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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

October 3, 2023

CB2 Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Meeting Members – Present

Tom Mituzas, Osman Chowdhury, Rosamond Gianutsos, Reilly Owens, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Meeting Members – Absent

Sheila Lewandowski, Danielle Brecker, Morry Galonoy

Transportation Committee – Public Members – Present

Seth Slade

Patricia Pan

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representative

Farah Salem, Representing Council Member Julie Won

NYC EDC

Tara Das

Nina Verzosa

Franny Civitano

Qiyi Li

NYC Department of Transportation

Joseph Patti

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

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

There were no public comments.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

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

PD was unable to attend this meeting.

EDC – PRESENTATION – NYC HUNTERS POINT SOUTH FERRY SURVEY

Tara Das provided a presentation on the Hunters Point South Ferry Landings Engagement Strategy and Timeline.

- Attended in spring and wanted to come to give an update.
- January held a walk through to look at alternative locations.
- Identified locations to see if they are feasible.
- Discussed the current landing which is one of the oldest and nearing the end of its useful life.
- A replacement landing in this location was previously considered but proved infeasible due to tunnels and water depth.
- Goal is to identify best solution for NYC Ferry landing at Hunters Point South.

Nina Verzosa, EDC discussed alternatives analysis study update.

The committee discussed the impact it will have on the Creek and flooding of areas down the Creek and blockage of CSO's which cause sewer back flow into homes along the creek.

Franny Civiatano, EDC discussed that all of the locations are presenting a challenging aspect and they are hopeful there is a solid viable alternative to location Zero.

Timeline and Proposed Engagement:

- Mid to late October 2023- Location Preference Survey, Survey goes live.
- October/November 2023 – Tabling at Ferry Landing HPS Park
- November/December 2023 – Location Preference Survey Closes
- Winter 2023/24 – Review survey and study findings
- Winter 2023/24 – Community Board 2 Follow up.

EDC will release the survey between now and the full board meeting in November with a presentation.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 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.

The Committee reported the lines were done at the bulb out at Starr and Greenpoint. A request was made or delineators. It continues to be a hazardous area. We need to lessen the width of the street. The request was combined into one. One location where they need lines to be redone is the corner of 37th and Review. Delineators at Starr and Greenpoint and lines painted on 37th and Review.

- 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. Waiting for approval from geometric unit.

Sunnyside

- Request for DOT to revisit the closing of 39th Avenue from 45th to 50th Street. DOT reported they will provide an update.

Dr. Gianutsos discussed a survey that she conducted on the bike boulevard and recorded measures on vehicular speed etc.

The Committee discussed that we need more data from DOT. DOT has reported that it has made the street safer and there are fewer collisions. The Committee requested a presentation by DOT on this by next month and will provide a set of data.

- 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 there are conflicting boundaries not in the public right of way. Discussions with DOT Land Use Division.
- Request for repairs to potholes in Sunnyside (DQ 202355032 and DQ2023255033). DOT reported repairs have been made.

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 have been installed at 65th Street and Broadway, there is an existing one on 37th Avenue.

The committee discussed that drivers are speeding through this area and requested DOT take a more comprehensive look at this area. There are unmarked crosswalks and no bike infrastructure. DOT reported they will take a look at this location.

- 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 Bride 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 this is 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. To date no letter has been received in response. DOT is waiting for a letter of support from CB 2 to move forward with this study.
- 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). DOT provided the following update: There have been several installations.
 - Thomson and 30th/Skillman Avenue.
 - Thomson and Jackson are underway
 - Thomson and 30th as well as Thomson and 31st have been installed.
 - Thomson and Van Dam work is underway.
 - Queens Boulevard and 32nd Place and 33rd Street have been installed.

- Request for refurbish markings on Queens Blvd between Jackson Avenue and Skillman Avenue (DOT-578680-J6M7) Response issued to CB 2 on 4/27/2023 Markings added to summer markings schedule. DOT reported this has been 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. Dot reminded everyone DOT tries to increase accessibility ty in the city. They have PED ramp upgrade program and their website that shows corners that have been upgraded or scheduled to be upgraded or to be scheduled soon to be upgraded.

The committee discussed the following:

- Intersection of Borden and Review, a major project with DEP on the northeast corner. Crossing Borden on the east side has been closed forcing pedestrians to cross on the westside which is problematic. Pedestrians do not have a head start and LPI's are needed at the location.
- Thanked DOT and Council Member's Office who were helpful in removing the fence at the intersection of Van Dam at 35th and Starr. Requesting DOT for the installation of curbs and sidewalk. Need accessibility at this location.
- Reported there are several potholes on 37th Street between Starr and Bradley.
- Requested an update on 11th Street and Jackson Avenue. DOT reported it is 90% completed. Will provide an update next month.
- Queensborough bridge south outer roadway, DOT reported they still stand with the completion date that was shared.
- Street Improvement Projects on Queens side, DOT reported this is still pending.
- The committee discussed that 21 spots were lost on Barnett Avenue and 48th Street. There are those that have disability plaques that have to walk numerous blocks to get home. Including the spots taken by citibikes on 48th Street. The committee would like to know how many spots have been lost from Sunnyside Gardens in the past three to four years. DOT reported they will look into this.
- The committee requested DOT follow up on the dedicated spots for disability plaque holders on 11th Street.
- The Committee discussed Parking Permits for residential only.
- The Committee discussed accessible cars and Access A Ride. There are no designated spots for accessible vans and accessible cars with disabled parking permits in the area. DOT will look into this.

- The committee discussed Woodside for protected bike lanes and daylighting in particular on Roosevelt Avenue and 61st Street at the LIRR Station which does not have access by bicycle. DOT reported this is something for the Bike Team and they will have to come back.
- The Committee discussed recommendations on 39th Avenue which would connect to Roosevelt Avenue and the railroad station. We should be allocating curb space for people with disabilities.
- The Committee discussed getting clarification between the idea of residential parking permits versus parking permits for people with special needs designations. DOT reported this may be something they will have to look into.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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