

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25, 2024

I. PRESENTATION: E-SCOOTER PROGRAM (began 6/27/24)

. Transportation Committee Chairman, Jesse Rosenbaum, to CB#8 Bd Of Directors at Public Participation

1. DOT was invited to this evening's meeting. Their response indicated that data "is not available yet". They will present an update at the next TC meeting.

B. General information: Three companies have received franchises to provide vehicles (Bird, Lime, & VEO). Cost to the public: \$1.00 + \$.39 to \$.46 per minute depending on the company. Average ride is 15 minutes. Must be 16 years old and have a credit card.

Maximum speed: 15 miles per hour

Sensors relay to their office if driven on the sidewalk or in the park, and the scooter can be stopped.

½ hour training plus quiz before first rental. Max speed: 10 mph on the first two rentals.

Upon trip completion: rider must send a photo and leave the scooter on the concrete pad or grassy section of sidewalk near the curb where it is permitted.

C. Concerns:

1. Helmets are not required
2. In case of a flash storm/blizzard/icing condition, it takes 12 hours to get scooters off the road.
3. We have noticed scooters left on the main part of sidewalk, crosswalks, driveways, street and center median on Union Tpke.
4. Enforcement is only done by NYPD
5. Vendors insure the scooters for NYC Liability. What happens to motorists, pedestrians, or riders if they are hit and injured by a scooter or cause property damage?
6. Misparked scooters present an impediment to the disabled community and tripping hazard to the community at large. Merchants complain that scooters block access to establishments.
7. If power batteries are lithium ion how do the companies mitigate fire concerns of the general public.

D. Recommendations:

1 Require a helmet !!! It should be attached to the scooter and provided by the rental company. At the end of the trip, when sending photographs, the helmet must be visible or the rider will be charged.

30-minute notice should be provided to riders by cell phone notifying of emergency conditions, at which point power will be shut off. If they can cut power for infraction, they can cut power in case of an emergency

2 Storage: Scooters must be parked in "corrals" provided by the rental company, not left haphazardly or on private property.

It is suggested that “corrals” be in uniform locations such as: No Parking/Daylighting Zones near fire hydrants so as to not impact parking.

3. Scooter racks should be installed, similar to city-bike rental rack: back-in parking to maximize space

4. Scooter should have visible license plate registered with NYC. This will provide a deterrent from violating rules and enable individuals to log complaints about driver

Community request:

We are asking the community to provide input and photographic evidence of scooter rental violations to be presented to vendors. Send to CB#8: qn08@cb.nyc.gov

Members of CB#8 have requested the E-Scooter Program be frozen

E. Update: Reported by QNS Publications

1. 8/23/24. QNS lead story, Southeast Queens residents push back against e-scooter program expansion in Queens

2. 9/10/24: Lime plans to invest \$1.5M in Queens this year, and \$2.5M next year to add foot patrols to address misplaced and misparked e-scooters, as well as upgrade hardware.

3. 9/13/24. Bayside Times lead story: ‘THIS WAS NOT NEEDED’ Elected officials push back e-scooter program. The following officials have called for an end to the e-scooter program: Councilmember James Gennaro, D24; Sandra Ung, D20

F. DOT Commissioner Rodriguez stated that there will be NYPD enforcement for e-scooters riding on city sidewalks.

1. Enforcement is not happening anytime soon

2. CB8 supports suspending the e-scooter program until issues are examined and rectified.

*** DOT WAS OFFERED ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE ABOVE ISSUES (9/20/24), IF THEY HAVE PERTINENT INFORMATION, RESPONSES OR UPDATES. IF NOT THEY ARE INVITED TO PRESENT AT THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

**** WE PREFER HEARING DIRECTLY FROM THE VENDORS AS WE DID BEFORE THEY INITIATED THE E-SCOOTER PROGRAMS. AT THAT TIME THEY INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE NO ISSUES IN THE BRONX AND WERE EXPANDING TO QUEENS. VENDORS AGREED TO DISCUSS MANY OF THE ISSUES ABOVE WHEN THEY NEXT ADDRESS THIS COMMITTEE.**

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. DOT / DDC (Dept Design & Construction) - Mayor’s office has provided \$1.6M for a capital sidewalk repair project. Recommendations are requested and must be approved by the Director of Management & Budget.

