

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021**

Meeting (Zoom) called to order: 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum, Chair.; Maria DeInnocentis; Allen Eisenstein; Kevin Forrestal; James Gallagher, Jr.; Tami Hirsch; Mitch Lisker; Harbachan Singh; also present: Jatna Reyes, CB8; Andrew Arcese, DOT Borough Planner; Julio Alleiro, Queens DOT Asst. Director Pedestrian Unit; Mia Moffett, Queens DOT Asst. Project Manager Pedestrian Unit; Linda Valentino, Holliswood Civic Assoc.; Chris Handley, resident; Richard Legarda, resident.

I. DOT presentation by Queens DOT Borough Planner Andrew Arcese and Mia Moffett, Queens DOT Asst. Project Manager Pedestrian Unit on the 188<sup>th</sup> St. Corridor Update.

- A. Safety improvements have been requested along the 188<sup>th</sup> St. corridor from Horace Harding Expressway to 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- B. The 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. Circle is a busy commercial area with high pedestrian volume.
- C. The following improvements have been made:
  - 1. Signalized traffic circle 188<sup>th</sup> St. and 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. 4/18
  - 2. Intersection improvements 188<sup>th</sup> St. and 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. fall 2018
  - 3. Parking spaces added 64<sup>th</sup> Ave, east of 188<sup>th</sup> St. summer 2019  
proposed changes
  - 4. Signalization at 188<sup>th</sup> St and 64<sup>th</sup> Ave has been postponed due to traffic modeling concerns. When completed, 6 new traffic signals will control all legs of the circle intersections.
  - 5. Midblock uncontrolled crosswalk at 186<sup>th</sup> Lane near Little Meadows Early Childhood Center will receive a new signal and crosswalk markings.
  - 6. Two standard lanes will be installed approaching the circle in both directions (entrances will have 3 lanes; the circle planting and layout will be modified to accept new lanes). Six metered spaces will be removed but 3 unmetered spaces will be added.

D. Queens DOT Borough Planner Andrew Arcese discussed the concept of installing a Quick Curb (rubberized bollards) at the entrance to Chase Manhattan Bank, 5 car lengths south of the west corner of 188<sup>th</sup> St. just north of Union Turnpike. The bollards would prevent north bound vehicles from cutting across south bound traffic lanes stalling traffic and blocking motorists in both directions. The Quick Curb will ensure that all motorists exiting the bank on 188<sup>th</sup> St. will turn right towards Union Turnpike. DOT will conduct a traffic study and advise of their recommendations.

E. Update on 188<sup>th</sup> St. corridor was requested by Jim De Bonet of Flushing Heights Civic; details of the presentation will be shared after the meeting.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. DOT updated 2020 NYC Bike Maps – available in CB8 office.

B. MTA – OMNY contactless fare payment system exceeded 21million taps in November. It is available in 365 subway stations or 77% of stations system wide. It is scheduled to be in all stations by the end of 2021.

C. MTA – new subway map features 9 newly accessible stations. One available in Queens on Astoria Blvd.

D. MTA launches “live subway map” – allows subway riders to navigate subway system in real time. New map allows riders to plan trips more easily, taking into account service changes, and to see train movements. See <https://map.mta.info>.

E. MTA – return of E train service to Sutphin Blvd/Archer Ave-JFK and Jamaica Center-Parsons/Archer Ave was scheduled to return on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

1. Phase II reconstruction of track upgrades should have been completed by year’s end (2020).

F. Assemblywoman Nily Rozic introduced Furious Act Bill. The bill would amend the vehicle traffic law to allow NYC to operate speed cameras at any time in a school speed zone which the city has identified as an area of special concern for illegal speed racing. Letter of support from local community boards is requested. See below recommendations after post drag racing meeting.

1. NYPD will check with its legal team regarding enforcing trespassing laws for specific parking lots where racers congregate. Special signage would have to be installed.

2. Federal Realty will look into the possibility of installing an electric power fence that would close off the “Fresh Meadows Shopping Center after a certain time”.

3. NYPD will provide monthly statistics regarding number of summonses issued for drag racing, tinted windows, speeding and muffler noise to elected officials Nilly Rozic and Barry Grodenchik.

