



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 THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024.

Meeting called to order 7:30 pm

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-chair; Allen Eisenstein; Kevin Forrestal; James Gallagher Jr., Caitlin Marziliano (new member left but is invited and encouraged to return if she wants) present: Albert Silvestri, DOT Borough Planner, Cristy Vanterpool-Germain, Borough Planner; Finlay Scanlon, DOT; Ben Slade, DOT; Faith Atosar, DOT; Lilly Goban (?), DOT, Alex Keating-VEO Ride, M. Acbly, MTA; Matthew Lazo, MTA; John Feldman, MTA. Residents: Yolanda Gallagher, Deborah Saville- Briarwood Family Shelter, Jose Interiano, Brian Jeeuth

I. DOT PRESENTATION

A. Safety improvement along Main Street. The corridor under review was between 71st Rd to 75th Ave. from 2019 - 2023, on this .3 mile stretch of road, there were 43 injuries. This has among the top 10% injuries in Queens with the most pedestrian injuries in the 5-year period ending in 2023. Most injuries to pedestrians occurred while they were crossing **WITH** the signal in the crosswalk, and when crossing at locations without crosswalk markings. 27% of the injuries were seniors. The borough average is 8%.

Proposed improvements

1. New crosswalks will provide better crossings to bus stops.
 2. Bus pad reconstruction to make them ADA Compliant will also provide refuge space for pedestrians.
 3. Curb extension and median tips - to reduce driver speed and make safer turns as well as to provide refuge medians for pedestrians.
 4. New median markings at Main St & 72nd Dr, and Vleigh Pl; as well as curb extension and concrete tip. Painted median tips will provide safe refuge for pedestrians stuck in mid crosswalk.
 5. Add truck loading zones onto the main road with large trucks banned from the service road.
 6. Close openings at crossroads with quick curbs to prevent vehicles from illegally entering and exiting service roads.
 7. Mark and paint stripes along the main road.
 8. Add left-turn signal for west bound 73rd Ave.
 9. Between 73rd & 75th Ave add painted median tip extension, curb extensions and concrete median tip extensions.
 10. Add a crosswalk across at Vleigh Pl to improve safety getting to the bus stop.
- B. Update on Eastern Queens E-Scooter Share Program -
1. These scooters weigh less than 100 pounds, can be moved by electric or human power, and travel no more than 15MPH. Helmets are recommended but not required. Age limit: starting at age 16 yrs. old and up.

2. Three private companies provide vehicles: Bird, Lime, and Veo. There is a \$1.00 fee to unlock and usage costs between \$0.39 and \$0.46 per minute. Each company carries vehicle insurance with indemnity to NYC. They are not permitted in city parks. Scooters are unlocked and paid by cell phone APP. Vehicles all have sensors to limit speed, track the e-scooter, ensure they are not driven on sidewalks, and can be stopped by the main office if needed. Average trip is less than 1 mile. All bikes have lights, bells, kickstand, brakes and posted ID number with a 24/7 customer service number printed on it.
 3. Key Eastern Queens locations are downtown Flushing & Jamaica; Queens College, York College; St John's University; H & H Queens Hospital; Presbyterian Queens Hospital; Kissena & Cunningham Parks; Queens Botanical Garden.
 4. How to ride: download APP; register ID and payment; Complete Safety training and quiz; Find a scooter by scanning a QR-code. When returning scooter: park in a corral or on the sidewalk near street (should not interfere with pedestrian walkthrough), then lock and take photo of scooter. Accessible scooters are available if ordered in advance.
 5. Enforcement done by the NYPD. There are designated slow zones, no parking or riding zones, service area borders and temporal restrictions (used for large events or storms). **Transportation Committee recommendations:**
 - a. **Helmets should be required for all riders.**
 - b. **As it can take up to 12 hours to get e-bikes off the road in the event of inclement weather, it is recommended that they devise an emergency notification system by cell phone to give riders a quick amount of time to park the bikes before power is disconnected.**
- C. Hillside Avenue Bus Priority Safety Improvement Project (SIP). Springfield Blvd to Queens Blvd (4.2 miles) - Over 200,000 riders daily. 992 people were injured, with 60 people seriously injured or killed along Hillside Ave between 2018 & 2022. Average bus speed is about 4 MPH due to traffic congestion, double parked cars and cars parked in bus lanes.
1. There is no consistent treatment of bus travel routes. At times the bus travels on the curbside lane, designated bus lanes, or stops at medians. It is anticipated that recommended improvements will increase travel time speed for riders. Modification projections, to be completed within one year.
 2. Improvements: shortening crossing distances, providing more pedestrian crossing time near schools; adding pedestrian refuge islands, curb extensions; left turn calming; median extensions near crosswalks.
 3. Existing conditions on Hillside Avenue: Francis Lewis Blvd to 188th St - unmarked curbside bus lane M-F 7- 9AM, west bound & M-F 4-7PM eastbound; 188th St to Merrick Blvd has a marked curbside bus lane (no red paint) M-F 7- 9AM, west bound & M-F 4-7PM eastbound; Sutphin Blvd to Queens Blvd - red painted curbside bus lane M-Sat 6 - 9 AM, west bound, M-Sat 4-7PM westbound only
 4. MTA recommends removal of one traffic lane, installing a designated bus lane, improving traffic signal timing, providing transit signal priority, bus lanes with stationary cameras and on-bus cameras, left and right turn base, and traffic calming devices. Bus lanes would be operational 24/7.
 - a. Removing the curbside bus lane would add thirty blocks of parking.
 - b. The Transportation Committee is confirming that all improvements as well as increasing bus speed will be at the expense of losing one traffic lane creating more vehicle congestion.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Assemblywoman Nily Rozic from DOT (Case #DOT-635551V9QUEENS7) requesting daylighting at multiple locations with the following results:

