



*Donovan Richards
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*Morry Galonoy
Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

May 3, 2022

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Transportation Committee Members – Present

Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Morry Galonoy, Rosamond Gianutsos, Laura Shepard, Mary Torres

Transportation Committee Members – Absent

Osman Chowdhury, Kristen McGowan, Steven Raga

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representative

Isacc Blasenstein, Representing Council Member Julie Won

108th Police Precinct

Police Officer Trinchese, Police Officer Reidy

MTA

Lucille Songhai, Daniel Randell, Amy Zhou, Jane Rossman, Joe O'Donnell, Keymar Wynter, M. Farvardin

NYC Department of Transportation

Gretha Suarez

Public Comment

Seth Slade, Gil Lopez

Guests

Dana Levanthal, LIC BID, Judy Flood, Patricia Florio

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

Seth Slade requested an update on the Citi Bike proposal.

Tom Mituzas asked what has the DOT done with the feedback received that was due March 1, 2022.

Gil Lopez, Smiling Head Hogs Ranch discussed issues with two properties adjacent to Dutch Kills that are publicly owned but used for private profit on 47th Avenue and 29th Street. The site is MTA property which is being utilized by a concrete company to park trucks. The other site is DOT land under the State DOT under the LIE adjacent to the Dutch Kill Tributary of the Newtown Creek at the street end of Borden Avenue which is adjacent to the street end that was blocked off. There is illegal squatting and parking of commercial vehicles, trash, and environmental waste.

Sheila Lewandowski requested that he provide a joint letter with a diagram of the location. She requested he come back to the Board with letters. Gil Lopez said he presented this to the Environment Committee.

Laura Shepard stated that the Environment Committee agreed to draft a letter supporting the request.

MTA

Queens Bus Redesign. Inclusive of where stops will be located. Gratefulness of keeping routes the same (unlike last rendition), concern and support for frequency of stops and request for a bud from LIC to Midtown via tunnel.

Lucille Songhai, MTA introduced herself and the following individuals:

Daniel Randall, Joseph O'Donnell, MTA Construction and Development Team, Jane Rossman, Kemar Wynter, Amy Zhou, and M. Farvardin

Lucille Songhai reported on the following:

- The MTA released the new draft plan on March 29, 2022.
- They are always available to hear feedback on the new draft plan.
- They have been hearing from Queens bus riders about the plan.
- This is a proposal, and nothing is set in stone.
- They are a quarter of the way through the 14 public workshops.
- They are fully language accessible, and she encouraged everyone to attend the workshops which are open to the public.
- They have been handing out brochures and their folks have been going out before the public workshops to pass out the brochures.
- Announced they will be sending out the hard copies of the new draft plan to senior centers, public libraries, community boards and to elected officials.

Tom Mituzas requested that they expand the outreach to the sheltered population who are generally in unpopulated areas.

Laura Shepard said the attendance at the virtual workshops specifically for CB 2 area was relatively low, compared to the other CB's. She requested hard copies be distributed to schools.

Lucille Songhai stated that for those folks that want to give feedback, they are encouraged to let CB 2, elected officials, call 511 or send a letter.

MTA Presentation - ADA Accessibility Upgrade and Station Improvements at 8 Stations

Joe O'Donnell provided a presentation, a copy of which is attached (Attachment #1)

This is a bundle of 8 stations is part of a larger ADA Accessibility project throughout NYC:

- Structural rehabilitation
- Systems upgrades
- Design-build contract awarded December 2021
- Start Date: January 26, 2022
- Completion: September 2024
- Court Square ADA elevator - 1 Elevator
- Queensboro Plaza ADA elevators - 2 elevators
- Fire alarm and new CCTV
- Public Address system and signage
- Upgrade lighting fixtures

Tom Mituzas requested an update on the 29th Street Bulkhead Letter. MTA did not have an update currently.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about 61st Street station. MTA reported this is not the project team for this matter but will return in June to provide updates on future projects.

UPDATE BY 108TH POLICE PRECINCT ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Police Officer Trinchese provided the following report:

- 44th Avenue between 12th and 13th Street's auto body shops storing vehicles – 18 summonses issued.
- Van Dam and Bradley Avenue Auto Body Shops - 7 parking summonses were issued.
- 51st Avenue between 70th and 71st Street – 20 parking summonses and two vehicles were towed.
- Southeast corner of 48th Avenue and Vernon Boulevard - 6 parking summonses issued.
- Crescent Street between 43rd Avenue and 44th Road (double parking) – 2 summonses issued.
- 37th Street between Bradley Avenue and Starr Avenue – Enforcement of cars coming down the wrong direction – Request for a Camera? Officers are setup there and no violations were observed at the time. PD stated they cannot put a camera there because violations are issued to the driver not the vehicle.

Tom Mituzas reported on the following issues:

- Announced that Isaac Blasenstein toured the community on 37th Street and in approximately seven minutes, they observed four vehicles were traveling down the wrong way.
- A commercial vehicle is using the sidewalk as if it was a roadway on Greenpoint Avenue between Bradley Avenue and Starr Avenue. Property was damaged as well as his neighbor's car. The complaint was sent to the NYPD, and he is requesting enforcement of this area but also throughout Blissville which is becoming is experiencing many vehicles parking on sidewalk. He requested safety measures be installed such as bollards.
- Tyler Avenue is commercial on the south side and because of this is it permissible to have commercial trucks parked there 24/7? Gretha Suarez reported this is still considered a residential area and traffic laws dictate that it is illegal for commercial vehicles to park on city streets overnight and it is enforced. It is in the section 4-08K5-06 and she will forward this information. She will look into regulations and possibly change the parking regulations there. If the board has a suggestion or specific request for what the curb regulations would be for the south side of Tyler, they could always draft a letter and let DOT know.
- There is an RV, which has been identified as a truck and was to be removed in March, and it is still in the same location on Tyler Avenue on the south side between 61st and 63rd Street. PD stated they will conduct enforcement.

