



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Lisa Sanchez, Chairperson

Thursday, October 10, 2024

The Transportation Committee met on October 10, 2024 via Zoom Audio and Video Conference and in-person at the district office. The following board members were present: Lisa Sanchez, Maria Latimer, Donald McLachlan, Renee Reed, Magdamary Marciano, Lazarus Jackson, Kristine Rivera (Virtual), Katrina Rawlins (Virtual), Reggie Powell (Virtual)

The Transportation Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from Department of Design and Construction on West Farms Square street redesign**

Representatives from the Department of Design and Construction and Department of Transportation met with the committee to present the plans for the West Farms Square redesign. In the current project timeline, bidding will open in November of this year and construction should start by late fall or winter 2025. The DEP Unified Stormwater Rule triggered the design and implementation of Post-Construction Stormwater Mitigation Practices and development of the SWPPP Report, which required additional contracts for design services and delayed the project timeline. The committee discussed concerns about the infrastructure of storm drains, addition of bump-outs, and the history of brown fields and possible soil contamination. Members suggested existing two-lane streets are heavily congested but could potentially worsen with the expansion of the sidewalk and pedestrian walkways as proposed in the West Farms Square redesign. The committee also expressed concerns that parking would be eliminated as part of the West Farms Square redesign, similar to the safety improvement project covering Southern Boulevard. DOT responded by clarifying locations where parking and travel lanes would not be removed (only at the site of a mid-block curb bump out). Attendees testified in support for controlled traffic, dedicated bike infrastructure, added green space, dedicated bus landings, and shorter and signaled crossings.

- **Discussion on proposal for one way street (E 183 between Park and Washington) from COGA**

Pastor Joseph Famuyide met with the committee about the proposal to convert East 183rd Street, between Park Avenue and Washington Avenue, to a one-way street. He expressed concerns for youth crossing at this intersection due to the high volume of traffic and suggested removing the bike lane to improve driving conditions. The committee considered the potential impact of the one-way street in the context that the East Tremont Busway proposal is implemented, which will further exacerbate traffic congestion. A motion to request a one-way street conversion study and share results of previous studies at that location from the Department of Transportation for East 183rd Street, between Park Avenue and Washington Avenue, was made by Lisa Sanchez and seconded by Magdamary Marciano.

- **Discussion on the East Tremont Avenue Busway**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the committee that DOT will present plans on the East Tremont Avenue Busway project at the next Transportation Committee meeting. The District Manager provided an updated on the survey launched by Community Board 6 to collect opinions about the proposed busway



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project, as well as suggestions on how to address bus speeds and double parking along East Tremont Avenue. He informed the committee that a summary of the survey responses will be prepared and shared at the committee meeting with the DOT.

- **Discussion on the Park Avenue Protected Bike Lanes**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the committee that the DOT has not provided an update on the results of the traffic study on Park Avenue bike lanes. The District Manager is awaiting a response from the DOT regarding the request to remove barriers at five private residential addresses, where access to their driveway is blocked. The committee received a copy of the letter addressed to DOT from the FDNY, which details the hazardous conditions created by the concrete barrier installed along Park Avenue.

- **Discussion on the illegal parking in the district**

The committee chair asked to table a discussion on illegal parking.

- **Update on the Southern Boulevard East 182nd Street and Fordham Road Safety Improvement Project**

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the committee that the DOT has not provided an update on the results of the traffic study of the Southern Boulevard Safety Improvement Project. The District Manager reached out to the DOT to confirm that the two-year traffic analysis will be ready in June of 2025. He also requested information on the DOT's outreach to the Bronx Zoo, specifically on finding a resolution to the traffic problems caused by school buses parking along Southern Boulevard to avoid paying for parking. The District Manager recapped the findings from the tour of Southern Boulevard and East 182nd Street this past summer, noting that the bike platforms are broken.

- **Review of District Needs Statement**

The Transportation Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2026. The committee discussed requests for DOT to repair sidewalks (could not find locations in question) and conduct traffic studies on Fordham Road for the Bus Redesign (completed), both of which were removed due to being no longer applicable. The committee added requests for DDC to finish the West Farms Square construction project on time, to search for additional locations of porous concrete in the district, add brighter lighting, plant additional trees, and address driveway access issues with bike lanes on Park Avenue.