

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – WED., JUNE 27, 2018**

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Edward Chung, Susan Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, James Gallagher Jr., Bright Dae-Jung Limm, also present Marie Adam-Ovide CB#8, Jatnna Reyes CB#8

**I. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. MTA- Bus schedule revisions effective July, 2018. Seven scheduled changes will take place on seven bus routes. Saturday trips will be added on the Q6, Q8, Q29, Q47, Q49 & Q101; and additional Sunday trips on the Q65.
- B. MTA- Subway changes effective November 2018. Additional weekday service will be added on the A, D, E, & F lines at a cost of \$3.3 million annually. This is less than was allocated for the 2018 Operating Budget.
- C. MTA- Bus schedule revisions effective September 2018. MTA will initiate a “Fast Forward” pilot program to increase off-peak bus service to boost customer use on select routes. Initial route will be Q6 which provides service between downtown Jamaica and JFK north boundary cargo area; and the Q69 which provides service at all times between Jackson Heights and LIC.
- D. MTA- Bus schedule revisions effective Fall 2018. Forty service level changes or running time changes are proposed on 29 bus routes. Twenty are increases in service frequency. Revisions reflect increases in congestion and decreases in traffic speed through commercial corridors. Highlights include M60 Select Bus Service during early morning to remedy overcrowding eastbound toward LaGuardia Airport. Increase service on the Q36 Little Neck Branch to match the span of LIRR peak service. This program will save \$4.9 million and net \$1.9 million in savings (\$3 million is used in I-B above).
- E. DOT – Councilman Barry Grodenchik to constituent regarding speeding along Peck Ave between 64<sup>th</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> Aves (speed hump was rejected because of lack of community response), and on 199<sup>th</sup> St between 67<sup>th</sup> & 73<sup>rd</sup> Aves (this location was assigned tracking #DOT-371422-M3T9 for further study). **ONE SPEED HUMP CURRENTLY EXISTS. STOPS SIGNS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT 67<sup>TH</sup> AVE. AND 69<sup>TH</sup> AVE.**
- F. DOT – A petition with approx. 100 signatures (22 residents of CB8) was received from an organization called Transportation Alternatives. Their goal is to improve safety along Utopia Pkwy. from 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. to the GCP. NYPD records indicate 233 cars crashed between 2015 and 2016 with 81 injuries and 1 pedestrian fatality. The following changes were recommended:
1. Reduce speed limit. **SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH IS APPROVED**
  2. Curb extension at intersections to facilitate safer pedestrian crossings. **HOW DO YOU ACCOMMODATE BIKE LANES WITH CURB EXTENSIONS?**
  3. More frequent high-visibility crosswalks. **APPROVED**

4. Parking-protected bike lanes (bike between curb and parking). **HOW WILL PICK UP AND DISCHARGE OF BUS PASSENGERS BE ACCOMMODATED?**

5. Upgraded bus shelters. **APPROVED**

G. DOT– Request from Electchester Management LLC to suspend alternate side parking while their parking lots are being re-paved. Dept of Sanitation has agreed to suspend alt side parking from June 13-Oct31, 2018 in the following locations:

6. 160<sup>th</sup> St. from 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 161<sup>st</sup> St.

7. 162<sup>nd</sup> St. from 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 161<sup>st</sup> St.

8. 161<sup>st</sup> St. from 160/162 to Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. /Jewel Ave.

9. 164<sup>th</sup> St. from 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. /Jewel Ave.

10. Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. /Jewel Ave from 161<sup>st</sup> St. to 164<sup>th</sup> St.

**MOTORISTS ARE AWARE THAT SIGNS HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED BUT THERE IS NO ENFORCEMENT.**

H. DOT – Travel advisory for alternate ramp closures on the CIP at the GCP-Union Tpk. interchange Monday – Friday, 11PM-5AM starting June 5<sup>th</sup> to last approx. 4 weeks.

I. DOT – Bridge construction updates:

1. Cashless operation on the Verrazano Bridge began July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017; Roadway surfacing works still in progress.

2. Throgs Neck Bridge – 2<sup>nd</sup> stage construction is nearing completion. Work-zone construction will shift from center to right lane southbound. Overhead toll gantries will be installed in August.

3. Whitestone Bridge – center plaza work zone will shift northbound mid-August, with overhead toll gantries to be installed mid-August.

J. DOT – proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments for June, 2018 in multiple counties: \$multi-million capital improvements to include Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, Construction Inspection services, Clearview Expressway ramp widening, GCP safety improvements, LIE (eastbound auxiliary lane construction), LIRR emergency building relocation, propose emergency bridge steel repairs, and propose corrective emergency repairs.

