

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum- Chair, Maria DeInnocentiis, Kevin J Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., also present Sandra Aikens Williams CB#8, and Yolanda Gallagher.

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

I. CORRESPONDENCE

A. NYC DOT Carshare Program: This program started in 2018 with Zipcar and Enterprise Carshare with 230 on-street spaces and 55 municipal parking facilities. The two-year program averaged 24 trips per space per month. The program credits a 7% reduction in gas emissions and 6% reduction in vehicle miles travelled for its members. Three locations in CB8 are 87-29 144 St., 151-57 72nd Rd & 67-01 152nd St. Zipcar reports 85% of NYC members don't own cars, 25% got rid of their cars after joining, and members drive 40% fewer miles since joining. **NONE OF THE LOCATIONS IN CB#8 APPEAR TO BE IN OPERATION, NO CARSHARE VEHICLES WERE VISIBLE, THERE WAS NO SIGNAGE TO DESIGNATE CARSHARE SPACES.**

B. DOT – Continuation of the Outdoor Sidewalk and Roadway Dining was approved by the Appellate Court in October 2022. Policies are not finalized. There are 1500 open restaurants in Queens, 200 have roadway dining and 1000 have sidewalk dining.

Proposed regulations

1. NYC DOT License is required for outdoor dining. Public hearings took place between Dec 6, 2021, and Jan 5, 2022, in all boroughs. Final requirements have not been released as of this time. Approved locations must be adjacent to business frontage. Must have 8ft sidewalk clearance, 15ft from fire hydrant, and 8ft from crosswalk. In-street: max width is 8ft, must have snow sticks 30-36" high; interior walls must be filled with soil or sand with reflecting tape on the outside of the structure. Structure cannot be bolted down or taller than store frontage (or 1 story, whichever is less); structure may not block street signs, fire-escapes, or Siamese connections. Electric heaters are permitted while natural gas is allowed on sidewalk only, no propane heaters. No amplified sound permitted; roadway seating is suspended during snow alert. If the location is not occupied for 30 days, it is deemed "abandoned" and may be removed by city the owner can apply for reinstatement at any time. SBS Hotline 888-727-4692. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT ALL RESIDENTS IN CB#8 PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE BOARD IF A RESTAURANT WITH OUTDOOR SEATING HAS NOT BEEN USED IN MORE THAN 30 DAYS. COMMUNITY BOARD WILL NOTIFY DOT TO SEND OUT AN INSPECTOR. THE LOCATION CAN THEN BE DECLARED ABANDONED AND MAY BE TAKEN DOWN. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NEXT COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING, INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, AND THAT ALL LOCAL CIVICS BE NOTIFIED IN ORDER TO DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION TO ITS CONSTITUENTS**

C. Correspondence 11/7/22 from Laborers International Local#1010 stated that repaving on Cross Island Parkway from exit 30-35 has remained un-striped for over 2 1/2 months while residential blocks in Queens remain un-striped for over 80 days. With "all back work that stands unfinished or completely

untouched, there is no possibility that striping will be done within the required 30days of paving.” The Union is concerned that the situation will continue to deteriorate if left alone.

A LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO DOT ASKING THAT BETTER COORDINATION TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE CONTRACTORS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MILLING, PAVING AND STRIPING

D. MTA – Complaints that vagrants are sleeping or disturbing fellow passengers on the bus - MTA states driver’s responsibility is to contact dispatch and have NYPD meet them at a later stop. “MTA is not a social service agency and operators are not always best equipped to handle passengers who are in the throes of crisis.” If passenger is not overly disruptive, operators will wait till the end of their route and get the passenger to leave safely.

E. MTA - Proposal to restructure of subway station agents’ responsibilities. Currently there is a customer service booth in each station which is manned 24/7. Operators have not sold fare media since COVID19 pandemic began. Metro Card and OMNY vending machines are available on platforms. Operators will be permitted to close for lunch. Customers will be directed to use Help Point Intercom. MTA proposes that station agents work outside the booth. New roles to start early 2023. Currently there are 1,711 vending machines; mobile sales vans; and more than 1400 merchants and convenience stores that sell Metro Cards; and 4,000 merchants in the OMNY network.

