

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes: JUNE 28, 2023

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Also present: Marie Adam Ovide-District Manager CB#8, Nettie Norris CB#8, Saaif Alam Queens General Assembly (QGS).

In Attendance via video: Chris Brunson Queens DOT Safety Project Manager, Joseph Patti Queens DOT Senior Borough Planner, Project Manager, Ben Schweb Queens DOT,

I. DOT PRESENTATION

Bike Lanes on Queens Blvd.- From Union Turnpike to Hillside Ave. (at the Van Wyck Expressway).

Presented by Chris Brunson

A. 1.2 mile corridor connecting Forest Hills to Jamaica, Queens Blvd. bus service Q60, Q20A, Q20B, Q44, QM21, X63, X64 and X68

B. Between, 2016-2023 there were 233 injuries 5 out of 6 severe injuries were the result of motorist's failure to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, car occupant injuries were the result of speeding (44 pedestrian, 9 bicyclist, 180 vehicle occupants=233).

1. Repurpose travel lanes on Queens Blvd Service Rd and add a protected bike lane to reduce speed and provide safe bike connection.

2. Install dedicated left-turn signals for left turns off Queens Blvd. to provide less conflict, between drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

3. Add paint to median tips and channelization where feasible to provide additional pedestrian refuge space, encourage slower and safer turns, and visually tighten intersections.

a) Correspondence from local merchants, they are concerned that this bike lane will affect their business. **THIS PLAN DOES NOT AFFECT ENTRANCE TO BUSINESSES AS THE BIKE LANE IS AGAINST THE MEDIAN.**

b) We are concerned with biker safety. Installing the bike lane along the curb of the sidewalk with safety barrier and parking lane followed by two traffic lanes should be considered. **ALTHOUGH DOT IS CURRENTLY BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO CB#8 & #9, THE ELIMINATION OF ONE TRAFFIC LANE IN THE SERVICE ROAD FOR A BIKE LANE WITH A PROTECTIVE BARRIER ADJACENT TO THE MEDIAN BEGAN IN 2015 WHEN THE PROJECT WAS INITIATED. ONLY OUR AREA AND SUNNYSIDE HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED.**

- C. Existing condition: at Queens Blvd. from Van Wyck Expressway to Hillside Ave.
 - 1. Dangerous left turn conflicts between motorists/ pedestrians at Queens Blvd.& 84th Dr.
 - 2. Long unprotected crossing distances at 87th Ave. and Queens Blvd.
 - 3. Lack of safe bike lane, exist on Queens Blvd. near 83rd Ave.
 - 4. Overly wide road at Queens Blvd. and 86th Ave. results in speeding.
 - 5. Double parked cars at Queens Blvd. and Hillside Ave. results in unsafe merges and unpredictable driver maneuvers.
 - 6. Overly wide road at Queens Blvd. and 87th Ave. results in unsafe left turns and U-turns.
- D. Proposal: to correct existing condition from Van Wyck Expressway to Hillside Ave.
 - 1. Install barrier protected bike lane adjacent to the median.
 - 2. Install dedicated left turn signals, add stops signs and U-Turn Permitted where appropriate.
 - 3. Add painted median tips and channelization, and rubber speed humps to provide additional pedestrian refuge and encourage slower turning.
 - 4. Convert slip lane and right line to a buses only lane were indicted to establish two through lanes.
- E. Intersection-
- F. at Union Turnpike and Queens Blvd. (at 80th Rd.)
 - 1. Analysis winter 2022 to accommodate existing traffic volume with minimum reduction in travel lanes DOT will adjust traffic signal timing to reduce delays.
 - 2. Parking on Queens Blvd. after modifications
 - a) Expect a net loss of 8 parking spaces along 1.2 miles.
 - b) About 15 parking spaces will be repurposed on southbound Queens Blvd. between Maple Grove cemetery and Van Wyck expressway to accommodate a right turn lane.
 - c) Approximately 7 parking spaces will be gained on southbound Queens Blvd. between Van Wyck Expressway and Main St.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. MTA has not attended any Community Board meetings since March 2021. MTA Presentation on Queens Bus Network Redesign to CB8 has been postponed from the Fall of 2022 to June 2023 and is now being postponed again to Fall of 2023.

