

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES: MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

Called to order 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum-Chair, Susan Cleary, Kevin Forrestal, Seymour Schwartz, also present Jacob Weinberg Board Member CB#8, Jatna Reyes CB#8, Carren Simpson DOT, Han Cho Li (Joe) DOT, Michael Griffith DOT, Andrew Arcese DOT, Marilyn Chapoteau resident, resident who did not sign in.

- I. **Presentation by DOT** – Update on the following projects;
- A. Pedestrian safety improvements on Union Turnpike intersections at Main St., Parsons Blvd., 164th St. 168th St., Utopia Pkwy., and 188th St. Widening and extending Pedestrian Refuge Island medians was proposed.
 - 1. Transportation Committee suggested that extending traffic light timing or installation of a phase for pedestrian crossing called a “Barndstadt” would allow pedestrians better ability to get across the street without being stranded on the center median.
 - 2. DOT agreed to study this recommendation and get back to us.
 - B. Grand Central Parkway Service Road Signal Synchronization north and south at major crossing points of Main St, Parsons Blvd., 164th St., 168th St., Utopia Pkwy., and 188th St.
 - 1. Adjusted traffic signal synchronization was recommended.
 - 2. Transportation Committee suggested left turn signals be installed at these locations with extended turning time to clear vehicles from congesting the service roads (this solution is effective on the Jackie Robinson Pkwy service road westbound at Forest Park keeping the service road clear while cars turn north to get to Queens Blvd.)
 - 3. DOT agreed to study this recommendation and get back to us
 - C. 168th Pl./169th St.: Highland Ave. – GCP (*See II- H*), DOT discussed safety improvements on pedestrian impact from irregular street network and narrow two-way streets as can be seen where Homelawn St., Mayfield Rd., and Highland Ave. converge at 169th St. Similar complex residential street grid is seen where Henley Rd., Mayfield Rd., and Kingston Pl. converge. Solutions for limited pedestrian crossing at these locations were discussed, extended street markings and concrete refuge medians were suggested.
 - 1. Additional DOT study and future update is recommended.
 - D. Hillside Ave. at Queens Blvd. and 139th St. Proposal - Safety Improvements
 - 1. An extended and widened median tip is proposed for Queens Blvd. at the intersection of Hillside Ave.
 - 2. A new pedestrian refuge island is proposed on Hillside Ave. at 139th St.
 - 3. Improvements to be made late summer or early fall 2019.
 - E. 139th St. & Manton St. /85 Dr. – Pedestrian Safety Improvements for this location. Issues include long crossing distances without protection, missing sidewalks, and heavy traffic congestion makes it difficult for pedestrian to cross.
 - 1. Painted island extension (triangular zebra striped median) on the west side of the street and a concrete curb extension on the east of the street are scheduled for late summer 2019.
 - 2. Transportation Committee recommends that if this solution is effective, the painted medians should be replaced with a raised concrete median as part of CB#8 capital improvement projects.
 - F. 188th St. & McLaughlin Ave. at the Grand Central Pkwy Service Road Eastbound (*See III- I*) existing conditions include long crosswalks without concrete refuge islands, missing sidewalks and heavy demand for southbound left turn.

1. Adding missing crosswalk markings is recommended on 188th Street to assist pedestrians crossing from east to west.
2. A concrete refuge island to be installed on the southwest section of the GCP SR eastbound where there is currently a painted median, (vehicles in left two lanes turn north and the right two lanes go straight across to McLaughlin Ave. or turn right to proceed southbound on 188th St.).
3. North side of McLaughlin Ave, at 188th St., curb lane which is now a zebra strip will be converted to a no parking lane from 7 am to 9 am Mon.-Fri. to facilitate right turns onto GCP east.
4. Constructing a curb extension in the center of the GCP SR eastbound at 188th St. to slow motorists.
 - a. Transportation committee feels strongly that a left turn signal at this location with signage that says left turn from left bay only will improve traffic flow on 188th St. while the proposed concrete island will back up south bound traffic on 188th St.
5. Construction proposed for fall 2019.

