



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York*  
*Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25, 2024**

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosebaum, Maria DeInnocentiis, James Gallagher Jr., Nikolas Michael, Tammy Osharov, Israel Peskowitz, Also present Martha Taylor Chairperson CB#8, Marie Adam-Ovide District Manager CB#8, Soleil Griffin CB#8, Cristy Vanterpool-Germain Queens DOT Boro Planner, Nathan Barash- Bird E-Scooter, Chris Howat VEO E-Scooter, Nicole Yearwood Lime E-Scooter, Pablo Romano, William J. Buzzone, Mike Sidell, Ashook Ramsanan

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

1. 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.

**DOT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VEO, BIRD AND LIME ATTENDED THE MEETING**

B. General information: Three companies have received franchises to provide vehicles (Bird, Lime, & VEO). Cost to the public: \$1.00 per rental + \$.39 to \$.46 per minute depending on the company. Average ride is 15 minutes. Must be (16) 18 years old and have a credit card. **Apple and Google pay are accepted credit cards, information is kept on file, all rentals are done on the vendor's app.**

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) **three** 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  
**"Not required but highly recommended"**
1. In case of a flash storm/blizzard/icing condition, it takes 12 hours to get scooters off the road.  
**This can be cut to 3 hours if necessary**
1. We have noticed scooters left on the main part of sidewalk, crosswalks, driveways, street and center median on Union Tpke.  
**A dedicated team of about 15 per vendor will be dispatched to "clean Street" starting Oct. 15, 2024. Their job is to pick up misparked or tipped over scooters. There is approximately 5,000 E-Scooter available for rental among the three vendors.**
1. Enforcement is only done by NYPD  
**Vendors suggest calling 311 to report offenders, provide vendor name, bike registration number and location.**

In office enforcement: there is a \$5 fee for each of the first three infractions followed by privilege suspension on the 4th violation and termination of service on the 5th.

THERE IS NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE VENDORS, THEREFORE, A SUSPENDED RENTER CAN CHANGE VENDORS TO CONTINUE SERVICE.

A PARENT OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL CAN RENT A SCOOTER AND GIVE IT TO AN UNDERAGED CHILD OR SUSPENDED RIDER.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF RENTERS RIDING ON “NO GO ZONES”

1. 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? **Additional time is needed to check on liability coverage in regards to riders, motorist and/or property damage, vendors will inform us in time for the October CB Board meeting.**
2. Misparked or tapped over scooters present an impediment to the disabled community and tripping hazard to the community at large. Merchants complained that scooters block access to establishments.
3. Power batteries are lithium ion, how do the companies mitigate fire concerns of the general public?  
**Bird and VEO change batteries on the street while Lime takes a bike to the shop to change batteries.**

The committee expressed serious concern of fire when the batteries are transported by vehicle in bulk.

#### 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.

**FREE BIKE HELMETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NYC COUNCIL DISTRIBUTED BY DOT. HELMETS ARE REQUIRED BY THE LAW FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14 AND COMMERCIAL CYCLISTS.**

2. 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.

**NOTIFICATIONS SHOULD BE DONE BY MESSAGE FROM APP AFTER AN EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNAL IS RECEIVED.**

3. 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 and near fire hydrants so as to not impact parking.

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

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

**6. E-SCOOTERS SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DISABLED WHEN ENTERING A CITY PARK OR “NO GO ZONE”.**

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](mailto:qn08@cb.nyc.gov)

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

**100’S OF COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING MISPARKED E-SCOOTERS WERE PRESENTED TO THE VENDORS.**

#### 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 Gennero, D24; Sandra Ung, D20
4. 9/25/24: Article provided by Civic Association reports that E-Scooter programs have been suspended in Melbourne Australia and Paris France as they pose unacceptable safety risks.

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 ADDRESSES THIS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\*\* THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE APPRECIATES THE ATTENDANCE OF DOT QUEENS' BORO PLANNER AND VENDOR REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THIS MEETING.**

Please note: **Red highlights represent vendor responses.**

**Green highlights represent committee responses.**

## **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 handicapped elevator projects had 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.

### **CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS A NEW BUS PAD HAS BEEN POURED.**

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.

1. This will be accomplished by removing one motorist lane.

**REMOVING ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL CERTAINLY BACK UP MOTORIST TRAFFIC AND CAUSE DRIVERS TO USE RESIDENTIAL STREETS TO BYPASS HILLSIDE AVE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF A SINGLE LANE COULD BE DEDICATED FOR BUS SERVICE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.**

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. **NOT DONE**

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; Fresh Meadows 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; Donovan Richard, Queens Boro Pres; Senator John Liu;

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic; Tony Avella, Former State Senator; and Congresswoman Grace Meng. **APPROVED**

H.DOT - renaming request - Co-naming the intersection of Queens Blvd & Main St to Jack Virdone 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. Virdone's accomplishments include running a family restaurant since 1984; catering for Pope Benedict XVI 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.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ENDORSES THIS REQUEST IF MOVED FROM THE SW CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND QUEENS BOULEVARD TO THE SW CORNER OF MANTON STREET AND QUEENS BOULEVARD. THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY JACK VIRDONE'S FAMILY.**

I. DOT - speed limit changes - Sammy's Law will decrease city speed limits 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**

1. DOT - request for additional lighting on Pershing Crescent between Manton and Landers St. Has been APPROVED by the Street Lighting Unit. It has been recommended that the Parks Dept trim overgrown trees.
2. DOT request - review traffic signal operation 184th St & Hillside Ave. Signal has been modified. **DONE**
3. 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!**
4. 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!**
5. 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!**
6. 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!**

**DONE; THIS WAS INSPECTED SINCE IT WAS A WORK ORDER NOT A FUTURE PROJECT**

### **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. **BOLLARD WORK WILL BE PRIVATELY FUNDED.**

- 1.

### **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. DONE**

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 Francis Lewis Boulevard.

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

**APPROVED, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THE DOT RECONSIDER MOVING BIKE LANE TO A SHARED SIDEWALK LANE FROM 197TH STREET TO FLB.**

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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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

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 **APPROVED**

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

**THIS IS A NYPD ENFORCEMENT ISSUE, BY LAW, VEHICLES ARE PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN PLACE FOR TO A WEEK. A CHALK MARK CAN BE MADE ON THE TIRE AND NOTED BY THE NYPD INDICATING THAT THE TIRE HAS NOT ROTATED IN MORE THAN 7 DAYS.**

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

**AN ALL-WAY STOP SIGN IS APPROVED FOR THE INTERSECTION OF 17 TH STREET AND JEWEL AVE.**

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

**TABLED; INADEQUATE LOCATION OR INFORMATION IN REGARD WHY THIS LOCATION IS BEING REQUESTED AND NO SUPPORTING PETITION WAS INCLUDED.**

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

**APPROVED: CHAIRMAN CAST A SINGLE VOTE TO BREAK A TIE.**

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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

N. DOT request - Pothole repair 162-15 86th Ave. **POTHOLE REPAIRS SHOULD BE CALLED INTO 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

**APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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; **DENIED**

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

**APPROVED FOR SCHOOL SAFETY SIGN AND CURVE AHEAD SIGNAGE**

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

**APPROVED FOR MTA STUDY TO DETERMINE IF E AND F TRAINS HAVE SWITCHBACKS AND IF M AND R LINES CAN BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST.**

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

**DENIED; AS NOT ALL BUS STOPS HAVE ELECTRIC POWER, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN COMPUTERIZE LED BUS INFORMATION TIMING SIGNS ARE INSTALLED.**

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). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

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**

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 RESIDENCES. DENIED, DOT SHOULD CONSIDER NO PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF 65TH AVE. BETWEEN UTOPIA PKWY AND 180TH ST. OR DAYLIGHTING AT THE SE CORNER OF UTOPIA PKWY AND 65TH AVE. AND SW CORNER OF 180TH STREET 65TH AVE.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM**