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# Community Board No. 2

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*Danielle Brecker*  
*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

**March 7, 2023**

## **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom**

### **Transportation Committee Members - Present**

*Sheila Lewandowski, Tom Mituzas, Danielle Brecker, Osman Chowdhury, Reilly Owens, Laura Shepard*

### **Transportation Committee Members – Absent**

*Morry Galonoy, Kristen McGowan*

### **Community Board 2 Members – Present**

*Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos*

*Caroline Spitzer*

### **Transportation Committee - Public Members**

*Patricia Pan*

*Seth Slade*

### **Community Board 2 Staff**

*Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager*

### **NYC Department of Transportation**

*Jason Banrey*

### **Guests**

*Denise Keehan-Smith, Friends of the QNS*

*Dirk McCall de Paloma, Sunnyside Shines*

Tom Mituzas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Tom Mituzas requested the committee observe a moment of silence for Julie Heumann who passed away on Saturday. She was an activist who helped to secure legislation for protecting the rights of those who are disabled.

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

There were no public comments at this meeting.

## **UPDATE BY 108<sup>TH</sup> POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

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

Tom Mituzas announced the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct was not present at the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF QNS**

Denise Keehan-Smith, Chairperson, Friends of the QNS provided a presentation on the QNS – Connecting People with Jobs and Housing Sustainably. (Attachment #1)

Objectives of this meeting:

- To reach a shared appreciation for the enormous benefits that an active QNS train will bring to Queens Community Board 2 (especially when paired with the IBX and RBB)
- To discuss ways to develop the support of elected officials in the short-term, given the need to strike while the iron is hot with IBX momentum building.

Strategy & Next Steps:

- Seeking to attach the QNS project to the IBX's momentum; we need concrete actions from elected officials to do this effectively.
- Our ask to CB 2 is to petition CM Won to voice support for the QNS with the Speaker, and request funding for an Environmental Study from the FY 24 City Council expense budget.

Tom Mituzas made a motion and it was seconded by Laura Shepard to send a letter of support to Council Member Julie Won from the Transportation Committee. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

## **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 46<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Road. Please provide updated timeline. (LETTER DRAFTED BY CB2)

## **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 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Review Avenue and Starr Avenue. Change directional and if not approved, add a left turn signal from Review Avenue onto 37<sup>th</sup> 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 that 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.
- DOT provided an update concerning Green Asphalt. DOT vehicles were dropping off aggregate from work they do throughout the borough. On that date, due to freezing temperatures, individuals had the vehicles running to stay warm. Flagged those concerns. DOT will have another follow up. Tom Mituzas reported the vendors that have been selected are suffocating the people and they cannot breathe. Requested this item be addressed by the Environment Committee.

Discussion on Open Streets

DOT sent out notification letters for renewals and open streets. Announced they have allowed a 45-day comment period. Talking to folks who live on the blocks and are doing outreach. Talking to folks who live on the blocks and are doing outreach. Sent those notifications to the precinct about any concerns they have.

There was substantial discussion about the need for the 45 day notice and additional outreach as described herein. There was lesser comment made for the need to shorten the notice period. Overwhelmingly the discussion leaned toward the need for the 45 days and additional outreach.

The Committee also discussed how even then members of the community most marginalized without good tch or online access, senior as well as immigrants who do not speak English need more outreach. Putting something on the website or bringing it up at a virtual meeting does not equal accessible.

The Committee discussed a fence that was constructed at Starr Avenue and Van Dam Street and 35<sup>th</sup> Street, a triangle parcel of land and the fence goes from curb to curb. People must walk out onto Van Dam Street, and it is unsafe.

A discussion about updates for open culture took place. DOT reported they will provide an update on open culture.

The Committee discussed Borden Avenue and Review Avenue, the west crosswalk is closed and requires pedestrians to cross at the east crosswalk which makes them compete with all trucks and traffic coming down Review Avenue. A request for a time adjustment was made. DOT is investigating and will follow up.

The Committee reported a pothole at 39<sup>th</sup> Street between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Queens Midtown Expressway. DOT will put the request in.

The Committee requested DOT comeback to provide feedback on the 39th Avenue Bike Boulevard in Sunnyside. DOT asked what the committee is looking for and anything they have specific questions on.

The committee requested an update on Jersey Barriers on Vernon Blvd. DOT is looking for feedback and to put it in an email or letter.

The committee requested an update on the protected bike lane on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The DOT aims to continue implementation this spring summer but will provide something more definitive.

### **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 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Road on the east side of the street.

### **Sunnyside Shines (BID) Request – Open Street**

Dirk McCall discussed a request for an open street for the middle of April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of November from 8am to 8 pm.

- Request to close 46<sup>th</sup> Street between Queens Blvd and Greenpoint Avenue.
  - With limited local access for deliveries.

- Request a loading zone on Greenpoint Avenue for the Supermarket.