1. Residents expressed strong opposition to the proposed Q73 Bus route on 73rd Ave.
2. They are concerned that MTA will finalize plans with no significant input from residents.
3. Most recent correspondence with MTA no longer states, “there will be no further implementation before speaking to CB8 Board.”

PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE MTA, CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS IS REQUESTED UPON COMPLETION OF THE MONTHLY CB#8 BOARD MEETING. WE REQUIRE AT LEAST A MONTH’S NOTICE FROM MTA FOR THE MEETING DATE IN ORDER TO NOTIFY AFFECTED PARTIES.

B. Improving Hillside Avenue: Improvements on Hillside Avenue from Hollis Court Blvd. to 212th St. Implementation began May 2023.

1. Install a concrete pedestrian island on Hillside Ave. & Hollis Court Blvd.
2. Install painted curb extensions on SE & SW corners of Hillside Ave. & Hollis Court Blvd.
3. Install a concrete pedestrian island on Hillside Ave. at 212th St.
4. Upgrade all pedestrian ramps to meet ADA Compliance

CONSTRUCTION HAS COMMENCED AT THIS LOCATION.

C. DOT Resurfacing Schedule (July – December 2023) is available in the office. 188th St. between 73rd Ave. & Union Tpke has been added to the schedule.

D. NYPD has implemented enforcement on 185th St. between 64th & 73rd Aves. Multiple visits occurred in April and May, - 16 traffic summonses were issued and daily routine patrols have increased at that location. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOLLOW UP FROM DOT IN REGARD TO APPROVED ALL WAY STOP SIGN AT 69TH AVE. AND 185TH ST.**

E. DOT: left turn signal with flashing amber arrows have been approved for left turns on the North and South Service Roads on to the HHE at Kissena Blvd. **DONE**

F. NYC Parks- E-Bike Pilot Survey. Resident input is requested. This program will permit e-bikes and e-scooters to use city park drives, greenways for one year pilot program started on June 20, 2023. Information is available at nyc.gov/parks/ebikes. The space is to be shared with bikes, roller skates and

other legal devices. This program includes Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes as well as light weight scooters which are allowed on NYC streets and bike lanes. “The pilot does not allow any electric micromobility devices to be ridden on pedestrian paths and does not include heavier mopeds or motorcycles anywhere in parks or on greenways.

1. **COMMITTEE REQUESTS A LISTING OF ALL VEHICLES AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (SUCH AS HELMETS AND PADS) WHICH ARE PERMITTED ON STREETS, BIKE LANES, PARKS AND GREENWAYS.**
2. **HOW IS ENFORCEMENT GOING TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ILLEGAL VEHICLES AND ACTIVITY IN THE PARKS AND GREENWAYS?**

