



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

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MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

June 15, 2023

Darisa Cruz
Interim Borough Commissioner
Bronx Borough Commissioner's Office
New York City Department of Transportation

In 2021, Bronx Community Board 6 raised concerns about the Southern Boulevard Traffic Calming and Protected Bike Lanes Project when it was first proposed. The Board voted against the project due to these concerns, including the loss of parking spots and lack of space for bicyclists on Southern Boulevard due to the daily bus traffic at the Bronx Zoo. Residents and board members believe the project has not accomplished its stated goals and has led to bicycles hitting pedestrians coming on and off the elevated ramps. As the Board predicted, buses loading in front of the Bronx Zoo are continuing to block vehicular and bike traffic flow. Crashmapper.org shows 21 crashes in this area in the two years prior to this project and 23 crashes in the two years since completion.

Bronx Community Board 6 would like an update on whether this project has been successful in accomplishing its stated goals:

- Reduced vehicular speeding – has this occurred?
- *“As part of this project we would work with the zoo and the police department to ensure that buses are loading and unloading in the proper place. Changing the parking regulations on the east curb of Southern Boulevard, as we have proposed, to “No Standing 7AM-7PM” would allow the police to ticket bus operators who fail to follow the parking regulations and load in the parking lot”.* What communication has occurred between DOT, NYPD and the Bronx Zoo?
- Please provide metrics on the number of bus operators that have been ticketed in the past year
- Reduced bicycle speeds due to raised boarding islands – has this occurred?
- Improved traffic flow – has this occurred?

Please feel free to initiate any traffic studies that these requests would require. We are hoping to hear back from you or receive a timeline for a response in a timely manner, as our letters to your predecessor regarding the Community Advisory Board process and Fordham Plaza were never answered.

Regards,

Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

Lisa Sanchez
Transportation Committee Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

CC: Oswald Feliz, Council Member, District 15, Bronx
CC: NYPD Traffic Enforcement