Seeking a letter of support from CB 2.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to send a letter of support for the open street with the caveat that the determination of the movement of the loading zone would be recommended by DOT. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

DOT reported they are waiting to get feedback from the Board and the Precinct. Notification was provided last week, The 45-day timeline is a window to have a conversation to see how everyone feels about it and if the board wants to have conversation sooner, they can move ahead sooner.

The committee discussed the intersection of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Roosevelt and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and that it was difficult to get a cross from the northeast to southeast corner as there is no crosswalk or lights. It is a strangely configured block. The DOT will look at it to see if it is feasible to install an additional crosswalk.

A request was made to add a split phase at the location. DOT will open a larger investigation study for a split signal phase for a dedicated movement for cyclists and a crosswalk on the eastern side.

The Committee discussed the lights on Skillman Avenue and 54th Street, the green is a different green louvre and is difficult to see if it is on. DOT installed louvers as they found drivers were speeding.

The committee discussed the issue of many signs are faded. DOT requested these be submitted to 311.

### Sunnyside

- Request for speed camera for PS199 on 38<sup>th</sup> Street between 48<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> Street to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Westbound Greenpoint Ave from 43<sup>rd</sup> to 37<sup>th</sup> street, eastbound 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 38<sup>th</sup> Street and westbound 48<sup>th</sup> Ave and 38<sup>th</sup> Street. DOT reported the following items are open:
  - Speed camera adjustments
  - All way Stop sign for 39<sup>th</sup> Place.
  - Redoubled their efforts and will be working with the Precinct and thanked them to conduct a vision zero educational operation and their aim is to conduct this next week. Are in touch with the Precinct and the school.
  - Will share this information with the Board via email.
  - New all Way Stop Sign approval at 38<sup>th</sup> Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements at 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue Between 65<sup>th</sup> Place and 61<sup>st</sup> Street. Provide an update. (DOT-464313-T7R8) Open and being evaluated, please provide an update?

- Request an update on traffic control study at 67<sup>th</sup> Street and Garfield Avenue:
  - Enhanced Crosswalks – Garfield Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT-499828-Z0H6) Provide an update based on safety at schools?
  - Speed Mobile Enforcement – Garfield Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT-500207-P9J1) Letter received from DOT concerning fixed speed enforcement program. Provide Implementation schedule?
- 58<sup>th</sup> and Laurel Hill Blvd – heading west. Complaint that the right lane now only lets you turn right onto 58<sup>th</sup> and now go straight (DOT-531299-VOV2) Provide an update.
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements on Broadway and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to 69<sup>th</sup> Street near the BQE Exit (DOT-565073-X3Q1)
- Request for a Feasibility Study for Safety Improvements and Traffic Calming Measures on 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Woodside Avenue to 58<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT-565057-R2T9)
- Request for a Feasibility Study for the Installation of a Protected Bike Lane on 39<sup>th</sup> 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)
- 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 58<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> 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 58<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Woodside Avenue (DOT-578679-L5X7)
- 34<sup>th</sup> 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 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, LIC (Letter submitted to DOT-566068-K8W8) DOT AIMS TO INSTALL IN THE SPRING. DOT reported a letter is in the process of being finalized before the end of the week.
- Request a study on how to provide better signage in front of the southeast corner of Vernon Boulevard and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue. CB2 is requesting no standing signage at the intersection. (DOT DOT-567352-K7B3)
- 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Continued discussion. (Site Visit with DOT) CB2 discussion on resubmitting as separate items and breaking up the request.

- Center Blvd north of 47<sup>th</sup> Road transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update. 47<sup>th</sup> Road and N Basin Road. Paving stones collapsing in intersection at Center Blvd. north of 47<sup>th</sup> Road.
- Request for a one-way conversion on 31<sup>st</sup> Place between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue (DOT-497662-R8J2). (APPROVED) Provide Implementation date?
- Multi Way Stop – Borden Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street (DOT 508287-VOB8) – Provide an update.
- 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue Pedestrian Bridge (also known as the 21<sup>st</sup> 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
- 44<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Old Business:**

A discussion about further possible uses under the #7 Line took place. It was recommended that this be an agenda item.

#### **New Business:**

- Vision for 2023

The committee requested an update about the Queens Bus Redesign and wants to highlight buses for this committee as they are essential for seniors and disabilities. The final draft is critical for us to make local improvements to make riding the bus more pleasant, including upgrades. A request was made for the MTA to join us at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the possibility of making the MTA Bus Rides Free and discussed a list of items that the MTA report on next month:

- Tables/Schedules
- Access A ride
- Status of Queens Bus Redesign
- #7 Train updates on elevators and track replacement
- Why are Travel Times so terrible?
- East Side Access/LIRR
- How many more subway stations will get elevators?
- Meter time

- Timeline for new elevators at 33<sup>rd</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Street

Laura Shepard made a motion and it was seconded with an amendment to leave crash stats out of the letter to DOT on Jersey Barriers on Vernon Blvd. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:  
MA Gurrado

03072023TCMM