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT- speed humps on 84th Ave. have been approved between 164th St. & 164th Pl, and 164th Pl. & 168th St. **NOT DONE**
- B. DOT – speed hump on Surrey Place between Aberdeen Rd. and Tudor Rd. has been approved **NOT DONE**
- C. DOT Car Share Program - Anticipate installing Car-Share regulations at designated spaces. To start operation in Spring, 2024.
 1. 87-29 144th St. – North side **NOT DONE**
 2. 65-01 152nd St. - East side **NOT DONE**
 3. 147-51 72nd Rd. – North side **NOT DONE**
- D. Request for traffic conversion of 191st St. near Hillside Ave. - Individual has been advised that this proposal has been denied by Trans Comm. as it would create an unsafe head-on collision situation where two-way operation converts to one-way. (SEE IV.4.3)
- E. DOT – request for speed hump on Chevy Chase St. between Midland Pkwy & Union Tpke. Has been approved from Union Tpke. to 80th Rd; denied for 80th Rd. to Aberdeen because of too many curb cuts; and denied between Aberdeen Rd. & Midland Pkwy as the block is too short. **NOT DONE**
- F. Resurfacing request of 164th St. West, 170th St. East from Union Tpke. to GCP South service road along with 168th St, Goethals Ave. 165th St. thru 170th St.
 1. The above locations are protected areas and cannot be repaved until the end of fiscal year 2024.
 2. These locations will be included in future Resurfacing Programs in 2025.
- G. DOT request- installation of speed and red-light cameras on 75th Ave. & 188th St. Request denied, as the maximum number of installations (150) has been completed for this year. This location will be considered in the future. DOT has deployed 750 speed cameras in school zones, up from 140.
- H. DOT – Neighborhood Loading Zone (NLZ). Expansion Notification, Local Law #168 of 2021. This bill requires DOT to create “a public methodology for determining where loading zones are necessary to reduce traffic congestion. DOT is required to create loading zones annually in each neighborhood tabulation area. This is on-hold due to COVID 19. Location selected is on Wexford Terrace between Kingston Pl. to Dalny Rd. NLZ Monday – Friday 7AM to 7PM. This will provide dedicated loading spaces.
 1. **THE COMMITTEE AND RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE LOSS OF NEEDED PARKING SPACES.**
 2. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT DELIVERY VEHICLES WILL RESTRICT PARKING TO THIS SINGLE LOCATION IF THE DELIVERY ADDRESS IS MORE THAN A BLOCK AWAY.**

3. **AS THIS IS PAST LEGISLATION THAT MUST BE ENACTED, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE NLZ BE LIMITED TO A FIRE HYDRANT NEAR THE CORNER AND A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES.**

4. **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT DOT PERMIT DELIVERY VEHICLES TO STOP IN NO PARKING ZONES SUCH AS FIRE HYDRANTS FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 10 MINUTES IN ORDER TO MAKE DELIVERIES WITHOUT IMPEDING TRAFFIC WITH DOUBLE PARKING AND NOT INCURRING TRAFFIC FINES FOR VIOLATION.**

I. DOT – update requested on moving bike lanes on to sidewalk at 73rd Ave. between 199th St. & Francis Lewis Blvd. to add a traffic lane **FOLLOW UP WITH DOT IS REQUESTED**

J. DOT – Two additional speed humps are set to be installed on Park Drive East, one between 72nd Ave. and Jewel Ave. and one between Jewel Ave. and 136th St.

IV. REQUESTS MADE BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, CB8 ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS

A. DOT – light sequencing correction on 188th St. from GCP to Avon Rd. DOT indicates this has been corrected. **THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON AVON ROAD IS NOT IN SEQUENCE WITH RADNOR ROAD, WEST BOUND ENTRANCE TO GCP, AND McLAUGHLIN AVE. AS THE CYCLE OF THIS LIGHT IS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN OTHERS IN THE SEQUENCE, VEHICLES ARE GOING THROUGH THE RED LIGHT ASSUMING IT IS BROKEN. IF THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE CYCLE, A “WAIT FOR GREEN LIGHT” SIGN SHOULD BE INSTALLED TO IMPROVE VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.**

B. DOT request – additional streetlights Foothill Ave. off Francis Lewis Blvd. Was approved, waiting for response and implementation. **APPROVED, NOT DONE. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT PRIVATE SECURITY CAMERAS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED BY HILLTOP VILLAGE CO-OP BUT INADEQUATE ILLUMINATION DOES NOT PERMIT IDENTIFICATION OF VANDALS DESTROYING VEHICLES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

C. DOT request - resurface Peck Ave. and replace speed hump in front of school 197-20 Peck Ave. **THE SPEED HUMP IN FRONT OF SCHOOL AT 197-20 PECK AVE. IS IN SERIOUS DISREPAIR.**

D. Response to resident:

1. Refurbishing of speed hump on Dunton Rd between Romeo Ct. & Keno Ave. – this is a service delivery issue and will be forwarded from CB8 to DOT.

