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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

February 7, 2023

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members - Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Osman Chowdhury, Reilly Owens, Laura Shepard

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Morry Galonoy, Kristen McGowan

Community Board 2 Members – Present

Danielle Brecker, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Community Board 2 Public Members – Present

Patricia Pan, Seth Slade

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado, CB 2 Staff

NYC Department of Transportation

Jason Banrey
Cristy Vanterpool-Germaine

Elected Officials/Representatives

Tseyang, Representing Council Member Julie Won

Guests

Vlad Pavlyuk
Willis Elkins

Kiron Flowers
Michael Todd-Hall
Jon Suarez

Sheila Lewandowski welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Willis Elkins, introduced himself and reported he has worked closely with CB 2, works with Newtown Creek Alliance.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

PD did not provide an update at this meeting.

- Traffic Calming issues – Blissville
- Van Dam and Bradley Avenue Auto Body Shops
- Crescent Street between 43rd Avenue and 44th Road – enforcement needed (triple parking)
- 37th Street between Bradley Avenue and Starr Avenue – Enforcement of cars coming down the wrong direction – Request for a Camera?

The Committee discussed the Transportation Committee's Vision for 2023. The Committee wants to make it a priority to look at issues that are related to the disabled and senior citizens as they have not been represented well with the advances that have been made for street safety. The committee wants to make sure it is spending time focusing on things of this nature.

Committee members discussed the following issues that need to be focused on:

- Elevators
- Bathrooms at every single station,
- Write letters of support for every bus shelter
- Loading zones so people can have access
- Space on every commercial corridor and every large building with more than 50 units district wide.
- More Buses
- Queens Bus Redesign
- Sidewalks
- Streets blocked by commercial vehicles parked on the sidewalks
- Tow trucks
- Many auto body shops
- Need to use imagination to helping seniors and disabled in between elevator stops.
- Difficult for seniors to get to 61st Street.
- Better access a ride, vouchers for cars, curb cuts with bumps, ped ramps are difficult to push people onto.
- Make it a more livable city for disabled and seniors.
- When planning for capital projects they should be accompanied by bulb outs and daylighting
- Expand audible signals.
- Snow clearance at parks, and floating pedestrian islands,

Jason Banrey introduced Cristy Vanterpool-Germaine, new DOT Boro Planner for CB 2.

DOT discussed a settlement on ped ramp improvements. These are the new national standards with pink and or gray traction pads. This is an improved design for all ADA users that have been widely installed.

A discussion about getting the disabled who utilize wheelchairs over these ped ramps is difficult and a request was made for a review.

DOT reported on the following:

- Snow clearance and how DOT works with the Board in advance of any snow events.
- Audible Pedestrian Signals program is expanding.
- Car Share Program which has been expanded in CB2.

The Committee requested that DOT makes sure of the priorities for people who are differently abled and to make sure they have vehicles sufficient for their needs. They asked if DOT been considering these things.

DOT reported that car share is available for those who may have issues. In addition, they work with MTA on improving access to bus stops. DOT has a Safety Education Unit that works with seniors. Whenever there is a street improvement project they incorporate curb extensions and pedestrian improvements to continue to assist with ADA access. The Safety Education Team meets with schools and seniors.

Jason Banrey reported he will provide information on this and that the DOT also does car seat fittings and conduct safety education outreach events that they have in conjunction with other agencies. If the Board is interested to contact him via email.

DOT will be providing an update on stop sign and speed cameras by the end of the week for the PS 199 school area.

Jason Banrey announced that DOT has been invited to attend the March City Services & Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss Open Restaurants and to provide an update on the guidelines and criteria. There is piece of legislation guiding the open restaurants which is still at the City Council. They will discuss enforcement and removals at the City Services Committee Meeting. If anyone sees anything that affects the quality of life at these open restaurants to contact 311 and forward the tracking number. Contact the Council Member's office for updates on Open Restaurants. It may be a year round program and CB's may have more of a say.