4. All future drag racing complaints should be reported to 911 if it falls under reckless endangerment or to 311. Emails should be sent to Officer Trotter ([albert.trotter@nypd.gov](mailto:albert.trotter@nypd.gov)) and Assemblywoman Rozic ([rozicn@nyassembly.gov](mailto:rozicn@nyassembly.gov)) and Councilman Grodenchik ([AGershman@council.nyc.gov](mailto:AGershman@council.nyc.gov)).

5. NYPD is working on setting up more check points to catch violators.

**A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE FURIOUS ACT BILL WAS APPROVED BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE; THIS LETTER SHOULD BE SENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CB#8 IF APPROVED BY THE ENTIRE BOARD.**

G. DOT- In regards to restaurants that are building outdoor areas on city streets or sidewalks, this creates dangerous situations for pedestrians, motorists, and hampers snow removal especially in the winter when it gets dark early. Considerations should be given to safety concerns before permitting construction. Individual

H. DOT – downtown Jamaica traffic study has been in the works since 2015 and can now be accessed at [www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/downtown-jamaica-study-final-report.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/downtown-jamaica-study-final-report.pdf).

1. Hillside Ave to North, 183<sup>rd</sup> St to East, Liberty Ave to South, Van Wyck Expwy to West.

2. Union Tpk to North, 193<sup>rd</sup> St\Farmer Blvd to East, Linden Blvd to South, 130<sup>th</sup> St to West.

I. MTA will do ADA compliance work on the Flushing Line and the Grand Central Shuttle from January to mid-March. Alternate service will be provided during work hours.

J. MTA completes the installation of 4,800 new protective polycarbonate sliding barriers on local buses across all boroughs for additional protection to drivers from Covid-19 transmission.

1. 1,000 express buses still have temporary full-length vinyl curtains.

K. MTA- Borough President Richards is asking Queens Community Boards to recommend one or two bus stops to receive new “guide-a-ride” signs. The signs would show multiple bus lines that are arriving and leaving this location as well as subway and rail connections.

1. Locations should be forwarded to Max Weprin in Borough President Richards’ office.

### III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

A. DOT – request to resurface Chevy Chase St between Cambridge Rd & Hovendon Rd (9/10/20) – scheduled for 2021. **NOT DONE**

B. DOT completed its study for additional traffic controls at the intersection of 188<sup>th</sup> St & 186<sup>th</sup> Lane – a traffic signal has been approved for this location and installed by November 30<sup>th</sup>. **NOT DONE SEE I-C-5.**

C. DOT request – traffic control device at Fresh Meadow Lane & 65<sup>th</sup> Ave by PS 216. Traffic study indicates that “a signal or an all-way stop sign will not provide the maximum safety benefits.” DOT will continue to evaluate this location for other traffic-calming measures such as: speed reducers, traffic calming signs, speed cameras, and restriction of curbside parking spaces during school hours.

**NO CHANGES WERE MADE AT THIS LOCATION. THE SCHOOL IS CLOSED, SCAFFOLDED AND BEING REMODELED. LOCATION SHOULD BE REINSPECTED WHEN THE SCHOOL REOPENS. THE CORNER OF 65<sup>TH</sup> LANE AND FRESH MEADOW LANE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR A STOP SIGN BY THE DOT.**

D. DOT request - All-way Stop signs at 73<sup>rd</sup> Terr. & Park Drive East has been assigned # DOT-476624-V1G0 (10/5/20) **NOTHING DONE, THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO MAURO PARK.**

E. DOT request - All-Way Stop signs Cedarcroft Rd. & Kingston Pl. Has been assigned #DOT-476820-Z6H4.

F. DOT request – Correction of Ponding condition at 189<sup>th</sup> St & 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. Upon meeting with flooding team on 10/8/20, it was determined that they will be able to install permeable pavements at this location. Timing of construction has to be coordinated. They will need to meet with DOT on site to discuss Ped. Ramp conditions. **PERMEABLE PAVEMENTS ALLOW STANDING WATER ON THE STREET SURFACE TO BE ABSORBED BELOW GRADE.**

G. DOT request – Additional traffic control at the intersection of 67<sup>th</sup> Ave & 183<sup>rd</sup> St. DOT study indicates that additional controls do not meet safety standards for installation.

