

(Pending Approval)
Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
May 19, 2022, 7pm via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm

Attendees

Committee:

Present: Debra Travis (Chair), Kelli Buford, Mary Ellen Gibbs (CCM), Christopher Calhoun, David Gellman, Edward Green

Absent: Georgia Santiago

Board Members: Camelia Tepelus, Omar Murray

Elected Officials: none

City Agencies: none

Agenda

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of April 20, 2022

The April 20, 2022 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Chair's Report

Cleaning the Major Deegan - DEP started work the week of 5/9/22 on the Southbound Major Deegan, extending for approximately 4-8 weeks total. The work consists of cleaning and inspecting the outfall sewers alongside the highway. DEP will be closing one lane of the highway during when the workers are active, which will happen from 10 PM to 5 AM on weeknights (Monday night into Tuesday through Friday night into Saturday). Once this work is complete, this should improve the resiliency of the Deegan during major storms.

Mayor Adams Funds the NYC Streets Plan – Mayor Adams committed \$904 million over 5 years to advance the goals laid out in the NYC Streets Plan. The plan includes green infrastructure, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and expanding pedestrian spaces. For more information on the NYC Streets Plan visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/nyc-streets-plan.pdf>

MTA Electric Buses – The MTA announced that it is adding 60 electric buses to the fleet. This represents only 1% of the fleet, but we will be receiving them on the BX3, Bx10, Bx18, Bx20. They will charge at the Kingsbridge Depot when not in use.

Pedestrian Struck at Kappock and Johnson Intersection – Sunday, May 15th, a pedestrian was struck by a car while in the crosswalk at Kappock and Johnson. In response, we have reached out to DOT to insist that they expedite the installation of a traffic signal which is currently scheduled for the fall. We have not received a response. The letter is attached at the end of the minutes.

Request for Street Activity Permit by James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Community Farmer's Market for Partial Sidewalk Closure of Closed Slip Lane on Goulden Avenue North of DeWitt Clinton High School Campus

The James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center requested a permit for a partial sidewalk closure on Saturdays beginning June 18, 2022 through November 29, 2022 for a farmer's market. The closure would involve the closed roadway north of DeWitt Clinton High School between Goulden Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue. The timing would be setup at 8am, event start at 10am, event end and breakdown at 6pm. JBOLC has held their farmers market in the summer since June of 2020. Ray Pultinas attended the meeting to make the request and answer questions the committee had regarding the event. He said that he expects have 10-15 vendors each weekend, including three farmers. He has been doing outreach to Tracey Towers and Amalgamated to encourage attendance. Seeing no reason for concern, the committee approved the following resolution. The Community Board 8 Office will notify DOT of the support of the committee in advance of the next full board meeting since the SAPO request will need to be approved prior the first Saturday of the farmer's market on June 18th and the next Community Board 8 meeting is June 29th. The resolution will be voted on by the full board then and DOT will be notified of its outcome then.

Resolution for Street Activity Permit Request for Goulden Avenue from May 19, 2022 Meeting

WHEREAS, the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center presented their plan in support of a partial sidewalk closure for a weekly farmers market on the closed slip lane off of Goulden Avenue at Sedgwick Avenue on Saturdays from June 18, 2022 through October 29, 2022 between the hours of 8am and 6pm including setup and breakdown time;

WHEREAS, this farmers market has occurred at this location during the summer since August, 2020 without any community complaints;

WHEREAS, the JBOLC Farmers Market is a valuable source for the Kingsbridge Heights community of locally grown, fresh vegetables and fruit and features activities that include healthy cooking demos, story reading for children, poetry readings and music performances;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Community Board 8 Traffic & Transportation Committee supports the street activity permit for the partial sidewalk closure on the closed slip lane off of Goulden Avenue requested by the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Farmers Market.

