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*Danielle Brecker
Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

May 2, 2023

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Tom Mituzas, Morry Galonoy, Reilly Owens, Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Osman Chowdhury

Community Board 2 Members – Present

Danielle Brecker, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Eric Narburgh

Community Board 2 Public Members – Present

Patricia Pan, Seth Slade

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

108th Police Precinct

Sgt. Kevin Gallagher

NYC Department of Transportation

Jason Banrey

NY State Department of Transportation

Nasim Ghani, NY State DOT

Glorimar Reyes, Director of Design, NYS DOT, Region 11

Coffy Andrews, NY State DOT, Executive Office

Steve Bennett, Project Manager, WSP, Design Consultants for NYS DOT

Stamati Dimitrakis, Structural Engineer, WSP, Design Consultants for NYS DOT

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

MTA

Rick Hajduk

Public Comment

Vlad Pavlyuk

Cory Hannigan, Acting Transportation Manager, Tri State Transportation Campaign

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

Vlad Pavlyuk

Discussed a traffic accident that took place last Friday concerning a 58-year-old man on his way to work while crossing Jackson Avenue who was struck and killed in a hit and run. He is advocating for the redesign of Vernon Mall located on Vernon Blvd and Borden Avenue.

Cory Hannigan, Acting Transportation Manager, Tri State Transportation Campaign
Multi State Regional Transportation Advocacy Group

Spoke in support of the open street plan on 46th Street in Sunnyside. He also discussed the need for connected and protected bike lanes to the bridge to Greenpoint, the southern portion of Sunnyside and the area around the Woodside Station which does not have any bicycle infrastructure.

Patricia Pan spoke about the 46th Street open street proposal. She raised concerns about seniors and the disabled who will be unable to bring packages to the UPS Store. She is requesting consideration for those individuals that are seniors and the disabled.

The Committee discussed how the Transportation Committee has made it a priority to support differently abled individuals. The Committee is requesting the DOT to consider loading zones and that the different plans support seniors and differently abled people. It needs to be in the plans and that we get a response from DOT on how they are going to address these things.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Sgt. Kevin Gallagher, Traffic Sgt., 108th Police Precinct provided the following update for the 28-day period from April 3, 2023, to April 30, 2023:

- Traffic Calming issues – Blissville – Issued 15 parking summonses, including sidewalks nighttime commercial parking and missing plates; 2 moving violations.
- Van Dam and Bradley Avenue Auto Body Shops – Issued 13 parking summons including nighttime parking: 4 on the sidewalk and 5 moving violations.
- Crescent Street between 43rd Avenue and 44th Road – enforcement needed (triple parking). Issued 8 double parking summonses and 1 mismatched plates.

- 37th Street between Bradley Avenue and Starr Avenue – Issued 7 parking summons for nighttime and 3 for vehicles parking on the sidewalk.

Sgt. Gallagher reported the 108 Police Precinct follows up and tries to educate business owners on the proper use of the street.

The Committee reported a new business called Happi/Blue Trucking located on 37th Street between Review and Starr habitually exit 37th Street going in the wrong direction and return in the wrong direction every day.

Sgt. Gallagher provided an update about the hit and run accident. They put in two requests with DOT for safety measures, safety island and pavement markings.

The Committee discussed steps to discuss the amount of parking on the sidewalk around the Precinct. The PD is aware of the situation, and they are working on this matter.

The Committee discussed sidewalk parking on 54th Street and 55th Street between 37th Avenue and Northern and Broadway. Numerous 311 complaints have been submitted.

Q & A

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, REGION 11

- **PRESENTATION ON X731.52 BRIDGE REHABILITATION OF BQE OVER LAUREL HILL BLVD BETWEEN 47TH STREET AND 58TH STREET**

Nasim Ghani, New York State Department of Transportation introduced his colleagues:

- Glorimar Reyes, Director of Design of the NYS DOT, Region 11
- Coffy Andrews, NY State DOT, Executive Office
- Steve Bennett, Project Manager, WSP, Design Consultants for NYS DOT
- Stamati Dimitrakis, Structural Engineer, WSP, Design Consultants for NYS DOT

Nasim Ghani, provided a slide presentation of the project and discussed the project purpose, (Copy attached, Attachment #1)

- Improve the overall condition of the BQE viaduct structure and extend its service life.
- Improve safety and roadway geometry.
 - Provide geometric improvements to lane widths, cross slope, superelevation and shoulders.
 - Provide bridge parapets and median barrier that meet current design standards.
 - Improve drainage.
- Project Scope
 - Concrete Deck Replacement
 - Repair steel superstructure and substructure
 - New median barrier and parapets
 - New roadway and underdeck lighting