H. DOT request – Additional traffic control at the intersection of 70<sup>th</sup> Rd & 137<sup>th</sup> St. DOT study indicates that additional controls do not meet safety standards for installation.

I. DOT request – All-way Stop signs at 171<sup>st</sup> St & 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. Has been assigned case #DOT-479060-H1C0 **APPROVED THIS STOP SIGN WILL SLOW SPEEDERS ON UNCONTROLLED PORTIONS OF 75<sup>TH</sup> AVE EAST AND WEST.**

J. DOT request – All-way Stop signs at Tudor Rd & Surrey Pl. Has been assigned case #DOT-479077-M6S7. **APPROVED**

K. DOT request – Repair of misplaced street signs at the corner of Kissena Blvd & 72<sup>nd</sup> Rd. has been corrected, and new style signs have been ordered to replace the old-style signs. **DONE**

L. DOT request – Survey and follow-up to public hearing on Modification of Traffic Flow on 191<sup>st</sup> St & Hillside Ave. After numerous discussions, committee meetings, public hearing, and finally a survey of affected residents on this location, it appears that there is no consensus on how to modify this location to permit resident’s access to their homes while limiting the ability of motorists to use 191<sup>st</sup> St as a bypass of a congested 188<sup>th</sup> St. during morning and evening rush hours.

1. Attached are responses and recommendations from 52 residents that were sent surveys in December. 22 survey questionnaires were returned the from area but not necessarily affected residents.
  - a. 1 no change
  - b. 3 DOT proposal
  - c. 18 approved Richard Legarda’s proposal

The Legarda proposal wants to maintain 191<sup>st</sup> street traveling northbound. They are requesting 191<sup>st</sup> Street turn to two-way operation from Haywood Rd. to Foothill Ave approximately 3 car lengths. Parking is prohibited on one side the opposite side has a fire hydrant. It is recommended that the two remaining parking spaces be removed to allow vehicles to pass each other. This change will facilitate residents in returning to or leaving from their homes. **APPROVED**

M. DOT request – Renaming of 204<sup>th</sup> St from Francis Lewis Blvd to the dead end (west) to Melvin “Mel” Doby Way. Was unanimously approved by the Trans. Comm. as well as CB8 on 11/18/20.

1. Enclosed find a petition approving this request with 120 signatures.

#### IV. **REQUESTS MADE BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, CB8 ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS**

A. DOT request – Repair or replace cobblestones on Cloverhill Rd. Priority replacement has been requested as material is unavailable and the street has not been resurfaced since the 1920’s. **NOT DONE**

- a) DOT should consider the motorist difficulty in getting up the hill during snow and slippery conditions when designing the resurfacing material.

B. DOT request – Resurfacing 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave between 179<sup>th</sup> & 185<sup>th</sup> Sts.  
**181<sup>ST</sup> ST. TO 183<sup>RD</sup> ST. HAS BEEN REPAVED**

C. DOT request – Update on safety improvements for 168<sup>th</sup> Pl / 169<sup>th</sup> St. between Highland Ave and GCP. No update since 6/17/19. Extended street markings and concrete refuge were recommended at that time.

D. NYPD - request additional police presence and enforcement on 164<sup>th</sup> St between Union Tpk & GCP, in front of the church to reduce speeding and improve pedestrian safety because of a stabbing in November in front of church.

#### V. **NEW REQUESTS**

A. DOT request – Traffic signal at the corner on McLaughlin between Santiago St. & Palo Alto Ave. (Transportation Committee Member) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY**

B. TLC request – ‘Letter of No Objection’ for livery base ownership change of La Nueva Quisqueya Car Service, Inc., 87-38 148<sup>th</sup> St., Jamaica, NY 11435. Base License #B01626. **APPROVED**

C. DOT request safety improvements on 141<sup>st</sup> St. and 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The street has a planted median that stops before the intersection. Motorist traveling south on 141<sup>st</sup> St. to turn onto 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave are turning in the crosswalk endangering pedestrians who are crossing the street. (Individual)

- a) Yellow broken street markings have been requested for this location  
DOT-487554-Q1H8. **DONE**

D. DOT requested Street Lighting study at the corner of 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Main St. inadequate lighting and poor pedestrian visibility was reported by EMT’s (Transportation Committee Member).  
**APPROVED FOR DOT LIGHTING STUDY**

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 P.M.