

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6 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, Committee Chairperson Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Transportation Committee met on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Transportation Committee Meeting: Nicole Carter (Virtual), Maria Garcia (Virtual), Laura James (Virtual), Magdamary Marcano, Nicole N'diaye (Virtual), Kristine Rivera, and Lisa Sanchez (Virtual).

The Transportation Committee discussed the following:

 Presentation from New York City Department of Transportation on the Tremont Avenue Bus Priority Improvements

The New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) presented on the Tremont Avenue busway, which is proposed to improve bus service and safety. The busway would prioritize buses and trucks while allowing local vehicular access and include pedestrian safety improvements at seven intersections. The DOT has engaged in outreach with the community, including merchants and elected officials, to address concerns about traffic congestion, parking, and spillovers onto side streets. The busway would feature dedicated bus lanes, bike lanes, and parking, with restrictions on left turns to improve traffic flow and safety. Pedestrian safety improvements, including curb extensions and speed bumps, are planned at key intersections to address potential traffic diversion. A busway project on 175th street will include a painted curb extension, sidewalk widening, and a robust education plan with various materials and outreach efforts. Automated enforcement, including NYC DOT and MTA cameras, will be utilized to ensure compliance. Warnings will be issued for the first two months of enforcement. The project will be evaluated based on bus performance, traffic patterns, and community feedback, with flexibility to adjust elements as needed.

The Transportation Committee raised concerns about the impact of a proposed busway project on drivers, like increased travel time and traffic congestion worsened by left-hand turns. The committee also raised potential issues with school buses during early morning and afternoon hours on the traffic flow along the corridor, especially given the limited number of NYPD traffic agents. The committee recommended solutions, including adding loading zones for school buses and potentially restricting delivery times to reduce truck traffic. The MTA is also working on a separate study to address congestion on upper Broadway near the George Washington Bridge, which could potentially impact bus schedules. The NYC DOT will be holding a meeting with the Community Advisory Board on March 7th. Transportation Chairperson Lisa Sanchez requested that the meeting information be shared with District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett to disseminate with Board Members and the public.

## Presentation from Open Plans on Daylighting in New York City

Representatives from Open Plans conducted a presentation advocating for Daylighting in New York City. Daylighting helps prevent accidents by improving the vision of drivers by removing obstacles caused by obstructions or parked cars within 20 feet of an intersection. Currently, Daylighting is required in New York State, however the City enacted an exemption to the rule. The City implemented a law to improve 100 intersections with Daylighting each year, with Mayor Adams raising the number to 1,000 intersections each year when his administration started. Thus far 314 intersections have been modified for Daylighting this year. Open Plans is seeking support to increase the number of intersections with Daylighting measures in the district, which has one of the highest rates of traffic accidents and traffic fatalities in the city. Community Coordinator Carla Leon informed the committee that they did not have quorum, and issuing a letter of support would have to voted on at the next Board Meeting or Transportation Committee meeting.

## Review of Bronx Community Board #6's Letter of Comment

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the committee that the New York City Charter requires the Board to submit a Letter of Comment, addressing the responses from agencies to the District Needs Statement. The District Manager will draft the letter for the Board's review and approval.