DOT IS REQUESTING LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THESE PROJECTS. A LETTER OF SUPPORT IS APPROVED FOR ITEMS C AND D HOWEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON ITEMS A, B AND E. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT DOT PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ASAP. A SPECIAL MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE CALLED TO DISCUSS PLAN MODIFICATIONS AS SOON AS CHANGES ARE AVAILABLE.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Resume for individual who wishes to join Transportation Committee

THIS INDIVIDUAL IS APPROVED FOR ONE YEAR OF OBSERVER STATUS. CONSIDERATION FOR FULL MEMBER STATUS TO FOLLOW IF SHE ATTENDS MEETINGS, CONTRIBUTES AND CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED.

B. NYC DOT – meeting was held on April 16, 2019 to solicit public comment on proposed curb regulations relating to EV (Electronic Vehicle) Charging Stations. In Sept. 2017, Mayor set target that 20% of registered motor vehicles will be electric by 2025. He is partnering with Con Ed to install 120 Level II EV charging ports curbside in the 5 boroughs as well as 50 Level III Fast Charging stations.

C. NYC DOT – meeting was held on May 1, 2019 to solicit public comment on proposed double parking provisions in NYC in order to reduce traffic congestion. Amended regulations state that commercial vehicles may stop for no more than 20 minutes while actively engaged in making pick-ups, deliveries, or service calls provided that there is no unoccupied parking space or loading zone on the same side of the street within 100 feet.

1. Special midtown rule: between 7AM-7PM daily except Sundays from 14th-60th Streets and from 1st-12th Ave. inclusive. No operator shall stand a vehicle for pick-up, deliveries, or service calls in any one block for more than three hours unless otherwise posted.

D. Holliswood Civic Assoc. sent the following request in follow-up to a public hearing and the Trans. Comm. Meeting on March 7, 2019: 191st St be made one-way southbound of Hillside Ave. from Foothill Ave., and two-way from Foothill to Palo Alto Ave. with “No Left Turn” signs at both 191st & 193rd Streets at Hillside Ave. The vote was 20 in favor and 4 opposed. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**

E. NYS DOT Kew Gardens Interchange Phase IV. - \$365 million has been designated for this project to be completed by spring 2022. Effective end of April 1 – Sept 30, 2019, Exit 8 from SB Van Wyck Expwy. to WB Union Tpk will be closed. **EXIT CLOSED**

F. Transportation Alternatives sent the following recommendations for Queens Blvd. (Since 2013, 8 people have been killed and 218 pedestrians or cyclists have been injured):

1. Add safer crosswalks with wider medians – exclusive time for pedestrians to cross the street before cars turn. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
2. Add protected bike lanes **DENIED ALL LANES REQUIRED AUTOMOBILES**
3. Add greenery and street furniture **DENIED ALL LANES REQUIRED AUTOMOBILES**

G. We were contacted by Queens College Office of Financial Administration in order to assist with unspecified parking issues. Jeffrey Rosenstock, who oversees External Affairs and Government Relations, will contact us to enumerate the issues.

1. During special events at Colden Auditorium, when students from other schools attend, city and private school buses occupy parking lanes and they double park on Kissena Boulevard and Horace Harding Expressway Service Road while waiting to pick up students. These buses congest traffic on major thoroughfares and create air pollution while buses run to provide heat or A/C for driver comfort. **NYPD ENFORCEMENT IS RECOMMENDED**
2. Queens College is used for occasional movie productions. Residents are requesting several days' notice before the shoot. **THE COLLEGE HAS AGREED TO POST NOTICES FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENTS SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE OF FILMING.**

H. Correspondence from NYS Assemblyman David Weprin on behalf of constituent – this individual's request was turned down by the Trans. Comm. last year for one-way conversion of 168th Pl. SB from Gothic Ave to 84th Ave. We recommended instead that DOT investigate feasibility of additional two-way streets and eliminate parking on one side to improve traffic flow if necessary. (*See I-B*) **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THIS ONE WAY CONVERSION. TO DATE, THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO ITS RECOMMENDATION FROM DOT.**