2. Painting double yellow at intersection of Dunton St. & Dunton Ave. and continuing around the curve. . – this is a service delivery issue and will be forwarded from CB8 to DOT.

3. Direction change for 191st St. between Foothill Ave. & Palo Alto Ave. (SEE III.D

E. Parks and Forestry request tree pruning on the corner of Avon Rd, and 188th St, Heavy tree foliage blocks visibility of traffic signal on the north west corner. **COMPLAINT #311-14977148 HAS BEEN ASSIGNED.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

A. DOT request – traffic light at the intersection of 85th Ave. & McLaughlin Ave. (across from Sancho St. on the South side of McLaughlin} **INDIVIDUAL APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**

B. DOT request – lighting study for dim illumination at 69-40 Main St. **INDIVIDUAL THIS LOCATION IS IN FRONT OF NORTHWELL HEALTH COHEN CHILDREN CENTER. DOT LIGHTING STUDY IS APPROVED FOR THIS LOCATION.**

C. DOT request – resurfacing 67th Ave. from 65th Crescent to Main St. **INDIVIDUAL. REPAIR AND RESURFACING AT 195TH LANE & 67TH AVE, NEAR FIRE HYDRANT AND THE NORTH SIDE OF THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE IS APPROVED.**

D. DOT request – renaming NW corner Francis Lewis Blvd. in Honor of Marc Haken, longtime board member (45 years) and president of Hilltop Village Coop.#4. HILLTOP VILLAGE COOP 1,2,3, & 4. **APPROVED**

E. DOT request – Daylighting at the intersection of 75th Ave. & 174th St. **INDIVIDUAL ALTHOUGH THERE IS AN ALL- WAY STOP SIGN, DAYLIGHTING AT THE SOUTH WEST CORNER IS APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY AS IT IS DIFFICULT FOR VEHICLES TO SEE ONCOMING TRAFFIC.**

F. DOT request – NO PARKING/ Daylighting at the crossing of Fresh Meadow Lane & Utopia Pkwy. **INDIVIDUAL APPROVED**

G. DOT request - exit doors for students leaving PS 26 continue to be situated on 69th Ave. Students should not be permitted to exit on to 73rd Ave. as this will increase stand still traffic congestion on 73rd Ave. (President West Cunningham Pk Civic Assoc). **A MEETING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY IS REQUESTED TO UPDATE THIS COMMITTEE ON ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT TIMES OF ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL. THE YOUTH EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INVITED TO THIS PRESENTATION.**

H. DOT request - additional traffic control at Jewel Ave. & 169th St. to increase safety for pedestrians as they enter and exit YI of Hillcrest. (Rabbi Ethan Schnall). **ALL-WAY STOP SIGN IS APPROVED FOR THIS LOCATION**

I. DOT request – Ambulance Only Parking in front of YI Jamaica Estates from fire hydrant south to adjacent driveway on 188th St. This will permit ambulance parking and recharging when not active. (EMT Hatzolah of Queens). **ALTHOUGH HATZOLAH AMBULANCE SERVICE HAS ASKED FOR A POSTPONEMENT , THE COMMITTEE IS PREPARED TO OFFER APPROVAL FOR EMT/AMBULANCE PARKING SIGNAGE WHEN REQUESTED**

J. DOT request All-Way Stop Sign at 171st St. and 67th Ave. (President Flushing Home Owners Ass.) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY AND NYPD ENFORCEMENT UPON COMPLETION**

K. DOT-request Speed Hump on 166th St. between 76th Ave. and Union turnpike (individual). **CORRESPONDENCE FROM CB#8 DISTRICT MANAGER INFORMED THIS INDIVIDUAL THAT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NO LONGER REVIEWS THESE REQUESTS. SPEED HUMP REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO DOT**