



*Donovan Richards
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*Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

APRIL 2, 2024

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Transportation Committee Members – Present

*Anatole Ashraf (PV), Reilly Owens, Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos,
Thomas Mituzas, Laura Shepard*

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Danielle Brecker, Sheila Lewandowski, Oumaya Saab

Community Board 2 Members - Present

Warren Davis

Transportation Committee Public Members – Present

Patricia Pan, Seth Slade

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

Long Island City Partnership

Charles Yu (PV), Angel Hart (PV)

MTA

Meagan Molina, Kana Ervin

NYC Department of Transportation

Jason Banrey, Joseph Patti, Karissa Lidstrand, Dan Wagner

Public Comment

Warren Davis, Steven Bodzin, Corey Hannigan, Max Johnson

Reilly Owens announced he is the new Chair of the Transportation Committee and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Warren Davis, Community Board 2 Member and Member of the Blissville Civic Association discussed safety issues in the Blissville:

- Blissville has doubled in size due to the increase in shelters.
- There are a number of safety issues on Starr Avenue between Van Dam Street and Greenpoint Avenue which is especially unsafe for children, the elderly and those with disabilities. This is also the location where people have to catch the 24 Bus Line.
- There are many people who bike and walk and there needs to be a greater study to mitigate the issues to be able to cross from Van Dam Street to Greenpoint Avenue.
- Review Avenue at the foot of the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge is very dangerous for pedestrians, children, the elderly and the disabled.
- There needs to be a comprehensive study on how to deal with the traffic flow that accommodates pedestrians, cyclists and commercial traffic and citizen traffic pattern.

Tom Mituzas discussed three items that will be added to the agenda.

- NYCDOT Pedestrian Ramp Program. Blissville has no updates.
- NYC DOT Program – Traffic Calming measures at Greenpoint Avenue and Starr, have been denied.
- Safet Routes to Transit Program – This intersection is the home to two bus stops, no pedestrian ramp, want action from DOT.
- 2024 DOT Street Plan – Blissville was in Tier 3. In 2026 they need to come into compliance. The Law is intro 1164 which requires equity in infrastructure.

Steven Bodzin discussed the DOT Queens Boro Bridge Pedestrian Path, working with Transportation Alternatives to get a dedicated pedestrian path on the Queens Borough Bridge pushing for the south outer roadway converted for pedestrian use and leave the north roadway for cyclists and micro mobility.

Corey Hannigan discussed the following:

- Requesting the immediate expulsion of illegally parked vehicles at Queens Bridge Baby Park before they do for, they do more damage to the trees and plantings there.
- Reported there are a PD vehicles parked on the sidewalk on Vernon and Jackson train entrance.
- Seeking support for calls to restore Queens service to the G Train alongside the shut down in Brooklyn.
- Seeking to rapidly deploy a bus lane on Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside.
- Discussed the south outer roadway opening on the Queens Borough Bridge,
- Need more protected bike infrastructure to and from the bridge.
- No lighting on 48th Street and Northern Boulevard.

Max Johnson discussed safety issues on 51st Street and Skillman Avenue. Since the modifications that were made regarding protection for bikers, the FDNY is having difficulty making proper turns due to double parked trucks which is resulting in a delay in response times. Requesting follow up and or a survey done in this location.

Seth Slade spoke about double parked vehicles on 58th Street and Tyler.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Discussion on license plates of motorized vehicles missing and /or illegally presented.
- Discussion of illegal sidewalk parking.

There was not report.

MTA – PRESENTATION ON THE G LINE CBTC (COMMUNICATIONS BASED TRAIN CONTROL) – MEGAN MOLINA

- Presented a power point presentation and discussed an overview on the G line modernization.

DOT – PRESENTATION ON QUEENSBORO BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Jason Banrey introduced his colleagues Joseph Patti, Karissa Lidstrand, Dan Wagner

- Update on the Queensboro Bridge Construction progress and update on the bridge access for when the project is complete. (See copy attached, Attachment #1)

REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT

- **Blissville**

The Blissville community has long sought a comprehensive review of our Streets in the Blissville section of Long Island City that would consider the safety of all roadway users of all ages and abilities: including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders and motorists. Specific items include but not limited to:

- Corner of 35th, Starr and Van Dam - install a proper sidewalk with curbs and pedestrian accessible ramps. Ensure daylighting at this intersection. As of today, it is just dirt and broken up asphalt. Install appropriate sidewalk and ramps. DOT has flagged this with the Public Realm Team and reported they will actively look at this.
- Reconsideration of request to install "No thru truck traffic signage" on 35th and 37th. There are only 4 streets in Blissville that are designated as truck routes (1) review avenue (2) Greenpoint Avenue (3) Borden Avenue and (4) Van Dam. All other streets should only have truck traffic for local deliveries yet trucks travel through these streets on a daily basis to other destinations. DOT-581076-X9W1.

The Committee requested an update on the Blissville Greenway. DOT reported that we will be coming to the Board this spring with plans.

- DOT-581065-J1R6 - we are pleased to see the newly painted lines at Greenpoint and Starr however cars and trucks just park over these lines negating their purpose. May we amend our request to install bollards or an actual bulb out like we've seen done in neighboring communities. DOT-581065-J1R DOT-614185-D189.

The committee reported the DOT is not in compliance with a federally mandated plan.

- A study is needed at the 12-lane intersection at the base of the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge. Review/VanDam/Greenpoint. Very dangerous Area. The DOT will be looking at and will push for programming as soon as possible.
- Green Asphalt – Seeking a follow up from DOT on NYC DOT's use of Green Asphalt Co LLC located at 37-98 Railroad Avenue in the Blissville section of Long Island City that has been charged by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation on January 11, 2024, with a violation of New York State Air Pollution Control Law. DOT reported they have been in touch with the head of their roadway maintenance group, and they are keeping a close eye on this. At the moment they are no longer working with the group as they have concluded for the season dropping off asphalt. Since they have received a violation, they are required to have a comprehensive plan to address this issue.

Court Square

- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update. Scheduled to be done this year on their list for 2024. DOT reported they are waiting on their geometric design group to approve their plan. DOT will provide more information later in the season on this.

Sunnyside

- Request for DOT to present data and findings of the impact of the conversion of 39th Avenue to a bike boulevard (from 45th to 50th Street) on safety, residents, businesses, vehicular traffic (trucks, cars), especially at the corner of 50th Street (right turn) Request for DOT to revisit the closing of 39th Avenue from 45th to 50th Street. DOT reported the bike team has been made aware and they are actively looking at this intersection.

A discussion about this being part of a broader study and the impact of the whole community took place. The possibility of a site visit was discussed.

- 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. (CB 2 Sent Letter to DOT on September 7, 2022) DOT reported they will review as part of a larger project.

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 51^s 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.
- 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
- 60th Street and 37th Avenue (Existing Study Open (DOT-577572-V1S1) DOT reported still active and being studied.

The committee discussed the 2024 DOT Street Plan. We are nearing 2026 when DOT will have to comply with 1164. A law which requires equity in infrastructure within neighborhoods. This has to be a discussion as we approach 2026.

Long Island City

- Request for Quality-of-Life sign, no overnight parking on Center Boulevard between 50th and 47th Avenue.
- 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. Provide update.
- 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. CB 2 Letter submitted (DOT621806-L7V9) Implementation April 18, 2024.
- 51st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge (also known as the 21st Avenue Pedestrian Foot Bridge) Request an update on a letter from DOT to send to CB 2 to close this project. DOT Tracking number needed.
- 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. Pending, capital project.
- 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, please provide an update.

Old Business:

DOT provided an update on the following:

- Lines on 51st Street – DOT reported this is still active.
- 49th Street Signal – Will check on the work order.
- LIRR overpass lighting improved lighting – Waiting for lighting team to get back.
- Jackson Avenue was just repaved from Van Dam to Vernon.

The committee discussed the 43rd Avenue bike lane turning lanes are being used for parking.

New Business:

Laura Shepard made motion and it was seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos to send a letter of support for dedicated bus lanes for accommodate the G train shuttle buses where feasible. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

The committee discussed safety issues of double parking on Skillman Avenue and 41st Street where there is a food service organization.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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