

(Pending Committee Approval)

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting

December 16, 2021 -- 7pm via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Committee: Debra Travis (Chair), Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, Edward Green, Georgia Santiago, Mary Ellen Gibbs (Community Committee Member)

Absent: Margaret Donato, David Gellman, Osvaly Jimenez

Other CB 8 members: Rosemary Ginty, Dan Padernacht, Camelia Tepelus,

Guests: Darisa Cruz (NYC DOT), Keith Kalb (Acting Bronx Borough Commissioner, DOT), Sam Liedtka (Assembly Member J Dinowitz)

AGENDA:

Debra Travis called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum being present, the minutes of the November 18, 2021 committee meeting were approved by unanimous consent

Chair's Report

Street lights on Johnson and Kappock had been reported as not being illuminated. They are now fully active.

Public Survey on Rules for Permanent Open Restaurants Program online through December 31.

New York Streets Plan has been released outlining the priorities for the next 5 years. It is a very rich document and we encourage the committee to review it. We are going to invite DOT present it at a future meeting.

We had a very productive Environment and Sanitation Committee meeting December 15th discussing the daylighting of Tibbett's Brook during a presentation by DEP on this capital project. The daylighting project and greenway will run along the Major Deegan and will be designed to reduce storm water

flooding along the Major Deegan and along Broadway by reducing the amount of lake water in the city sewers during storm events. It will also provide a greenway to encourage walking and biking between the Harlem River and Van Cortlandt Park, eventually connecting with a Harlem River Greenway. We will continue to work with the E&S Committee on these important priorities.

Presentation By Bronx NYCDOT of Kappock Street / Palisade Avenue Intersection Revisions

Bronx NYCDOT addressed questions from the general public on their proposed revisions to the intersection of Kappock Street and Palisade Avenue.

Kappock/Palisade DOT Revision Resolution

WHEREAS, in October, 2019 a pedestrian curb extension was installed by DOT at the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Kappock Street,

WHEREAS, the extended curbing inadequately directs water runoff to existing catch basins and no new catch basins were installed as part of this project,

WHEREAS, during Tropical Storm Elsa on July 8th, 2021 and during Tropical Depression Ida on September 1, 2021, 2727 Palisade Avenue experienced severe flooding for the first time since its construction due to inadequate storm water management from the street,

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution urging the removal of the curb extension and restoration of the previous design while maintaining pedestrian safety, reducing impervious surface, integrating green infrastructure, rebuilding the curb on the west side of Palisade Avenue and incorporating new storm water catch basins as needed to manage storm water,

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Transportation provided stakeholders with a drawing of their intended changes to the curb line of the intersection and their plan to do the following: create several openings in the concrete for plantings to be either bioswales (pending DEP approval) or planted areas; install porous slabs in the roadway adjacent to the concrete extensions; install center channelization to identify travel lanes; install raised channelization; and to work with Con Ed to further improve the sidewalk in front of the co-op's property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 rejects this proposal and calls for the intersection to be returned to its previous configuration.

Approve: C Calhoun, ME Gibbs, E Green, G Santiago

Oppose: K Buford, D Travis

Committee Discussion of Two Resolutions for Safety Improvements on Sedgwick Avenue

Continuance of the November agenda item. The committee reviewed two resolutions regarding the intersection of Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Sedgwick Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Giles Place. A discussion was had regarding providing safe pedestrian crossings at 238th Street and at Stephensen Place with strong opposition from some committee members due to the potential impact on parking.

Sedgwick Avenue Resolution

WHEREAS, residents of 3850 Sedgwick Avenue have raised concerns about safety on the two block section of Sedgwick Avenue from Van Cortlandt Avenue West to West 238th Street;

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee heard public testimony at the June, October and November 2021 committee meetings regarding the details of these safety concerns;

WHEREAS, in the past five years 9 motorists and 2 cyclists have been injured in crashes in these two blocks;

WHEREAS, 36 motorists have had crashes without injuries;

WHEREAS, this area has bus stops for the BX1, BX2 and BXM3 and adjoins an actively used public park and playground, Fort Independence Playground;

WHEREAS, this area is within 1.5 miles of a public school;

WHEREAS, this corridor has changes in grade and several twists that limit sightlines;