F. NY Coalition for Transportation Safety sent an update on Traffic Vision Zero in Queens. The report from 2013 to 2023 indicates a 16% decrease in traffic injuries and a 30% decrease in fatalities. In 107th Precinct those numbers are 6% and 6% respectively. For the year 22-23 the numbers are 21% and 60%. In general, the number of traffic injuries, fatalities and moving violations has decrease in years 2020, 21, 22. **ALTHOUGH NOT STATED, I BELIEVE THESE STATISTICS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID 19 VEHICLE USAGE.**

G. DOT-Request converting 147th Street from two way to one way operation from Melbourne Ave. to Union Turnpike was submitted directly to DOT by Council Member Fazima Azam of Brooklyn’s 39th District. It was assigned tracking DOT-#558448-J7N4 and DOT#558449-Y9Z8. DOT forwarded the request to CB#8 informing the Council member that it should go through the Transportation Committee and then a petition of request by the affected residents. **REQUEST DENIED AS THE WIDTH OF THIS STREET IS ADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AND CHANGING THIS STREET FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY OPERATION WOULD CONGEST TRAFFIC ON 150TH STREET.**

II. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT – Trench Restoration on 186th St between 73rd & 75th Aves including re-surfacing will be done under DDC Project #HWTRQX1 and is starting soon. **PIPE INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE. STREET HAS BEEN PATCHED BUT REPAVING HAS NOT STARTED.**

B. MTA– Follow-up letter from Marie Adam-Ovide in regard to 25/54 bus stop IFO 82-30 Parsons Blvd. Reconsideration to move bus stop north of communal driveway. ‘T’ Building has not been used as a medical center in over a decade. Moving the stop would not lose parking spaces as there is an existing fire hydrant and commuters would still benefit from crosswalk nearby. Residents are complaining now although they have not in the past. This change would provide relief for residents who are not able to exit/enter communal driveway when busses are present. This request was again rejected by MTA (8/15/22) as moving the bus stop requires construction of a new bus pad for 120 feet, filling grassy area adjacent to street and removing a tree which are not in the purview of the MTA. The

estimated cost would be \$100,000. **REFER THIS REQUEST TO COUNCILMAN JIM GENNARO FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RELIEF FOR AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**

C. MTA – Request to move bus stop from SE to SW corner of Union Tpk & Utopia Tpk has been denied, as the current location is a transfer point from Q30 to Q31 bus, and passengers would be required to cross Utopia Pkwy. Moving the stop from in front of the medical building would negatively affect the riders. The current stop is ADA compliant with an existing bus pad long enough to accommodate several busses. The proposed site would require the removal of trees and the installation of a bus pad. Moving the stop would affect even spacing of stops around it.

D. DOT -Request speed reducer 84th Ave between 164th Pl & 168th St.- has been approved for speed hump. **THIS LOCATION WAS APPROVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FOR A SPEED HUMP SEVERAL YEARS AGO, IT IS NEAR A SCHOOL, AND THERE ARE NO AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**

E. DOT -Request speed reducer 134th St between 82nd Rd & Hoover Ave.- has been approved for speed hump. **APPROVED, THIS LOCATION IS USED AS A MAJOR THOROUGH FARE BY DRIVERS TO BYPASS QUEENS BLVD, TO ACCESS UNION TURNPIKE, AND THE GCP.**

F. DOT - Request installation of speed cameras on 75th Ave from Utopia Pkwy to 188th St. Location will be considered as it is within ¼ mile of school. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FEELS THIS CAMERA IS UNNECESSARY.**

G. DOT -Request reconsideration to reverse 191st St from Hillside Ave to Palo Alto Ave. to be returned to a two-way operation. Individual has made this request several times in the past. **THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN CONSIDERED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS INCLUDING A PUBLIC HEARING. THIS PROPOSAL WILL CREATE AN UNSAFE HEAD ON CONDITION. DENIED**

H. DOT -Request all-way stop signs at 69th Ave & 185th St. This location has not been studied since 2018. DOT has agreed to reconsider. **APPROVED**

I. MTA – Opposition to removal of bus stop IFO 83-10 188th St.- Waiting for response from MTA and this request will be kept on file with DOT. **APPROVED**

J. DOT -Request for safety improvements near PS131 (170-81 84th Ave):

1. Crosswalk markings at corner of 84th Ave & 172nd St were installed last summer. **DONE**
2. All-way stop sign was installed at intersection of 84th Ave & 172nd St. Sept. 2022. **DONE**
3. DOT suggested possibility of “slow zone”, speed cameras, and speed humps on blocks surrounding school. DOT’s, “Open Street Program” where streets may be closed during drop-off and pick-up times. **ANY FURTHER REMEDIATION REQUEST SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THIS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO DOT.**

K. DOT - Request for “Letter of No Objection” for license renewal #B01128 for Pak-Eagle D/B/A Jewel Car Service, 72-55 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11367. Has been sent after receiving off-hour parking agreement and no resident complaints. **APPROVED**

L. DOT – Request for speed hump 68th Dr between 136th St & 138th St meets criteria.

M. DOT-Request for traffic control at the intersection of 170th St. and 81st Ave. The request was denied as a traffic light, or an all way stop sign “will not provide the maximum safety benefit to address the concerns that” were reported. **A LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO DOT ASKING HOW THEY SUGGEST CONCERNS ON THIS REQUEST BE ADDRESSED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SAFETY BENEFIT.**