City Bike Installation. A public member discussed that they have been installed and thanked the DOT. They reported there are some siting issues that they would like to DOT to work on. Concerns will be forwarded to DOT with a copy to the CB 2 Office.

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) A discussion about the meters took place.
- 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 updated timeline. DOT requested CB 2 send a letter. Laura Shepard will draft the request and this will be brought up at the next meeting.

This is a conversation that needs to be had as 30th Road is out of our district.

A discussion about 44th Drive and 23rd Street took place.

DOT was not transparent with left turn signal want to make sure there is a full transparency before something that goes in.

REQUEST UPDATES FROM DOT

Blissville

- 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 reported they are trying to narrow down some entry points for no through truck traffic. DOT will get back to CB 2.

- 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.
- 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.

Jason Banrey reported that a request for an open street is being requested by Sunnyside Shines BID. This is an opportunity for the Board to provide input on an open street for 46th Street between Queens Blvd. and Greenpoint Avenue, Monday through Sunday, 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. The board will receive official correspondence on this and will have at least 30 days to comment on this request.

A discussion concerning a loading zones took place.

DOT reported they are looking to work with the communities on open culture.

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.

Sunnyside

- Request for speed camera for PS199 on 38th Street between 48th Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue (DOT-578535-F1B6)
- 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-C0Y1)
- 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) Improvements for 43rd Street lighting at underpass and at the Bridge. Additional updates are being looked at by the Bikes Group. Keep this on the agenda.
- 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.

DOT Will be taking counts on 39th Avenue and 58th Street near PS 361 and this may trigger an all way stop sign.

DOT stated if there are streets that need resurfacing to notify the CB 2.

A public member discussed that curbs were broken during the last resurfacing contract, DOT advised that there is a way to file a claim with the Comptroller's office and there is a 90-day time constriction on filing a claim. It was recommended that additional signage be placed at the site so people can be advised of the process as folks are not aware.

Long Island City

- Loading Zone request in front of City Lights building 4-74 48th Avenue, LIC (Letter submitted to DOT-566068-K8W8) DOT reported the loading zone was approved.

- 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)

DOT announced they will follow up on the request along 11th Street and Jackson Avenue for a protected bike lane.

CB2 District Wide Initiatives and other Agencies

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

Old Business:

Jason Banrey reported that 56th Street and Woodside Avenue would be getting a stop sign.

New Business:

- Borden Avenue Gatekeeper house for maintenance and fresh paint. DOT has flagged this with their unit.
- Large DOT trucks line up 15-20 at a time with motors running that are waiting to go into Green Asphalt on Review Avenue. They idle for 20 minutes at a time, and complaints have been submitted to 311 and DEP regarding the conditions of the environment because of Green Asphalt. The community gets blanketed with acrid smoke where people cannot breathe or see. It is believed the DOT is as a customer of Green Asphalt and perhaps they can lend their voice. DOT responded that they produce their own asphalt, near Flushing. DOT will look into this to find out what is happening.

- A public member discussed in Wynwoode Gardens there is no alternate side of the street parking. Complaint that comes up is that vehicles are stored in the community and this issue has been reported but it has not been promptly investigated.

A discussion about the 39th Avenue Bike Boulevard took place. DOT we will get more information and come back.

The committee discussed the issue of alternate side of the street parking, and it is unclear what the community wants.

A discussion about safety standards for new schools took place. DOT works with existing schools to identify improvements. School Safety Unit works with new schools that are being built.

DOT discussed Federal Warrants and stated we can reach out to elected officials, and that any school that is built should have stop signs on all four corners. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

The committee discussed the Army Corp of Engineers and that there will be interconnected meetings. The ferry landing was also discussed.

Danielle Brecker provided an update on a meeting with the Borough President's office with the Army Corp. of Engineers regarding the NYNJHAT.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned:

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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