WHEREAS, this corridor has chronic double-parking which causes traffic to cross the centerline;

WHEREAS, there is no pedestrian crosswalk for three blocks in either direction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation study the feasibility of a traffic light at the intersection of Stephenson Place and Sedgwick Avenue near 3850 Sedgwick Avenue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests the restoration of the flashing yellow caution light at the bend between Stephenson Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West and the addition of a “No Standing Sign” on the east side Sedgwick Avenue just north of Stephenson Place to clarify the existing No Standing Zone and reduce vehicles illegally parking and blocking sightlines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests that sharrows be installed on Sedgwick Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Fort Independence Street, with no impact to parking, to improve visibility of the presence of cyclists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests a study for a speed camera on Sedgwick Avenue between Giles Place and Stephenson Place.

Favor: E Green, C Cahoun, K Buford, ME Gibbs, G Santiago, D Travis

Opposed:

Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West Intersection

WHEREAS, residents have raised concerns about safety on Sedgwick Avenue at the intersection of Van Cortlandt Avenue West;

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee heard public testimony at the June, October and November 2021 committee meetings regarding the details of these safety concerns;

WHEREAS, in the past five years 37 motorists have had crashes without injuries, 18 motorists and 4 pedestrians have been injured and one pedestrian has died at this intersection;

WHEREAS, this intersection has bus stops for the BX1, BX2, BX10 and BXM3 and has many commercial businesses;

WHEREAS, this intersection is frequently used by children and seniors because it is adjacent to the JASA Senior Center and is within a school zone for PS 95 and AmPark Neighborhood School and is a route served by crossing guards during the school year;

WHEREAS, this corridor has heavy traffic volume connecting the Major Deegan, Henry Hudson Parkway, Mosholu Parkway and local streets;

WHEREAS, modifications made to the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West have not made pedestrians crossing Van Cortlandt Avenue West safe from turning vehicles;

WHEREAS, vehicles traveling both north and south on Sedgwick Avenue are unable to safely turn left without interference from oncoming traffic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation perform a traffic study of the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West to address adverse sightlines between motorists and pedestrians, last minute lane changes, the placement of the traffic island on Van Cortlandt Avenue West, review the feasibility of a dedicated left turn lane and signal for northbound traffic, review the signal timing for traffic in all directions including new signals for each flow of traffic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests the restoration of the pedestrian crossings at all four sides of the intersection.

Favor: G Santiago, K Buford, E Green, ME Gibbs, C Calhoun, D Travis

Oppose:

Committee Discussion of Safety Improvements on Bailey Avenue

Last month the committee heard from the community on safety concerns which are causing the high rate of injuries from automobile crashes on Bailey Avenue. These causes include speeding, double-parked cars and turning cars at intersections. These conditions are further causing bikes and e-scooters to ride on the sidewalk. The intersections of Van Cortlandt Avenue South, West 238th Street, West 230th and West 225th were cited as the most dangerous.

After discussion with the community, the intersections of 238th and Bailey Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Bailey Avenue were determined to be the two highest priorities to start the discussion. Karen Argenti, with BCEQ, also let the committee know that the greenway which will be built along the Major Deegan originating in Van Cortlandt Park will end at 230th street where the daylighted Tibbetts Brook will run into a pipe until 225th Street. Future access for bicyclists and pedestrians to connect to the Harlem River Greenway will need to be determined and some portion of it may need to run along Bailey Avenue.

Old Business

None

New Business

A resident stated that there is substantial speeding on Broadway from the city border to Mosholu Avenue. She will contact the board office for follow-up.

A resident stated that double-parking has gotten very severe in front of Saint Gabriel School. They will have the principal contact the board office for follow-up.

A resident raised a concern that Independence Avenue from 231st to 232nd lacks a sidewalk, is too narrow and he believes the homeowners who live adjacent to it would like to see improvements to the street to make it safer. He was advised to discuss with the homeowners and the board will work with them to facilitate the conversation with DOT if there is clear consensus.

He also raised a concern that Independence Avenue between 227th to 237th is very difficult to cross into Henry Hudson Park. Also vehicles speed and speed bumps may be warranted. This intersection is already on the list of intersections to focus on and will be the subject of a future meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:26pm.

Prepared & Submitted by: Debra Travis, Chair, Traffic & Transportation Committee