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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

April 5, 2022

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Tom Mituzas, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Osman Chowdhury, Kristen McGowan, Steven Raga, Laura Shepard, Mary Torres, Frank Wu, Reilly Owens, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Sheila Lewandowski (Excused)

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Isaac Blasentstein, Representing Council Member Julie Won

108th Police Precinct

Sgt. Pak

NYC Department of Transportation

Craig Baerwald, Samantha Dolgoff, Matt Lorenz, Bhavin Patel

Guests

Pat Florio, Andy Gilbert, Noah Kaufman, LIC Roots

Public Comment Speakers

Beverly Brown
Vlad Pavlyuk

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

Tom Mituzas welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced Sheila Lewandowski would not be in attendance due to a death in her family. The Committee observed a moment of silence in honor of Sheila's mother.

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

Beverly Brown discussed MTA's new draft plan for the Queens Bus Network Redesign. For many years residents and business owners have been asking the MTA for a new bus route to and from Manhattan through the Midtown Tunnel and the new draft plan contains no plan for such a route.

Vlad Pavlyuk asked about the progress with the Vernon Mall Intersection Redesign and asked for an update.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Sgt. Pat, Traffic Sgt at the 108th Police Precinct provided an update on the following:

- 44th Avenue between 12th and 13th Street's auto body shops storing vehicles. 20 summonses have been issued; 1 vehicle was towed.
- Van Dam Street and Bradley Avenue Auto Body Shops. 10 summonses have been issued; 1 vehicle was towed.
- 51st Avenue between 70th and 71st Street, 18 summonses have been issued, 5 vehicles were towed.
- Southeast corner of 48th Avenue and Vernon Boulevard, 28 summonses were issued.
- Crescent Street between 43rd Avenue and 44th Road (double parking) 19 summonses have been issued at this location and the conditions are improving.

The 108th Police Precinct is monitoring Review Avenue, Laurel Hill, and Van Dam Street.

Sgt. Pak reported that he is at the Queensboro Bridge 2 to 3 times a week to enforce the scooters that are pedal-less. There has been signage there for over 8 months.

Tom Mituzas reported there have been numerous vehicles drag racing on Review Avenue and 37th Street. Sgt. Pak reported the 108th traffic officers are monitoring the location.

Morry Galonoy reported on the following:

- There are 2 vehicles parked on 47th Avenue between 45th and 46th Street, that have a boot on them, and people have observed them driving around. Sgt. Pak reported he will investigate the location.
- Motor bikes racing on Queens Boulevard towards Manhattan. Sgt. Pak stated the 108th Police Precinct is monitoring the area.

Laura Shepard reported double and triple parking is taking place on 48th Street between 37th Avenue and Northern Boulevard. She requested enforcement and requested a protected bike lane at this location. Sgt. Pak stated this location borders the 114th Police Precinct and the 108th Police Precinct. He will enforce the location and relay the information to the 114th Precinct and reported they will conduct a joint operation.

Mary Torres discussed the uptick in vehicles speeding through stop signs and asked if the precinct will be conducting enforcement on Center Blvd. The response was the 108th is monitoring the location.

Morry Galonoy recognized the newly appointed CB 2 Board Members:

- Reilly Owens
- Ryan Smith
- Caroline Spitzer

DOT Presentations

Samantha Dolgoff announced she was filling in for Gretha Suarez and introduced her colleagues. She announced Craig Baerwald would provide the presentation on the Protected Bike Lanes Proposal.

Craig Baerwald, Bikes Unit, DOT provided a presentation on the following:

- LIC Protected Bike Lanes proposal – DOT Bikes presentation (copy attached, Attachment #1)

In response to a question by Tom Mituzas, Craig Baerwald reported approximately 100 spots would be lost. Tom Mituzas asked what DOT would be doing to inform the community about the loss of parking and will they be on the ground informing people that they have to seek alternatives. The response was they will create a What's Happening Here Flyer.

Debra Markell Kleinert reported CB2 will post the flyer to our website and twitter. She also reported the LIC Protected Bike Lanes Proposal will be on the agenda for the May Full Board Meeting and requested DOT provide the presentation at the May Meeting.

In response to a question from a member of the public concerning the intersection of 11th Street and Jackson, the DOT reported they will see if they can look at this connection off the bridge, it is a very complicated intersection section with different movements and high volumes as well as various bridge structures including Sunnyside yards.

Laura Shepard said she supports this comment and said whole intersection needs additional upgrades.

Laura Shepard asked about mixing zones and where are they and would it be possible to avoid them.

Craig Baerwald reported there is only one and he will try to revisit it or upgrade it. He announced this project will be implemented late summer early fall and they are seeking support from the Board.

Laura Shepard made a motion, and it was seconded by Morry Galonoy to support the proposal to recommend implementation and that the full board vote in favor. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Samantha Dolgoff introduced her colleagues Bhavin Patel, Matt Lorenz, NYC DOT who would provide the presentation on the 51st Avenue/63rd Street one-way conversion requests.

Bhavin Patel provided a presentation on the following:

- 51 Ave/63 St one-way conversion requests – DOT Traffic Engineering & Planning Presentation (Attachment #2)

Pat Florio discussed Sanitation vehicles that make a turn from Tyler Avenue into 51st Avenue and zoom through to 65th Place, 69th Street, which is a very narrow street.

Bhavin Patel stated they will reach out to DOS to request they do not use 51st Avenue unless they have activity.

Laura Shepard said for drivers on Laurel Hill we don't want to be a speed way and requested traffic calming. Bhavin Patel stated they will look into safety measures to improve conditions.

Thomas Mituzas made a motion, and it was seconded by Laura Shepard to send a letter of support for the 51st Avenue/63rd Street one way conversion. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

Samantha Dolgoff announced that Gretha Suarez will update the committee at the next Transportation Committee Meeting on the Transportation Committee agenda items.

Thomas Mituzas discussed the Mayor's Initiative of the 1000 Intersection Improvement Plan. CB 2 does not want to be bypassed. Tom Mituzas discussed Greenpoint Avenue and Starr Avenue which is impossible to cross.

Samantha Dolgoff said DOT would like to hear from CB 2 on their recommendations and to send them to Gretha Suarez.

Laura Shepard asked about the following:

- Update timeline for the south outer roadway
- North outer roadway shared path.
- Northern Blvd has been milled and repaving and requested the remarking occurs as expediently as possible.
- Construction crews have been obstructing the Queensboro Bridge without warning and this is creating difficulty for cyclists. She requested the DOT speak to the construction crews or require them to provide notification.

Samantha Dolgoff will bring this to the Bridges Unit.

Kristen McGowan requested an update on the speed bump request for 58th Street between Woodside Avenue and 39th Avenue.

Tom Mituzas discussed the workshop for the MTA's Bus Redesign.

Mary Torres discussed the need for a Midtown Tunnel Express Bus from the western part of queens into Manhattan. This is desperately needed in this community.

Tom discussed the removal of spots and the distance to get to spots and that people have to walk further to get to a bus stop. This year is all public engagement and outreach and implementation.

Morry Galonoy stated that we need to make sure there is public engagement and that we make sure we are hearing from the community

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

Attachment #1 - LIC/Hunter's Pint Protected Bike Lane Network
Attachment #2 - 51st Avenue and 63rd Street Direction Changes Study

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