Committee Vote:

Favor: Debra Travis (Chair), Kelli Buford, Mary Ellen Gibbs (CCM), Christopher Calhoun, Edward Green, David Gellman,

Oppose: None

Mr. Pultinas also requested that the Community Board 8 office contact DOT and request that they do not mow the median between Sedgwick Avenue and the slip lane where the farmer's market will be taking place. They have planted a pollinator garden there and last year it was mowed down at the height of its blooms. The chair will have the board office follow up.

Update on 2021-2022 Paving Requests

The committee reviewed the attached paving list which consists of open paving requests by the committee that have been made or are pending with DOT. The committee and members of the community added some additional requests. A request was made to try to prioritize the Edsall Avenue paving request because the street is deteriorating so badly at the edges that the useable width is being reduced, emergency vehicles cannot get through and parking is becoming difficult. A request was also made for the committee to advocate for re-paving or a curb to curb patch near 666 Kappock Street due to serious deterioration in the roadway and the risk to pedestrians from flying water and roadway surface. There is also a severe pothole at the curb line which needs to be addressed.

Old Business

None

New Business

During the discussion of the paving, there was a request made to add the crosswalk lines across Palisade Avenue in front of 2395 Palisade Avenue at Bradley Terrace. The committee was unsure of current site conditions, such as the existence of pedestrian ramps or driveways, so the request was tabled for discussion until the next meeting.

A question was asked about if the Traffic & Transportation Community is considering a hybrid meeting format for the fall. The Community Board has reserved the option to go hybrid anytime after June 14, 2022 and the expectation is that some committees will do this once the equipment and locations have been coordinated. Some existing committee members have concerns that Governor Hochul's new requirements on community boards that minutes need to be submitted within 5 days, cameras need to be on the faces of committee members for the benefit of those online during a hybrid call and that there is a lack of technical support. The June Traffic and Transportation Committee will be via Zoom. The chair stated that due to the size of Traffic & Transportation meetings and very local nature of the concerns, a hybrid model would be important for this committee. Additionally, the committee has already heard testimony from participants with disabilities on how access via Zoom is the difference between them being able to participate and being unable to participate.

The next meeting is June 8, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Laura Spalter, Chairperson

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

May 19, 2022

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Ramdat Singh

Public Safety
Edward Green

Traffic & Transportation
Debra Travis

Youth
Julia Gomez

Keith Kalb
 Interim BX Borough Commissioner
 NYC DOT – Bronx Office
 1400 Williamsbridge Rd
 1. Bronx, NY 10461

Dear Interim Borough Commissioner Kalb:

Over the weekend, another resident in our community, Craig Sachs, was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Kappock Street and Johnson Avenue as he crossed the street legally within the crosswalk. Thankfully, he was not critically injured, however, it brings home the basic fact that eight months after Ruth Mullen was tragically struck and killed by a city bus in this exact crosswalk, a traffic signal still has not been installed.

We understand from previous correspondence with you that the Department of Transportation has been working through a backlog caused by the COVID epidemic and we are sympathetic. We also appreciate that channeling was installed to attempt to slow traffic and that lighting concerns have been addressed. However, it continues to be true that more vehicles glide through this intersection without stopping than come to a complete stop. It is also indisputable that this intersection is situated near two bus stops and experiences regular pedestrian traffic, many who are seniors or have children. And it also is not a matter of debate that this intersection is in the middle of a hill and that traffic is generally coasting at considerable speed when they reach it from Kappock Street. For these reasons, it is not tenable for the public to have to wait for such a critical piece of infrastructure any longer. We have waited eight months and but for the grace of god could have lost another member of our community.

We ask that you expedite the installation of this traffic signal immediately in order to prevent further injuries or worse. Mayor Adams and Commissioner Rodriguez have made intersection safety for pedestrians the highest priority. We call on you to follow their lead and remedy this dangerous intersection immediately.

Sincerely,

Laura Spalter
 Chairperson

Debra Travis
 Chair, Traffic & Transportation Committee

CC: Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
 Eric Dinowitz, Council Member, District 11
 Jamal Bowman, Congress Member, District 16
 Alessandra Biaggi, NYS Senator, District 24
 Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly Member, District 81

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