I. Correspondence from DOT to all Community Boards (4/15/19) in regard to speed hump policy – “DOT has amended our speed reducer policy and will be using a data-driven approach based on speed, safety, and location geography when approving speed reducers. While feedback from Community Boards remains important to us, under this new policy, DOT will be examining safety concerns throughout the city where there is critical safety need. DOT will continue to value the local expertise that community boards and civic organizations provide and will continue to consider feedback on specific issues and locations.” All 14 Queens Community Boards were CC'd on this letter. **ON BEHALF OF ALL QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARDS AND THEIR TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES, THE DOT WAS INFORMED OF OUR DISPLEASURE IN THIS DOT DECISION TO BYPASS THE COMMITTEES THAT WERE APPOINTED TO PROVIDE DIRECT FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE POLICY HAS BEEN TO QUERY ALL AFFECTED LOCAL RESIDENTS AND SEND RESULTS TO DOT. UNDER THE NEW POLICY ANYONE CAN REQUEST A SPEED HUMPS AT ANY LOCATION. THE DETERMINATION TO BE MADE BY DOT WITH NO INPUT FROM THOSE WHO WILL BE MOST AFFECTED BY AND HAVE TO LIVE WITH**

INCREASED NOISE, POLLUTION, AND DAMAGE TO THEIR VEHICLES. COMMITTEES GAVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO “SPEED HUMP” REQUEST NEAR SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN AND/OR PEDESTRIANS WERE PRESENT. RECONSIDERATION OF THE NEW POLICY HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY ALL 14 QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARDS

J. Correspondence to Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal and Al Silvestri, DOT requesting reconsideration of All-Way Stop Sign at 76th Ave. & 147th St. (DOT-408907-D2B5). This request was DENIED by DOT early this year and was resubmitted in March by the Assemblyman.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE APPROVES THIS REQUEST IN FRONT OF THE RABBINICAL COLLEGE

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT Study (2018) to determine feasibility of speed reducer (speed hump) on Charlecote Ridge between Homelawn St. & Croydon Rd. – asking for CB8 input. *(See IV- L and V- O)* **DOT HAS BEEN ASKED TO RECONSIDER A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THIS LOCATION; IT WILL CONTROL BLOCKING THE INTERSECTION AS WELL AS PERMITTING VEHICLES TO ENTER HOMELAWN STREET FROM CHARLECOTE RIDGE WHICH IS CURRENTLY IMPOSSIBLE. FINALLY, THIS TRAFFIC LIGHT WILL PERMIT SMOOTHER FLOW OF TRAFFIC TO TURN RIGHT ONTO THE GCP SERVICE ROAD WHEN THE TRAFFIC SIGNALS ARE PROPERLY TIMED.**

B. DOT request – additional street lighting on 64th Ave. & 188th St. (10/26/18). **DENIED AS EXISTING LIGHTING MEETS CITYWIDE AGENCY STANDARDS.**

C. DOT request – additional signage (“No Littering” and NO Dumping”) on Francis Lewis Blvd & GCP exit ramps. **DENIED** as only safety improving signs are being considered. DOT’s arterial unit has been designated to ensure that exit ramps are well maintained. (11/9/18) **LESS LITTER AND DUMPING WAS NOTICED AT THE TIME OF CURRENT INSPECTION**

D. DOT study to improve operation of traffic signals at Union Tpk. & Vleigh Pl. (11/16/18) – signal timing has been adjusted to enhance traffic flow. **DONE**

E. DOT request – street marking adjustment at the intersection 168th St. & GCP Service Rd. (1/14/19) DOT inspected site and is working on updating. **NOT DONE**

F. DOT request –refurbish street markings at 67th Ave. & 185th St. (1/14/19) APPROVED, location was added to schedule. **NOT DONE**

G. DOT in response to letter requesting potential adjustment of sidewalk entrance adjacent to Sunoco gas station on Main St. & 72nd Ave. – investigation found no suitable location for planters.