## **II. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS**

A. DOT- request for additional traffic control 152<sup>nd</sup> St. & 84<sup>th</sup> Dr. (5/24/17). DENIED as unnecessary – do not meet national code. **TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THIS LOCATION WAS REQUESTED TO ASSIST PARISHIONERS OF ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICES. REQUEST SHOULD BE RE-SUBMITTED WITH DOT STUDY ON SUNDAY AT THE TIME OF SERVICE.**

B. DOT- request by Councilmember Barry Grodenchik on behalf of constituent (7/11/17) for Daylighting and refurbishing of street markings at the intersection of 190<sup>th</sup> Lane & 192<sup>nd</sup> St. **APPROVED** and completed.

C. DOT -request Multi-way Stop sign at 153<sup>rd</sup> St. & 77<sup>th</sup> Rd. (9/11/17). Has been APPROVED, to be completed by July, 2018. **DONE**

D. DOT- request traffic control at 67<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 172<sup>nd</sup> St. (9/27/17), DENIED, does not meet recognized national standards. **THERE IS A NURSERY SCHOOL BEING BUILT AT THIS LOCATION WITH A DRIVE THROUGH PARKING LOT. THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED UPON COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION TO ASSIST STUDENTS, PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS.**

E. DOT- request for additional street lighting (10/26/17) at Radnor Rd. & Chevy Chase St. DENIED, current lighting is adequate.

F. DOT- request for additional street lighting (10/26/17), at GCP & Avon Rd. DENIED, current lighting adequate.

G. DOT- request for additional street lighting (10/26/17) at Radnor Rd. & Henley Road. DENIED, current lighting adequate.

**CHAIR COMMUNITY BOARD #8 AND MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REQUEST INFORMATION FROM DOT ON THE TIME AND DATE THAT STUDY TOOK PLACE FOR ITEM D, E, AND F ABOVE.**

H. DOT – has approved nine locations for Speed Humps on Park Dr. East from 136<sup>th</sup> St. to 77<sup>th</sup> Ave. This was presented at the last Trans Comm. Meeting. The presenter accepted the concept of two traffic signals along this stretch which was forwarded to DOT for implementation. Subsequently he met with Regent Park Gardens Board and residents. They are now requesting speed humps and have provided petitions with more than 400 signatures for re-consideration. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WILL NOT OPPOSE THEIR REQUEST FOR 9 SPEED HUMPS ON THIS STRETCH OF PARK DRIVE EAST. IT IS THE COMMITTEE’S HOPE THAT DOT WILL USE THEIR BEST JUDGEMENT AND CONSIDER REDUCING THE DENSITY AND QUANTITY OF SPEED HUMPS. RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT ONCE SPEEDS HUMPS ARE INSTALLED THEY WILL NOT BE REMOVED.**

I. DOT – request by Assemblywoman Nily Rozic to investigate the feasibility of reversing the traffic flow northbound on 171<sup>st</sup> St. between HHE & 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. DENIED as 169<sup>th</sup>, 170<sup>th</sup>, & 172<sup>nd</sup> Streets are all northbound.

J. DOT – request for installation of speed hump on 137<sup>th</sup> St between 72<sup>nd</sup> Rd & 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. 137<sup>th</sup> St. between 72<sup>nd</sup> Rd. & 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace is APPROVED; while 73<sup>rd</sup> Terr. to 77<sup>th</sup> Ave is DENIED as a result of numerous curb cuts (*see III. B*)

K. DOT – request for installation of speed hump on 179<sup>th</sup> St between 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave & Union Tpk. 179<sup>th</sup> St between 75<sup>th</sup> Ave & Union Tpk. is APPROVED; while 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 75<sup>th</sup> Ave is DENIED as a result of numerous curb cuts (*see III.C*)

**III. REQUESTS BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, DISTRICT MANAGER**

B. DOT - request All-way Stop sign at Croydon Rd. & Edgerton Blvd. DOT-299630-C3Y6 (8/29/17). Although 18 months have not lapsed since the last request was denied, traffic patterns have changed as Croydon Rd has changed from one-way to two-way operation which has resulted in significant increase in traffic volume. Reconsideration for traffic calming device is requested.