At last month's meeting, Laura Shepard requested Sgt. Pak speak to the 114th Police Precinct about 48th Street between 37th Avenue and Northern Blvd. She discussed the 89-year-old pedestrian that was stuck there died of her injuries today. There is a chronic need for improvements, there is constant double parking, drivers turn and don't look for cyclists. She asked why was the driver not charged as this is in violation of the Rite of Way Law? PD announced they will look into this issue.

Morry Galonoy requested follow up to a complaint concerning vehicles with boots on them that are parked on 47th Avenue between 45th Street and 46th Street on the south side of Queens Blvd.

Gretha Suarez reported on the following:

- There is a new major campaign to tackle traffic violence which is a campaign that targets speeding and dangerous driving behaviors. There will be ads in nine different languages and one of the biggest public education investments in Vision Zero. It has launched with a new billboard and there will be much more commercials and education and ads on the radio.
- LaGuardia Community College, in partnership with DOT, will be holding a Pop-Up Plaza Event on 29th Street between Skillman Avenue and 47th Avenue on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. DOT will have a table to discuss public space projects.
- Announced the DOT is repaving the 34th Avenue Protected Bike Lane and it should start next week and will be done by May 16, 2022.

- **12th Street Plaza** - Provide an update on revised presentation based on feedback from committee. Requesting formal DOT response. Discuss letter received from Vorea. Gretha Suarez has been working with the Public Space Unit and there is a change to the implementation timeline, which will be implemented in the fall.
- DOT will be attending the Board Meeting on May 5, 2022, for the 51 Ave/63 St one-way conversion.
- DOT will be attending the Board Meeting on June 2, 2022, for the LIC Protected Bike Lanes proposal – DOT Bikes presentation
- With regard to the feedback that was due 3/1 on Citi bikes. Gretha Suarez said the final plan will be posted on the DOT bike share webpage at the end of this month beginning of June and DOT will be implementing this summer.
- Provide an update on the mayor’s recently announced plan for a \$1Billion dollar investment in street safety. Provide feedback on the mayors 1000 corners. Gretha Suarez stated if there are any desired locations to send them to their office.

Tom Mituzas reported that everything that was denied has been resubmitted.

- 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. Northern Blvd between 42nd Place and Broadway has been resurfaced and completed and they will try to get the markings done within the next few weeks.
- Jersey Barriers and the hardening of bike lanes – Gretha Suarez stated Vernon Blvd between 46th Avenue and Queens Plaza South has been done.
- Will be adding Jersey Barriers on Northern Boulevard between 41st Avenue and Honeywell Street to make this bike lane safe. They are hoping to add more protected barriers further east.

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. Gretha Suarez reported the DOT is looking into this, and the Bike unit is developing a future project here and will hopefully come at the end of this year or beginning of next year.
- 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) Gretha Suarez reported that once they get all the data back, they will roll this request into the bike project here. The unit has asked bikes to be considering this as part of the proposal.

- 48th Street and Northern Boulevard – Gretha Suarez provided an update about this location and that the pedestrian had passed away. DOT is seeking more enforcement and will reach out to the 114th Police Precinct. DOT will put in a lead pedestrian interval request there and to add rubber speed hump which tries to restrain the left turn and that they will take another look at this.

Mary Torres asked about One-way southbound conversion of 5th Street between 50th Avenue and Borden Avenue - Gretha Suarez will follow up with the unit.

Laura Shepard asked if they are they looking at a protected bike lane on this street which would connect Northern Boulevard to the 39th Avenue Bike Boulevard.

Morry Galonoy is requesting that DOT look at these intersections to make it safer for everyone

Laure Shepard made a motion requesting if the committee would support a letter for DOT to study the intersection of 48th Street between Northern Boulevard and 37th Avenue for increased safety improvements that might include a protected bike lane, etc. Morry Galonoy seconded the motion. All were in favor by a show of hands

Old Business:

- Request a study on how to provide better signage in front of the southeast corner of Vernon Boulevard and 48th Avenue. They are happy to change the regulation to send a letter. Sheila Lewandowski said there was a vote on this it is in front of the dog park on the northeast side of Vernon Blvd and 48th Avenue the committee voted to send a letter to remove those spaces and make it crystal clear that they are not spaces so that cars can get around. It is backing everything up as it is a squeeze, and it is making it dangerous for cyclists pedestrians and drivers.

New Business:

- Discussion of Mission Statement and List of Stakeholders within CB 2. Committee Members bring your ideas to the meeting.

Sheila Lewandowski stated what is missing from the committee, such as diversity and how are people transporting themselves, goods, their families. Folks who use the streets, the sidewalks and public transportation in ways that are different from the people who are already represented on this committees and that they don't represent any one opinion. She stated she would like to make a list of different ways that people are using it and look out for other members or public members and others who do not represent our points of view.

Laura Shepard suggested someone with accessibility and mobility needs.

A discussion took place concerning possible stakeholders such as business owners who need to deliver or receive things like restaurants, warehouses, wholesalers, truck drivers, age diversity, immigrants Access a Ride or car service scooters and mopheads, waterways, City Ferry, families for safe streets, Rides in Site, first responders.

Tom Mituzas said we need representation from people who are thinking about the future of transportation and bringing new modes or alternative modes for those living in the transportation desert, lite rail such as the friends of the QNS.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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