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

- A. DOT –Request; street surface in disrepair bounded by 164th St to the West, 170th St to the East, Union Tpk - North, GCP – South. Sections of road have multiple utility cuts and potholes especially at 168th St and Goethals Ave, as well as 165th – 168th Sts. DOT agreed to log and assign. **APPROVED**
- B. DOT- In follow up to Community Board #8 public participation report at February’s Board by an individual that the Q73 bus line was in operation, a letter was sent to the Lucille Songhai of the MTA. The correspondence reminded them that **“MTA would not institute any changes until we’ve had a chance to be heard”**. They were offered public speaking opportunities at the monthly board meeting from May 2022 until present. A schedule for presentation at an upcoming board meeting was offered for April, May, or June 2023. MTA’s response on 2/9/23 states “Just to reiterate...there will be ample opportunity for Queens’ riders to offer feedback. We have a way to go before we reach implementation.” **TO DATE THE MTA HAS NOT REQUESTED PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE WITH THE COMMUNITY BOARD AND AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**

IV. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT – complaint that DOT is slow in repairing potholes. Multiple holes on 188th St & 87th Rd opposite Palo Alto St. Repairs called to 311 requested in Nov, not done (Individual). **DONE**
- B. DOT - Request Dalny Road be converted from 2-way to 1-way operation from Edgerton Blvd to Wexford Terrace. Request made by Sister Joan Petito, Mary Lewis Academy Girls High School. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- C. DOT - Request repair/resurfacing the following streets in Kew Gardens Hills (Member Trans. Comm.):
1. 78th Rd eastbound Main St to 147th St. **FILED WITH 311 CONDITION REMEDIATED.**
 1. 73rd Terrace @Park Drive E. Northeast side of street near 135-04 73rd Terr. **APPROVED, PIPES IN STREET HAVE BEEN REPLACED AND ASPHALT PATCHED. CURRENT CONDITION SHOWS REPAIRS ARE DETERIORATING. GRAVEL IS DISSIPATING AND LEAVING DIPS AND WAVES IN THE STREET.**
 2. 76-29 & 76-35 Vleigh Pl at the 76th & 77th Ave intersections **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- D. DOT - Request speed camera on the center divider of Francis Lewis Blvd between Foothill Ave\Whitehall Terrace and McLaughlin Ave. (Member CB8) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- E. DOT - Request check synchronization of new traffic signal on 188th St & Avon Rd with signals on Radnor Rd, entrance to GCP West, & McLaughlin Ave. (Member Trans. Com.) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- F. DOT - Request all-way stop sign at Aberdeen Rd. & Chevy Chase St. (Individual) [petition enclosed with names of approximately 60 affected residents). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- G. TLC- Request “Letter of No Objection” for Base Renewal #B01332 Skyway Car Service Express Inc. 68-20A Fresh Meadow Lane Fresh Meadows N.Y. 11365. We are waiting for off hour parking agreement. No resident objections have been received. **THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED AFTER CB#8 RECEIVES AFTER HOUR PARKING DOCUMENT.**
- H. DOT-Request ‘Pedestrian Only’ sequence on the westbound GCP Service Road westbound at Utopia Parkway to improve safety at this location. This is a busy intersection; vehicles are in constant motion on green light or using left turn signal (Member Trans. Com.) **THERE IS RIGHT TURN TRAFFIC TRIANGLE THAT PERMITS VEHICLES TO MAKE AN UNIMPEDED RIGHT**

TURN ONTO THE GCP EAST BOUND SERVICE ROAD WITH NO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE. A STOP SIGN IS APPROVED FOR THIS LOCATION ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF UTOPIA PARKWAY.

I. DOT – Request 76th Rd between Parsons Blvd & 160th Rd be converted from two-way to one-way operation. School busses are damaging parked cars on the way to and from Parsons Jr. High School. **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE NO STANDING SCHOOL ZONE 7 AM TO 4 PM BE EXTENDED TO THE LAST THREE PARKING SPACES NEAR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER. THIS WILL PERMIT BUSES AND DRIVERS TO PICK UP AND DISCHARGE STUDENTS. IF AFFECTED RESIDENTS FEEL ADDITIONAL REMEDIATION IS REQUIRED, WE SUGGEST REMOVING PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET ACROSS FROM THE SCHOOL AFTER RECEIVING A PETITION BY AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**

J. DOT-Request red light/speed camera at the corner of 75th Ave. and 188th St. cars speeding through the intersection to make the light (Member Trans. Com.) **APPROVED FOR RED LIGHT AND/OR SPEED CAMERA.**

K. DOT-Request sign change on Francis Lewis Boulevard from Horace Harding Expressway to 73rd Ave. from “No Standing Anytime” to “No Standing 8 PM to 7 AM. This will permit residents to park in order to access the ball fields.(Member Transportation Committee) . **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM