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*Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

January 2, 2024

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in Person.

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Osman Chowdhury, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Danielle Brecker, Morry Galonoy, Reilly Owens

Public Members – Present

Patricia Pan

Public Members – Absent

Seth Slade

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

NYC Department of Transportation

Joseph Patti (Present Virtual)

DCAS

Calogero Cutaia, Jorgji Dhima

Guests

Chris Efthimiouzi

Barry Druss

Sheila Lewandowski welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Chris Efthimiouzi discussed safety issues and impediments for two-wheel bike riders as it relates to mountable curbs.

Barry Druss discussed the following issues:

- Provided an update about 37th Street and Review Avenue there is a need to allow cars to turn right onto 37th when the light is red on 37th and Greenpoint Avenue because traffic backs up to Laurel Hill Boulevard.
- Requested the DOT consider a fly-over for the LIE. There should be a feasibility study to allow traffic to fly over Greenpoint Avenue area and make a continuous turn and access the BQE in either direction north or south or the BQE and LIE going east.
- The Committee mentioned Mr. Druss's prior submission to the Board to support direct buses through the QMT to alleviate vehicular traffic. This committee and board has supported similar proposals in the past and continues to do so.

Patricia Pan reported that a motorized bike crashed into the sidewalk as she was coming into the office building and requested enforcement.

Sheila Lewandowski announced the MTA will be attending next month to discuss the MTA Bus Redesign Proposed Plan.

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.

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

A request was made for CB 2 to attend the 108th monthly traffic meetings.

A request was made for enforcement and signage for no through truck traffic enforcement specifically in the Blissville community. Locations will be forwarded to the CB 2 Office.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **Presentation by DCAS for DOT of a solar canopy project at the Court Square Garage**

Calogero Cutaia introduced his colleague Jorgji Dhima and provided the following presentation (copy attached)

Project Summary – Increase the capacity of solar systems installed on City Property as part of the drive towards 100 MW of solar by 2025. The Project is currently in Design Phase. Estimated construction start date is June 17, 2024 and estimated construction completion date is January 13, 2025.

This location is listed on LPC Landmarks, and they will be meeting with them.

The committee discussed a sprinkler system and lighting as well as ask questions about capacity of EV stations, impact on current use, the adjacent community during and after construction, etc.

Q & A

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Discussion of Residential Parking. Short discussion of pros and cons took place. There were those adamantly opposed to the idea as well as suggestion made for every spot to be metered with some form of discounted parking for residents that would also allow for people with special needs to be registered within the system for exceptions (disabled, caretakers, etc).

DOT provided the following updates and discussed the end of year report:

- Repaved over 1,100 lane miles.
- Installed a record number of bike lanes.
- Installed bus improvements to bring better service to daily riders.
- Pedestrianized 588,000 sf of street space.
- Facilitated more than 350 program events of public spaces.
- Reconstructed over 6200 corners to help those with accessibility issues.
- Distributed nearly 20,000 bicycle helmets.
- Installed Accessible Pedestrian Signals at 824 intersections.
- Hosted 1700 community meetings.

DOT – DISTRICT WIDE

- Discussion of Intro 1164-2023 into law-enacted to ensure equality NYC DOT infrastructure investments. How and when will DOT approach communities?
- Discussion of proposal for daylighting and intersection safety. (See end of notes for vote)
- Provide update on Open Restaurants. Streets, Culture Requesting Formal Guidelines with criteria and fee schedules) NYC's New Permanent Outdoor Dining Program – Dining Out NYC

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.
- 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.
- 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 bulbout like we've seen done in neighboring communities. DOT-581065-J1R DOT-614185-D189.
- A study is needed at the 12-lane intersection at the base of the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge. Review/VanDam/Greenpoint. Very dangerous Area.

Court Square

- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update. DOT reached out to street furniture unit, installation of bike corrals and shifting of the parking lane is something that they have on their list for this year.

The committee requested protected bike lanes on Crescent Street in front of the Rockrose building, which is closed off with planters. DOT will look into it as DCP's plan moves ahead.

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 discussed data they have been collecting for the entire length of the 39th Avenue bike Boulevard during the third quarter of 2023. There has only been one reported crash in 2023 and there have been noticeable safety benefits since this has been implemented which was in the third quarter of 2021.

A request was made for DOT to do a study or redesign the diverter on 50th Street so it doesn't require that people turn in only one direction.

The committee has requested the following site visits be conducted at the location at 50th Street as well as and 45th Street and 39th Avenue.

- 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 will follow up on this as it is still being looked at.

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.
- 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.

DOT reported this is still open.

Long Island City

- 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)

DOT reported the unit is preparing for implementation and will follow up with the unit.

- 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.
- 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.

The committee discussed the new council bill that passed (1164) that will require DOT to report on where they will be required to put money in neighborhoods that were underfunded communities. DOT will look into the exact metrics on this.

The Committee requested an update on the Blissville Greenway. DOT reported plans are still tentative and will follow up on this.

The committee requested follow up on the following matters:

An opening date for the south outer walkway of the Queens Borough Bridge. DOT reported its tentatively scheduled for the mid-point of this year.

The committee discussed the following:

- Continuation of the greenway throughout the entire district.
- District wide daylighting and why not use it for bike parking.
- Bike parking on 23rd Street and 44th Drive going northeast and are requesting a designated left turn lane and signal to go north up 23rd. The bike parking at this location is never used. There are poles there and there is decreased visibility.
- A request was made for a sidewalk on Van Dam and 35th and Starr Avenue as there is a dirt road there.
- Starr Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue corner needs safety improvements.
- There are many areas in the district that are underserved.

A proposed resolution in support of daylighting was presented to the Committee.

Tom Mituzas made a motion, and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski that CB 2 put forth a resolution for New York City to adopt New York State laws as it relates to daylighting. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Laura Shepard made a motion, and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski to support a connected, protected continuous greenway from the Pulaski Bridge all the way along the waterfront along Center Boulevard to the northern border of CB 2. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Old Business:

- New Business: 12 Hour parking meters. The committee is requesting an explanation before congestion pricing comes in.
- A discussion about residential parking permits took place.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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