H. DOT request – “No Trucks” signage 75th Ave. between 196th St. & Utopia Pkwy. **DENIED** as Study shows all truck enforcement signage are in the correct locations. Installation of signs prohibiting trucks on residential streets is not recommended. This is an enforcement issue. **REQUEST FOR “NO TRUCK” OR “25 MPH SPEED LIMIT” SIGNS SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DENIED**

I. DOT request – left turn signal at the intersection of 188th St. & McLaughlin Ave. **DENIED** as study indicates current signal times are effective to accommodate demand. Any changes will reduce efficiency and increase delays. *(See I- F-a)* **DOT AGREED WITH REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

J. DOT request – multi-way stop signs at the intersection of Edgerton Blvd & Croydon Rd. have been installed. **DONE**

K. DOT request for three separate speed hump signs on 64th Ave from 181st to 185th St. They have been installed with no bumps to date. As requested by member of this committee who is President of FMHA. **PROJECT COMPLETE**

IV. REQUESTS BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, CB8 DISTRICT MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS

- A. Request for resurfacing Clover Hill Rd. between Foothill Ave. & Clover Pl. has been **APPROVED**. Schedule for start date has been requested.
- B. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on Kildare Rd. between Surrey Pl. & 80th Dr. (DOT-283669-ROH2). Fifteen post cards sent: 2 in favor, 6 opposed, none returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location.
- C. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on Kildare Rd. between Tryon Pl. & Dumfries Pl. (DOT-283669-ROH2). Fifteen post cards sent: 1 in favor, 1 opposed, none returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location.
- D. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on Kildare Rd. between Dumfries Pl. & Surrey Pl. (DOT-283669-ROH2). Eleven post cards sent: 0 in favor, 2 opposed, none returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location.
- E. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on 136th St. between 68th Dr. & Jewel Ave. (DOT-315896-G7M5). 194 post cards sent: 38 in favor, 24 opposed, none returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location.
- F. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on Marengo St. between McLaughlin Ave. & Keno Ave. (DOT-314885-T0R5). Twenty six post cards sent: 5 in favor, 9 opposed, none returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location.
- G. DOT request – resurfacing 67th Ave. between Utopia Pkwy. & 185th St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- H. DOT request – resurfacing 186th St. between 75th & 73rd Ave. Due to multiple depressions. **STREET CLOSED FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS BY CON ED AND THEN DOT UNDERWAY.**
- I. DOT request – All-Way Stop Sign 65th Ave. & 171st St. Motorists speed down 65th Ave. to avoid HHR. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- J. DOT request – All-Way Stop Sign 65th Ave. & Fresh Meadow Lane to improve safety and traffic flow. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- K. DOT request – request temporary suspension of alternate side of the street parking on Park Dr East from Union Tpk. to 77th Ave. until July 31, 2019 when construction is expected to be finished. **APPROVED, NOT DONE**
- L. DOT - response to Speed Hump survey cards by local residents on Charlecote Ridge between Homelawn St & Croydon Rd. Twenty-nine post cards sent: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 2 returned. **DENIED** as results do not support installation at this location. *(See III-A and V-O)***APPROVED FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT**
- M. TLC – Mecca Car Service LLC, 150-15 Hillside Ave. Letter sent requesting off street parking locations for ambulettes not in use (4/15/19), in order to provide Letter of No Objection for new Livery Based Station. We're still waiting for copy of lease agreement. **COMMITTEE AGREES TO PROVIDE LETTER OF NO OBJECTION WHEN PROOF OF OFF STREET PARKING AGREEMENT IS FILED.**
- N. Letter sent to individual who requested one-way conversion of 77th Ave during PS 164's arrival and dismissal times. Individual stated that this signage existed at M.S. 172. Investigation revealed that one-way conversion was all day, and was therefore not forwarded to DOT as such signage would be confusing to motorists and residents. **ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THIS INDIVIDUAL ON DAY OF MEETING PROVIDING A LOCATION IN BAYSIDE THAT HAS THE REQUESTED SIGNAGE. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DENIES THIS REQUEST, AS A ONE WAY CONVERSION FOR PART OF THE DAY WILL BE CONFUSING TO MOTORISTS.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT request – stop signs North and South on Fresh Meadow Lane @165th St. (Member Transportation committee) **THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN PRESENTED DIRECTLY TO DOT AND TO ELECTED OFFICIALS. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WILL NOT CONSIDER THIS REQUEST UNTIL A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE BY DOT.**
- B. DOT request – All-Way Stop Signs and daylighting (SW corner of Dalny Rd.) at Wexford Terrace (Member CB8). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- C. DOT request – All-Way Stop Signs at 183rd St. & 67th Ave. (Individual). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY. REQUEST SHOULD BE SENT ASKING FOR THE CLEARING OF FOLIAGE THAT BLOCKS MOTORIST VIEW OF STOP SIGN.**
- D. DOT request – suspension of alternate side of the street parking at the following locations in Electchester (by Chief of Staff Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal):
1. 161st St from Jewel Ave to 160th St– North side
 2. 160th St from 161st St to 65th Ave
 3. 162nd St from 161st St to 65th Ave
- ALL ALTERNATE SIDE OF THE STREET SIGNS HAVE BEEN NEATLY COVERED WITH BLACK PLASTIC BAGS TO PREVENT TICKETING. THE REQUEST WAS TO SUSPEND ALTERNATE SIDE REGULATIONS WHILE THE ELECHESTER PARKING LOTS ARE BEING REPAVED. A LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO ELECTCHESTER MANAGEMENT ASKING WHEN THEY EXPECT THE WORK TO BE COMPLETED.**
- E. DOT request – multiple All-Way Stop Signs:
1. On 67th Ave. between Fresh Meadow Lane & 164th St. (Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
 2. 75th Ave. at 171st St. (there is a bend in the road between 172nd & 173rd St.). (Individual) **DENIED AS UNECESSARY**
- F. DOT request – All-way stop sign Dunton St & Keno Ave. to improve safety as motorists are using Dunton St. to bypass Hillside Ave. to the GCP East (Individual). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
- G. DOT request – Speed hump GCP Service Road between 208th St. & 86th Ave. Drivers exit Francis Lewis Blvd South and speed down service road to enter the parkway (individual). **DENIED MOTORISTS ONLY GO ON THIS STREET WHEN THEY ARE LOST. THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THE GCP ENTRANCE AND THE STREET COMES TO A DEAD END ON THE NEXT BLOCK.**
- H. DOT request – speed hump on 70th Rd. between 137th and 141st St. Drivers use 70th Rd. to avoid traffic on Jewel Ave. Member CB8 (individual). **APPROVED FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT. THERE IS A NURSERY SCHOOL HERE, TRAFFIC LIGHT WILL IMPROVE STUDENT SAFETY.**
- I. DOT request – Daylighting at the following locations (member CB8):
1. Dalny Rd. SW corner on Somerset St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
 2. Dalny Rd. NW corner of Radnor St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
 3. Eton St. NE and SE corner on Somerset St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY ON SE CORNER**
 4. Chelsea St. NE and SE corner on Somerset St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
 5. GCP Service Road Eastbound, SE and SW corner on Somerset St. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY ON SW CORNER**
 6. Radnor St. NE and NW corner on Dalny Rd. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY NW CORNER**
- J. DOT request – recommendations to improve pedestrian and motorist safety at Homelawn St. and Charlecote Ridge by the GCP Service Road Eastbound (Individual): *(See III-A and IV-L)*