C. DOT – request for installation of speed hump on 137<sup>th</sup> St between 72<sup>nd</sup> Rd & 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace. The result of canvassing affected residents: 20 postcards sent – 3 in favor, 10 against, 0 returned. Request **DENIED** for lack of community support. (*See II.J*)

D. DOT – request for installation of speed hump on 179<sup>th</sup> St between 75<sup>th</sup> Ave & Union Tpk. The result of canvassing affected residents: 40 postcards sent – 6 in favor, 9 against, 0 returned. Request **DENIED** for lack of community support. (*See II. K*)

E. DOT – letter sent requesting GCP service Rd overpasses east and west bound at Parsons Blvd & 168<sup>th</sup> St have the following lane designation changed to: left lane – left turn only; right lane – have option to make left or right turn or go straight. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT DOT STUDY TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW PATTERN ACROSS GCP BRIDGE SOUTHBOUND AT 168<sup>TH</sup> ST. AS WELL AS PARSONS BLVD TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION ON THE OVERPASS AS WELL AS EAST OF THE OVERPASS.**

**IV. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROPOSALS MADE AT MEETINGS WITH DOT PERSONNEL**

- A. Downtown Jamaica CB8 Improvement Project (168<sup>th</sup> Pl/169<sup>th</sup> St. – GCP to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
  - 1. Convert 168<sup>th</sup> Pl. to one-way operation southbound from GCP service Rd. to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - 2. Convert 169<sup>th</sup> St. to one-way operation northbound from Highland Ave. to GCP Service Rd.
  - 3. Convert 169<sup>th</sup> St to one-way operation southbound from Highland Ave. to Hillside Ave.
  
- B. Downtown Jamaica CB8 Improvement Project (188<sup>th</sup> St. & McLaughlin Ave.):
  - 1. On WB McLaughlin: Create a right –turn only lane on to the GCP eastbound entrance.
  - 2. On WB McLaughlin: Create a middle lane that enables cars to turn left or right.
  - 3. On WB McLaughlin: Left lane should remain left-turn only.
  - 4. Left turn signal be added to 188<sup>th</sup> St. southbound to permit entrance on to GCP eastbound service ramp.
  
- C. 188<sup>th</sup> St. Safety Improvement Project (64<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.)
  - 1. Feasibility of installing bollards or fencing at the north exit of the strip mall to discourage pedestrians from crossing 188<sup>th</sup> St. mid-block.
  - 2. Feasibility of installing bollards/ “quick curbs” at Chase Bank exit (188<sup>th</sup> St near Union Tpk.) to prevent vehicles from crossing southbound lanes.

**FOLLOW –UP PRESENTATION BY DOT TO THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IN REGARD TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS IS REQUESTED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES.**

D. On-site inspection by DOT, CB8 member & staff, Assembly member Rosenthal, Councilman Grodenchik Staff member, Kew Gardens Hills Civic Assoc President (6/8/18). The following locations were visited: **\*\*\*NOTE: UNDERLINED COMMENTS BELOW ARE WRITTEN RESPONSE (6/26/18) FROM DOT FOLLOWING INSPECTION**

1. 68<sup>th</sup> Dr. & 136<sup>th</sup> St. – request three-way T- intersection stop sign to prevent speeding. DOT study approved. **DOT FOLLOW-UP (6/26/18) TRACKING #DOT-379430-S5Z8 ASSIGNED, CRASH REPORTS FROM NYPD REQUESTED, MULTIWAY STOP SIGN AND DAYLIGHTING WILL BE CONSIDERED.**
2. 68<sup>th</sup> Dr & 138<sup>th</sup> St – request All-Way stop sign to prevent speeding. DOT study approved. **DOT FOLLOW-UP (6/26/18) CRASH REPORTS FROM NYPD REQUESTED, MULTIWAY STOP SIGN WILL BE CONSIDERED. SPEED HUMPS CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS LOCATION.**
3. Jewel Ave. & Main St. – request for All-Way left turn signal; and road repair of wavy condition. DOT study approved. **LEFT TURN FEASIBILITY STUDY APPROVED TRACKING #DOT-360218-V6H9 RESULTS EXPECTED BY END OF AUGUST 2018. DOT WILL CHECK WITH DEP REGARDING THE COLLAPSE OF THE STREET.**
4. 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. & Main St. – left turn signal approved **(THIS WAS STATED IN ERROR THE APPROVED LOCATION WAS 75<sup>TH</sup> AVE. AND MAIN ST.) THIS LOCATION WAS NOT INSPECTED ON 6/8/18 DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS.**

**FOLLOW UP INSPECTION OF THIS LOCATION BY DOT IS REQUESTED.**

5. 72<sup>nd</sup> Dr. & Main St. - improve traffic flow. DOT study approved. **THIS LOCATION WAS NOT INSPECTED ON 6/8/18 DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS.**