- New drainage scuppers and downspouts
- New signing
- New striping
- Bridge painting
- Project Schedule
 - Preliminary Design Completion – Spring 2023
 - Final Design Start – Summer 2023
 - Bid Opening/Letting – Spring 2025
 - Construction Start – Summer 2025
 - Construction Completion – Summer 2027

The Committee discussed the following:

- Flooding on the BQE.
- Reducing the number of lanes on the BQE
- Laurel Hill Boulevard upgrades to the sidewalks and will protected bike infrastructure be added to the project.
- Lighting to make the sidewalks safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Q & A

The committee discussed the following issues:

- Climate mitigation
- Keeping it safe for all modes of transportation
- Lowering the speed limit
- Access to the bridge is harrowing.
- Dingy underpass

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **PRESENTATION ON NORTHERN BLVD BUS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SIP)**
-

Jason Banrey, Deputy Borough Commissioner, DOT introduced his colleague Chris Brunson Director of Safety Projects and Programs, DOT and reported on the following:

- This project is continuing from CB 3 into CB 2
- Continuation of agency’s work for decade plus on Northern Blvd.
- Next steps.

Chris Brunson, provided the Presentation on Northern Blvd Bus Street Improvement Project (copy attached, Attachment #2)

- Project Area
- Safety Concerns

- Outreach
- Safety Projects
- Corridor Existing Conditions
- Existing Conditions: Limited Transit Access
- Bus Speed Increases on Northern Blvd.
- NYC Streets Plan
- Why Northern Blvd.
- Proposed Bus Lane
- Benefits of Design
- Making it Work – Traffic Effects
- Making it Work
- Bus Speed Increases on Merrick Blvd
- Next Steps

Q & A

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.
- Provide an update on the Queensboro bridge pedestrian cyclist lane. CB2 is requesting an expedited timeline. (CB2 provided a letter and CB 2 is looking for a response to the CB 2 Letter)
- Provide an update on the clear markings along the Northern Blvd. Protected Bike Lane Path.
- TC response to rejection of DOT response that meters will remain as is... review regulation changes for all 12/14-hour meters to 4 hours within CB 2. (DOT-481113-J7B9)
- Provide update on Open Restaurants. Requesting Formal Guidelines with criteria and fee schedules)
- Provide an update on the Citi Bike Share program. What is the process for incorporating and sharing feedback which is due on March 1, 2022. Continue Discussion
- DOT is conducting a Parking Study for Congestion Pricing initiative (DOT-481113-J7B9)
- Provide an update on the new initiative of the Jersey Barriers within CB 2. DOT stated location of Vernon Blvd between 46th and 30th Road. Please provide an updated timeline. (LETTER SUBMITTED BY CB2 DOT-584992-Y8N0))

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.
- 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 – Request an update.

- Request DOT conduct a feasibility study on 37th Street between Review Avenue and Starr Avenue. Change directional and if not approved, add a left turn signal from Review Avenue onto 37th going east. CB2 sent a letter to DOT (DOT-537677-J6D9)
- Maspeth Industrial Business Zone Safety Enhancements part II. Provide an update.
- Request for Inclusion of Intersection of Greenpoint Avenue and Starr Ave as part of Mayor Adams 100 citywide DOT Initiative on Intersection Improvements. (DOT-565909-V4X8 – DOT Letter on November 25, 2022, as per DOT conditions have not changed)
- 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.
- “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)
- 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)
- 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.

Court Square

- Crescent Street request to change the diagonal markings and expand the sidewalk. case number DOT-516190-R6K9. Request update.
- Request a feasibility study for Crescent Street between 43rd Avenue and 44th Road east side of the street.

Sunnyside Shines (BID) Request – Open Street

- Request to close 46th Street between Queens Blvd and Greenpoint Avenue.
 - With limited local access for deliveries.
- Request relocating loading zone on Greenpoint Avenue for the Supermarket. (DOT-592186-G4Z0)

Jason Banrey, DOT provided the following update on the 46th Street Open Street.

- Will launch the open street.
- Will continue to notify the public.
- Looking at the loading zone operations.
- Listening to CB 2’s concerns
- Speaking to local businesses
- Met with Council Member Won

- Observing and finalizing a loading zone investigation or a replacement on Greenpoint Avenue from 46th East. Will be working to provide the CB with an update on changes.

A discussion took place on the letter of support to refer to DOT to look into the better option for the loading zone to take care of those businesses.

A discussion about the Pedestrian Signal at Queens Plaza South took place as it is a safety issue. DOT is aware of the issue, and it has been escalated and they are working on this issue.

A discussion concerning the improvements to the underpass under the Kosciusko Bridge, the lights are not working properly, it is dirty and dangerous.

A request was made for an update on the Queens Borough Bridge south outer roadway as there was another crash. DOT will follow up on this matter.

A request was made for an update on the construction on the 11th Street protected bike lane. DOT reported possibly end of May or in June.

The Committee discussed 61st Street Woodside station, there is no bicycle infrastructure, no bike parking, no protected bike lanes, no bike lanes at all around it. DOT requested a letter on this issue. DOT will discuss this with the bike unit.

Sunnyside

- 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 Avenue from 43rd to 37th street, eastbound 48th Avenue and 38th Street and westbound 48th Avenue and 38th Street.
- 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)

Woodside

- Wynoode Gardens update on Citi bike installation.
- 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?
- Request an update on traffic control study at 67th Street and Garfield Avenue:
 - Enhanced Crosswalks – Garfield Avenue and 67th Street (DOT-499828-Z0H6) Provide an update based on safety at schools?
 - Speed Mobile Enforcement – Garfield Avenue and 67th Street (DOT-500207-P9J1) Letter received from DOT concerning fixed speed enforcement program. Provide Implementation schedule?
- 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.

- 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)
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements and Traffic Calming Measures on 39th Avenue between Woodside Avenue to 58th Street (DOT-565057-R2T9)
- Request for a Feasibility Study for the Installation of a Protected Bike Lane on 39th Avenue between Woodside Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue (DOT -565044-COY1) (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)
- Letter of Support for Citi bike Docking Stations in District 30 within confines of CB2. (DOT-565063-D7B9)
- 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)
- 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.

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). Request DOT TO LOOK INTO SPEED CUSHIONS.
- Speed cushion request at 58th Street from 39th Avenue to Woodside Avenue (DOT-578679-L5X7)
- 34th Avenue Protected Bike Lane Progress – Nearing completion; additional markings and truffle paint for pedestrian areas as well as vertical elements are now the focus prior to completion.

Long Island City

- Loading Zone request in front of City Lights building 4-74 48th Avenue, LIC (Letter submitted to DOT-566068-K8W8) DOT AIMS TO INSTALL IN THE SPRING.
- Request a study on how to provide better signage in front of the southeast corner of Vernon Boulevard and 48th Avenue. CB2 is requesting no standing signage at the intersection. (DOT DOT-567352-K7B3)
- 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.
- 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.
- Request for a one-way conversion on 31st Place between 47th Avenue and 48th Avenue (DOT-497662-R8J2). (APPROVED) Provide Implementation date?
- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5th Street (DOT 508287-VOB8) – Provide an update.
- 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.

- 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. Open
- 44th Drive PBL Implementation Update – Aim to be completed before the end of the year; flexible delineators and truffle paint for pedestrian areas are now the focus prior to completion.
- Request for refurbish markings on Queens Blvd btw Jackson Avenue and Skillman Avenue (DOT-578680-J6M7)
- 114-Year-Old Borden Avenue Bridge Gatekeeper House (Maintenance and Paint) (DOT DOT581085-N4CO)

CB2 District Wide Initiatives and other Agencies

- MTA Disruptions
- NYC Ferry – provide regular ridership updates and any plans for schedules changes and/or expansions.

Laura Shepard made a motion and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski to send a letter to request DOT to redesign the intersection at Vernon Mall to prioritize the safety of pedestrians, cyclists people with disabilities and to include loading zones, wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes and seniors at the location of Borden Avenue, Vernon Blvd., Jackson Avenue and the northern boundary of 51st Avenue.

Sheila Lewandowski requested that the DOT may not present expanded sidewalks and requested an amendment to the motion. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion, and it was seconded to send a letter to DOT to make sure that the different changes can also address the differently abled and our senior citizens.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Seth Slade that all plans and reconsiderations for redesign and new designs go through the lens of equity to make sure the people with different physical abilities and physical needs are considered in all of the multi model transportation which is bikes, pedestrians and vehicles where necessary but different abilities, people who are seniors, disabled and that they are addressed in any presentation.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion, and it was seconded by Laura Shepard to send a letter to City and State Electeds asking them to not support the plan as presented by New York State Department of Transportation until it considers the issues and questions by the Transportation Committee of CB 2.

- Reducing the lanes
- Lighting of the sidewalks and the streets
- Environmental mitigation for flooding, drainage
- Greening
- Bike infrastructure
- Disabled and seniors.
- Upgraded pedestrian infrastructure.
- Cost estimates
- Reducing the speed limit on Laurel Hill Blvd.
- Other traffic calming measures

Old Business:

New Business:

- Vision for 2023

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

05022023TCMM