1. One larger sign displacement **DENIED**
2. Sidewalk protection **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY FOR GUARD RAIL ON SIDEWALK**
3. Turn signal signs from left lane. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**
4. “Don’t Block Intersection” sign **DENIED, SIGNS EXIST**

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS REQUESTING A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE CORNER OF HOMELAWN ST. AND CHARLECOTE RIDGE TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND MOTORIST SAFETY AND TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

K. DOT Request – “NO Parking” signage in front of Sholom Day Care-71-12 Main Street (Member CB#8) **APPROVED FOR NO PARKING SIGNAGE FOR ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL ON SCHOOL DAYS**

L. DOT Request – Street co-naming of one block of 144th Street bet. 85th Drive and 86th Ave. in Briarwood in honor of Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall (Indian Diaspora Council International and NYS Assemblyman David Weprin). **DENIED, THIS REQUEST DOES NOT MEET CITY COUNCIL CRITERION. THE INDIVIDUAL BEING CONSIDERED LACKS A HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT BEFORE ANY STREET CO-NAMING, THE REQUEST SHOULD BE ENDORSED BY THE LOCAL CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS TO ESTABLISH HISTORICAL CONNECTION. THIS REQUEST WILL BE RECONSIDERED WITH LOCAL CIVIC ENDORSEMENT.**