?

- Request for the Redesign of Vernon Mall on Borden Avenue, Vernon Boulevard, Jackson Avenue and the Northern Boundary of 51st Avenue (Letter sent to DOT) Tracking number requested.
- Request for New York City DOT Proposals Include Seniors, the Disabled and those with Different Physical Disabilities and Needs (Letter sent to DOT) DOT 599194-D6Q7

Old Business:

Discussion of Draft Letter by CB 2 Environment Parks & Recreation Committee on a Request for Capital Project to address the gap in Western Queens Waterfront Greenway between Center Boulevard and 50th Avenue and Vernon Boulevard and 46th Avenue.

This was discussed at the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee; however, this needs to come from the Transportation Committee that asks for the completion of a greenway through the district. This can be brought up at the full board meeting. There are a number of different designs.

A discussion concerning a \$750 million dollar raise grant for greenway development was discussed. This was one of the corridors that was selected. There was a big announcement last month. DOT, Parks and EDC worked on this. Public input will start at the beginning of next year from Hunters Point through Astoria out past LaGuardia Airport and the World's Fair Promenade, through Whitestone and College Point where it can link with Little Bay Park, Ft. Totten, etc. The committee would like everyone to be aware and to be able to participate in the process.

The committee would like to see more discussion about what would link all the points around our district that would support something that goes right into our district north and the other areas. Letting people know this is happening and public discussion that will begin.

The Environment Committee passed this resolution before the raise grant was awarded. Rob from the Hunters Point Park Conservancy came to talk about this.

The Committee suggested inviting Rob from the Hunters Point Park Conservancy to come to the Transportation Committee Meeting about this.

A committee member discussed the areas of the southern border of Newtown Creek areas that are part of the 1% of New Yorkers that must walk more than 20 minutes to get to a green space and that they are disappointed in the inequities as it relates to what has been done in the great borough of Brooklyn on their northern border along Newtown creek and the lack of attention on the Queens side of Newtown Creek. He is calling for equity and wants to see the 1% of New Yorks that do not have access to green space, as we are forgetting about them.

New Business:

A committee member spoke about an Intro passed by City Council in October requiring DOT to equitably invest in communities that have been underinvested in as it relates to DOT infrastructure. Blissville qualifies, as do other areas in our community, and we want to hear from DOT on how they will implement this law and what items they are going to utilize to determine which areas have been underserved for the past 15 years. The issue of zip codes was discussed.

The committee discussed the issue of outdoor dining and will request more information from DOT.

Thomas Mituzas made a motion, and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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