**FOLLOW UP INSPECTION OF THIS LOCATION BY DOT IS REQUESTED.**

6. Vleigh Pl., 147<sup>th</sup> St., 70<sup>th</sup> Rd. intersection – although all corners are controlled by stop signs, this continues to be a confusing intersection for motorists. DOT study approved for Daylighting. **PARTICULARLY WHEN TRAVELLING WEST ON 70<sup>TH</sup> ROAD APPROACHING 147<sup>TH</sup> ST, AND ON 147<sup>TH</sup> ST. NEAR THE SLIP LANE – #DOT-379432-Q4J8**
7. 137<sup>th</sup> St. between 77<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 72<sup>nd</sup> Rd. – DOT study to reduce speeding, although there appear to be no traffic calming options, stop signs should be considered. **SLOW ZONE INSTALLED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, MULIT-WAY STOP SIGN DENIED FOR 137<sup>TH</sup> ST. AND 76 AVE. EARLIER THIS YEAR. SPEED HUMPS POSSIBLE BETWEEN 72<sup>ND</sup> RD., AND 73<sup>RD</sup> TERRACE WHICH IS FAR FROM THE SCHOOL. DOT WILL DISCUSS ADDITIONAL SAFETY TREATMENTS WITH THE SCHOOL SAFETY UNIT. DOT RECOMMENDS NYPD ENFORCEMENT FOR SPEEDING.**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS STOP SIGNS ON 137<sup>TH</sup> ST. AT 76<sup>TH</sup> RD. AND 73<sup>RD</sup> TERRACE BE STUDIED BY DOT.**

8. Mauro Playground on Park Drive East & 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace – request traffic signal to improve safe pedestrian crossing in to the park. **NO WRITTEN COMMENT ISSUED ON THIS ITEM THAT WAS INSPECTED ON 6/8/18.**

**V. NEW REQUESTS**

- A. DOT – request All-Way Stop sign and street markings at the intersection of Whitehall Terrace & 209<sup>th</sup> St. Individual. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- B. DOT – request speed camera on 170<sup>th</sup> St between Goethals Ave & Union Tpk. Individual. **TABLED FOR THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AS DOT HAS PUT THIS ENTIRE PROGRAM ON HOLD.**
- C. DOT – request One-way conversion of 168<sup>th</sup> St to southbound and 170<sup>th</sup> St to northbound from Union Tpk. to Goethals Ave. Individual. **DENIED AS THIS STREET IS MAJOR TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH STREET.**
- D. DOT – request Daylighting 81<sup>st</sup> Ave at 170<sup>th</sup> St (only one side has Daylighting). Individual. **APPROVED FOR SW CORNER DAYLIGHTING.**
- E. NYPD – request enforcement on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave (Utopia Parkway to 181<sup>ST</sup> St.) of commercial vehicles parked overnight. Member Trans Comm. **APPROVED**
- F. DOT – request Daylighting on 64<sup>th</sup> Ave from Utopia to 185<sup>th</sup> St. to facilitate turning trucks from creating damage to center median. Member Trans. Comm. **ALL CENTER MEDIANS ARE PROTECTED BY CURVED STEEL CURB CAPS. SOME CORNERS HAVE FIRE HYDRANTS NEAR THE CORNER WITHOUT LEGAL PARKING. DAYLIGHTING IS NOT NECESSARY HERE. THIS ITEM IS BEING TABLED TO THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AWAITING A SPECIFIC LIST OF APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.**
- G. DOT – request audible countdown timer at the corner of 75<sup>th</sup> Ave & Utopia Pkwy to facilitate blind person crossing. Member Trans. Comm. **APPROVED**
- H. DOT – request Daylighting at McLaughlin Ave and Santiago St. to increase visibility at curve. Individual. **DAYLIGHTING APPROVED FOR THE SW CORNER ON SANTIAGO ST.**
- I. DOT – request Speed Limit signs on Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. from Parsons Blvd to 164<sup>th</sup> St. Electchester Management LLC. **DENIED - NYPD ENFORCEMENT IS REQUESTED. SIGNAGE IS UNNECESSARY AS SPEED LIMIT IS LISTED AT 25 MPH ON ALL CITY STREETS.**

- J. DOT – request Daylighting on Somerset St. from GCP to Dalny Rd. at all cross streets:
1. Dalny Rd. SW corner on Somerset St.
  2. Dalny Rd. NW corner of Radnor St.
  3. Eton St NE and SE corner on Somerset St.
  4. Chelsea St. NE and SE corner on Somerset St.
  5. Henley Rd. (REMOVED FROM REQUEST)
  6. Cambridge St. (REMOVED FROM REQUEST)
  7. Hovenden Rd. (REMOVED FROM REQUEST)
  8. GCP service road eastbound SE and SW corner on Somerset St.
  9. Radnor St. NE and NW corner on Dalny Rd.

**LATE SUBMISSION: THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED FOR THE NEXT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN ORDER TO HAVE THE REQUESTED LOCATIONS INSPECTED.**

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: FOR ALL FUTURE MEETINGS, AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ADDED TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO INSPECT THE REQUESTED SITES.**