1. 67th Ave & 173rd St - fire hydrant at Southwest corner. Daylighting is not feasible.
2. 67th Ave & 174th St - it is a T-intersection. Daylighting is not feasible.
3. 67th Ave & Fresh Meadow Lane - It's signalized. Daylighting is not feasible.

IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE IF ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUEST BEFORE SUBMITTING TO DOT.

B. Registration for Dining Out NYC

1. Roadway Cafes - located in the curb lane or parking lane in front of a ground floor restaurant. Open 4/1-11/29/24

2. Sidewalk Cafes - are located on public sidewalks fronting a ground floor restaurant. Open Year-round.

3. Applications will be reviewed by DOT, Community Boards (CB have up to 40 days if they wish to hold Public Hearing, and submit a report), Borough Presidents, City Councilmembers, DOB, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, NYFD, Landmarks Preservation Commission.

4. Applications are available online at DININGOUTNYC.INFO/APPLY

5. License Fee for a 4-year term: \$1050 each; or \$2100 for both.

6 Revocable Consent Fee is an annual charge based on geography and café size.

7. Public Service Fee: a one-time fee if applicable. Amount varies.

8. Security Deposit Fee: \$2500, refundable at end of term.

9. Enforcement by DOT. Violations receive a CAR (Corrective Action Request) and have 30 days to comply. Subsequent violations may receive summonses, suspensions, or revocation of license.

C. City of Cars Mobility and Vehicle Ownership is a survey by Hunter College for Spring 2024 they are no longer accepting applications (notification letter was received on 3/24/24).

D. NYC Street Ambassadors on Hillside Avenue - DOT representatives will be on Hillside Ave from Springfield Blvd to Queens Blvd requesting safety improvement comments from pedestrians and bus riders. **MTA DISCUSSED PROPOSED BUS ROUTE CHANGES BEFORE MAKING PROPOSALS (SEE I.C)**

E. City of Yes For Housing Opportunity Public Review - Referred by City Planning Commission to all 59 Community Boards. Proposal to help resolve housing shortage crisis in all boroughs. This proposal permits rental of attic, garage, basement, or yard space in single-family dwellings at market value. It permits developers to bypass floor/area ratios (FAR) and maximum height requirements. The city is seeking endorsement for this proposal from each Community Board.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT CB8 AS WELL AS REMAINING 58 COMMUNITY BOARDS SHOULD VOTE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL.

F. Congestion Pricing - Alternative pricing suggestions submitted to CB#8 have been forwarded to DOT for review. Multiple lawsuits have been initiated by states and municipalities.

G. MTA Queens Bus Redesign - Many suggestions to modify proposed changes in bus schedules have been received from individuals and civic organizations they were forwarded to MTA.

1. MTA has assured this committee that it will review all suggestions before enacting changes.

H. DOT - Renaming the corner of Goethals Ave & 164th St. in honor of Natalie Rogers, founder of QCP (Queens Center for Progress). Ceremony took place May 10, 2024.

1. Letters to our elected officials were sent on January 19, 2024, asking that they refrain from co-naming streets until "CB8 Queens deliberates and provides input". **PLEASE RE-SEND LETTER TO ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

I. Drinks-To-Go Program has been extended for an additional 5 years. A total of two complaints were received since initiation statewide (one was against Doordash for delivering to a minor at home).

J. NY Hall of Science (NYSCI) notified CB#8 that it extended the Queens Night Market for another year and that the Grand Central Parkway Eastbound Extension to Meridian Road will be closed on Saturdays 5/18-10/26/24 from 1 PM to 1 AM to prevent illegal parking. Guards will be authorized to remove the barriers to permit emergency vehicle access. **IT APPEARS THERE IS LIMITED PARKING (\$15) AT THE HALL OF SCIENCE TO ACCOMMODATE PATRONS AND THEREFORE THEY ARE PARKING ILLEGALLY ON MERIDIAN ROAD (INSIDE FLUSHING MEADOW PARK). WE BELIEVE THIS WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT ATTENDANCE AT THE QUEENS NIGHT MARKET.**

K. DOT Artist Request for Proposals (RFP), the DOT has an initiative with community-based organizations to commission artists to design and install temporary public art citywide. Artists are invited to submit proposals by Sunday June 30, 2024. Artwork can remain for up to 11 months. Select artists are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 towards direct project cost for sculptures or 2-dimensional works.

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT - request daylighting at the intersection of Dalny Rd & Wexford Terrace (CB8 Board member). DENIED, based upon review of existing conditions.
- B. DOT - request daylighting at the intersection of Dalny Rd & Somerset St. (CB8 Board member). DENIED, based upon review of existing conditions. All signs are in place, and there is daylighting on the NE corner.
- C. DOT - request daylighting at the intersection of Dalny Rd & Avon St. (CB8 Board member). DENIED, based upon review of existing conditions. All signs are in place, and there is daylighting on the NE corners, and a fire hydrant on the NW corner.
COMMUNITY FOLLOW UP ON ABOVE REQUEST DENIALS WAS RECEIVED ON MAY 9, 2024 (see IV-L).
- D. DOT request - speed humps have been APPROVED for the following locations when funding is available:
 1. 185th St between 64th Ave & 73rd Ave.
 2. 185th St between 67th Ave & 69th Ave.
 3. 185th St between 64th Ave & 69th Ave.

AS DOT APPROVES ALL SPEED HUMP REQUESTS WITHIN APPROVED GUIDELINES, THIS COMMITTEE WILL NO LONGER CONSIDER SPEED HUMP REQUESTS. THEY SHOULD BE FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO DOT.

- E. DOT request - additional lighting in front of 69-40 Main St. Has been APPROVED. **A LIGHT HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THIS ADDRESS AT THE CLINIC ENTRANCE.**
- F. DOT request - additional traffic control at the intersection of Queens Blvd & Van Wyck Expy SB service road. A new traffic signal has been approved at the cemetery entrance to the west of the Van Wyck Expy SB service road. The median cut-through will be closed so that all traffic will have to turn right at the traffic signal. **THIS LOCATION IS SOUTH OF CB#8 BORDER. THE WORK IS COMPLETE, NYPD OFFICERS ARE COMPLAINING OF A LOSS OF 30 PARKING SPACES IN THIS MODIFICATION. THEY REQUEST THAT DIAGONAL**

PARKING ALONG SOUTHBOUND VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY BE DESIGNATED "POLICE OFFICERS ONLY". THEY WERE REFERRED TO CB#10 FOR REQUEST FOLLOW UP.

DOT WILL REVIEW THIS LOCATION FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT

- G. DOT request - speed humps has been **APPROVED** for the following location when funding is available: 75th Ave between Utopia Pkwy and 166th St.
- H. DOT request - traffic signal at the corner of 171st & 67th Ave. **DENIED**
- I. DOT request - speed humps has been **APPROVED** for the following location when funding is available Highland Ave between 164th St & 166th St.
- J. DOT request - defective sidewalk repair in front of 144-47 70th Street. Location to be inspected by DOT. **NO SUCH LOCATION EXISTS IN CB#8. THERE IS A 70TH AVE AND RD BUT DEFECTIVE SIDEWALK WAS NOT NOTED. REFER BACK TO DOT FOR CLARIFICATION.**
- K. DOT has **APPROVED** a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Gothic Dr & 168th St. This is part of the Raised Crosswalk Program (flat top speed hump) near schools, parks, and senior centers (already done at 67th Ave & Main St., **the tapered rise and fall of asphalt prevents car axles from bottoming out and the wide flat top at the intersection allows for safe pedestrian crossing**).
- L. DOT request (reported to 311)- resurface 84th Dr between Parsons Blvd & 150th St. **84TH DRIVE BETWEEN PARSONS BLVD & 151ST STREET APPROVED.**
- M. DOT request (reported to 311)- resurface 85th Ave between Parsons Blvd & 150th St. **APPROVED**
- N. DOT request - Modified signal timing on Hillside Ave between 168th St & 169 Place. **DENIED.** Timing is correct, this is an enforcement issue.
- O. DOT request - modified signal timing at Main St & 72nd Ave. This has been done. **ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE (SEE I.A)**
- P. DOT request - speed humps have been **APPROVED** for the following location when funding is available: Surrey Pl between 80th Rd & Midland Pkwy.

NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT request - stop sign at 148-16 87th Rd. (individual)
THIS LOCATION IS IN FRONT OF A MUSLIM SCHOOL, 5-CAR LENGTHS (150 FT) FROM A STOP SIGN AT CONTROLLED INTERSECTION OF 148 ST. AND 87TH RD. A MID-BLOCK STOP SIGN IS UNWARRANTED. WE RECOMMEND A DOT STUDY FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE CORNER OF 148TH ST & 87TH RD WHERE STUDENTS CAN CROSS SAFELY WITH THE LIGHT. THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY INDIVIDUAL MAKING REQUEST.
- B. DOT request - speed hump in front of 148-16 87th Rd. to slow cars and facilitate children and parishioners' crossing street in front of mosque and school. (Individual) **IF TRAFFIC LIGHT IS INSTALLED, SPEED HUMP IS UNNECESSARY. THIS COMMITTEE IS NOT REVIEWING SPEED HUMPS**
- C. DOT request - guard rail from on Park Drive East from Jewel Ave to 72nd Ave on the West side, to prevent vehicles from falling onto the Van Wyck Expwy. (Individual) **DENIED**
- D. DOT request - left turn signal on Parsons Blvd onto Hillside Ave. to alleviate vehicle and roadway congestion. (individual) **THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED; A LEFT TURN BAY EXISTS.**
- E. DOT request - modification of traffic signal timing on 73rd Ave between 199th St & Francis Lewis Blvd. (Individual) (This was last turned down by DOT on 8/2022) **APPROVED. A SHARED BIKE LANE IS RECOMMENDED**

- F. DOT request - traffic signal at the intersection of 162nd St & Highland Blvd. near Hillcrest High School. (CB8 Board member) **APPROVED.**
- G. DOT request - stop sign at the NW corner of 185th St & 69th Ave (Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- H. DOT request - speed camera 185th St from 64th Ave to 73rd Ave. (Individual) **DENIED. (SPEED HUMPS WILL SLOW TRAFFIC. SEE III.D).**
- I. DOT request - speed camera on 69th St between 185th St & Utopia Pkwy (Individual) **APPROVED**
- J. DOT request - Letter of No Objection for livery base renewal #B1593. Novak Global, Inc. DBA Skyway Car Service, 77-35 164th St, Fresh Meadows, 11366. (we received parking lease agreement and all documents) **APPROVED.**
- K. DOT request - Diagonal parking near synagogue, 72-11 Vleigh Pl (between 72nd Ave & 72nd Rd). Cars are double parking during services. (CB8 Board member) **BACK-IN ONLY ANGLE PARKING IS APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- L. DOT request - Stop sign at the intersection of Somerset & Dalny Rd. (CB8 Board member) **APPROVED**
- M. DOT request - "Curve Ahead" Sign on Dalny Rd between Somerset & Wexford Terrace. (CB8 Board member) **APPROVED.**
- N. DOT- residents of Somerset St, Dalny Rd, and Wexford Terrace have submitted correspondence with YouTube links accompanied by a 67-person survey requesting grid changes to include (58) street direction, (23) one-way conversions, (48) stop signs, (5) traffic signals, (61) daylighting and (38) speed cameras for the neighborhood. **REFER TO DOT FOR GRID STUDY.**
- O. DOT request speed humps 170th St between Union Turnpike and 81st Ave.as well as 170th St. between Goethals and 81st Ave. (member transportation committee) **THIS COMMITTEE IS NOT REVIEWING SPEED HUMPS**
- P. DOT -request Daylighting on southwest corner of 166th Street and Goethals Ave. (member transportation committee) **APPROVED**
- Q. MTA -request installation of handicapped accessible elevator at 169th St and Parsons Blvd. subway stations. (CB8 Board member) **THESE LOCATIONS ARE APPROVED FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ELEVATORS. 179TH ST IS BEING CONSTRUCTED. THIS COMMITTEE REQUESTS A DETAILED LISTING OF SCHEDULE FOR ALL HANDICAP TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN CB8 AREA.**

Meeting Adjourned 9:55 PM