B. MTA - 6/26/24 - announced that Parsons Blvd & Briarwood elevator projects have been

scrapped since Gov. Hochul has frozen congestion pricing.

C. DOT - Main St, 75th Rd to 75th Ave - Installing painted curb extensions, median extensions, ADA compliant median, and new crosswalk. Service road will be closed in this area and reopening is expected for Jewish New Year in October.

D. MTA - Hillside Ave Bus Improvement

1. Implementation of offset, or center-running bus lanes along Hillside Ave. Will improve commuter travel for 215,00 daily passengers along 22 MTA and NICE routes. Buses currently moving @4mph. During peak travel times, approx. 2400 vehicles (2800 passengers) travel this route. During the same time frame, there are approx. 235 bus trips with 14,000 passengers using this route.

a) This will be accomplished by removing one motorist lane

E. DOT - One or two-hour parking meters (7AM - 7PM) will be installed along Jamaica Ave from 148th St to 168th St. providing more than 100 spaces.

F. DOT - will install raised crosswalks across the north leg of Union Tpke & 141st St.

G. DOT - request for co-naming NE corner of 182nd St & 73rd Ave. to Brinckerhoff Memorial Way. Accompanied by petition with 24 signatures. This request has been endorsed by Lynn Manger, descendent of Abraham Brinckerhoff; Flushing Meadow Homeowners Assoc.; Queens Civic Congress; Civic Assoc. of Utopia Estates; Four Boro Neighborhood Preservation; West Cunningham Park Civic Assoc.; Holly Civic Assoc.; Auburndale Improvement Assoc.; Central Queens Historical Assoc.; Indian Diaspora Council International; Keller Williams Realty; Richard Donovan, Queens Boro Pres; Senator John Liu; Assemblywoman Nily Rozic; Tony Avella (Ret State Senator); and Congresswoman Grace Meng.

H.DOT - renaming request - Co-naming the intersection of Queens Blvd & Main St to Jack Verdone Place. Request was accompanied by no resident petitions. It was endorsed by Queens Hispanic-American Civil Council, Inc; Queens Centennial Lions Club of Brooklyn and Queens; and a family support letter. Mr. Verdone's accomplishments include running a family restaurant since 1984; catering for Pope Benedict XVI visit in 2008; supported local schools, little league, Boy & Girls Clubs; Kiwanis Club; Lions Club; and numerous other civic organizations.

1. A petition with 466 signatures was received supporting this request.

I. DOT - speed limit changes - Sammy's Law will decrease city speed limits from 25 to 20mph. Some locations will implement a 10mph speed limit on all existing shared and open streets (none in CB8). To be enacted late November, 2024.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT - request for additional lighting on Pershing Crescent between Manton and Lander St. Has been APPROVED by the Street Lighting Unit. It has been recommended that the Parks Dept trim overgrown trees.

B. DOT request - review traffic signal operation 184th St & Hillside Ave. Signal has been modified.

C. DOT request - speed hump on 67th Ave between 182nd St & 181st St. This location meets criteria and will be installed when funds become available. **Please note:**

Transportation Committee no longer reviews speed hump requests!

D. DOT request - speed hump on Highland Ave between 164th St & 166th St. This location meets criteria and will be installed when funds become available. **Please note:**

Transportation Committee no longer reviews speed hump requests!

E. DOT request - speed hump on 67th Ave between 194th St & Peck Ave. This location meets criteria and will be installed when funds become available. **Please note:**

Transportation Committee no longer reviews speed hump requests!

F. DOT request - speed hump in front of 204-15 Foothill Ave. Work order has been submitted for this location and marking has been added to the schedule. **Please note: Transportation Committee no longer reviews speed hump requests!**

IV. REQUESTS FROM MARIE ADAM-OVIDE

A. Letter to Public Design Commission 8/22/24 - confirming that bollards have been approved for the public sidewalk in front of Young Israel of Hillcrest, 168-07 Jewel Ave. In addition, ADA approved ramping will be installed at the corner of 170 St; three tree-pit areas on Jewel Ave will be upgraded as Parks Dept permit to add a crash rail at the inside base of the trees facing the building (bollards will be privately funded).

V. NEW REQUESTS

A. DOT request - repaving 84th Dr & 85th Ave between Parsons Blvd & 150th St. Individual. **THESE LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON PRIOR REQUEST. FOLLOW-UP FROM DOT IS REQUESTED.**

B. DOT request - traffic grid and signal light studies timing to improve traffic flow on 73rd Ave (East bound) from 193rd St to Francis Lewis Blvd. Study should focus traffic light timing on 196th, 197th, 199th, and FLB.

1. Extend study area from Utopia Pkwy to Francis Lewis Boulevard (CB#8 Member)

C. DOT request - Stop sign on the NW corner 185th St & 69th Ave. Individual

D. DOT request - Speed camera on 69th Ave from 185th St & Utopia Pkwy. Individual

E. DOT request - Four-way stop signs on Tudor Rd & Surrey Pl. Office of Assemblyman Weprin. DENIED 9/28/21. Re-submit

F. DOT request - Four-way stop signs on Tudor Rd & Kent St. Office of Assemblyman Weprin.

G. DOT request - DOT study to coordinate walk signals on Main St & 72nd Ave. East/West corners with left turn signals to improve pedestrian safety. Individual

H. DOT request -DOT study to extend all left turn signals at the corner of Main St & Union Tpke. to permit additional motorist turns and prevent bunching. Individual

I. DOT request - Signage 67th & 68th Ave from 164th St to 168th St.(cars left in one spot for

multiple days are subject to towing) Individual

J. DOT request - Stop signs and speed hump on Jewel Ave between 169th & 170th St. (traffic control at the corner of 169th St & Jewel Ave was denied in 2023) Individual

K. DOT request - Name change of 190th St to NYCMC Way. (No petition, no specific location, or explanation enclosed) Individual

L. DOT request - Stop sign 147th St & 78th Ave. Individual

M. DOT request - Traffic signal on Highland Blvd & 162nd St. Board Member CB8

N. DOT request - Pothole repair 162-15 86th Ave. **POTHOLE REPAIRS SHOULD BE CALLED IN TO 311. INFORM CB8 ONLY IF IT IS NOT DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER.** Board Member CB8 **DONE**

O. DOT request - Speed hump, speed camera, and speed limiting signs in the area of Hillcrest High School. Board Member CB8

1. Speed hump on 161st between 86th Ave & 86th Crescent. **THIS COMMITTEE DOES NOT REVIEW SPEED HUMP REQUESTS. REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO DOT.**

2. Speed cameras on 161st and 162nd St between 86th Ave & 86th Crescent;

3. 15 MPH sign at 161st St & 86th Ave near the school zone.

P. MTA request - improved train service E & F line from Van Wyck Blvd to Jamaica Center and to 179th St. In order to reduce the bunching of trains, E and F trains should be alternated to Jamaica and to 179th St. Further suggestion: routes for M & R trains be extended, making all local stops Continental Ave to Jamaica Center. Board Member CB8

Q. DOT request - Speed hump on 86th Crescent between 86th Ave & 164th St. Board Member CB8 **THIS COMMITTEE DOES NOT REVIEW SPEED HUMP REQUESTS. REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO DOT.**

R. MTA request - installation of LINKNYC Kiosk (cell phone charging stations) along bus routes on 164th St & Union Tpke. Board Member CB8

S. DOT request - Light bulb has been repaired on 162nd St & 86th Ave. Tree-pruning was suggested by technicians. **THIS COMMITTEE DOES NOT NEED TO BE INFORMED OF BULB CHANGING. REQUESTS FOR TREE PRUNING SHOULD GO TO PARKS DEPT.**

T. DOT request red light camera installation at the intersection of 64th and 65th Ave. and Utopia Pkwy. (Member CB8)

U. DOT. Installation of new sidewalk and curb on 185th St. from 64th to 67th Ave. (Member CB#8) **ALTHOUGH THIS ITEM HAS BEEN ADDED TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET, SINCE THE DISTANCE IS LESS THAN 2 BLOCKS DOT SHOULD DETERMINE, IF IT CAN BE DONE IN THE REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT BUDGET, OR ADDED TO THE DOT/DDC PROJECT IN II-A (member CB8)**

V. DOT request one way conversion of 65th Ave. from 180th St. to Utopia Pkwy. The street is too narrow to accommodate 2 way traffic. (individual)

CB8 INFORMED THIS INDIVIDUAL THAT A REQUEST AFFECTING HIS COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PETITION OF AFFECTED RESIDENCE.