

(Draft Pending Committee Approval)

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting

Bronx Community Board 8

January 19, 2023, 7pm ET

Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Committee Members Present: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Daniel Padernacht and Debra Travis

Committee Members Absent: None

Opening Remarks

Committee Chair Buford welcomed Committee Members, Elected Officials and the Community. She then outlined the meeting process.

Chair's Report

Ms. Buford informed the Community that the CB8 office receives notice of various closures within the District due to work being performed by city and state agencies as well as local utility companies and indicated information related to the closures are routinely posted to the CB 8 social media platforms and encouraged the Community to check the platforms for projects that may impact their neighborhoods.

Ms. Buford also requested that Committee Members come to the February 2023 meeting to discuss proposed budget items for FY 2025.

Approval Item: Minutes (November 17, 2022 Meeting)

Ms. Buford referred the Committee Members to the draft minutes of the November 17, 2022 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting for review and approval, which the Committee duly approved.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Daniel Padernacht and Debra Travis

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Alltown Limo Corp. License Renewal Application

Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, Base Owner, Alltown Limo Corp., 206 W 231st Street, Bronx, NY 10463, appeared before the Committee to request a letter of no objection to accompany the renewal of its livery base license issued by the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC). Mr. Rodriguez informed that licenses are renewed every two years and advised that he owns the base, and the majority of the

vehicles are driver owned. Mr. Rodriguez discussed the services offered to the community, including transporting community members to medical appoints, among other things. Community Members expressed support of the business.

After discussion an ON MOTION the Traffic and Transportation Committee adopted the following:

WHEREAS, Alltown Limo Corp. (“Alltown”) came before the Traffic and Transportation Committee on January 19, 2023 requesting a letter of no objection to the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission for the renewal of its Livery Car Base License;

WHEREAS, Alltown maintains its livery car base station for its radio operations at 206 West 231st Street within Bronx Community Board No. 8;

WHEREAS, Alltown is required to renew its Livery Car Base License every two years;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 has not received any complaints about Alltown’s operation of its livery car base station or its livery operations in the community;

WHEREAS, testimony was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Committee that Alltown provides a valuable service to the community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 has no objection to the renewal of the Livery Car Base License for Alltown Limo Corp. located at 206 West 231st Street, Bronx, New York 10463.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun,
David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Dan Padernacht,
Deb Travis

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

NYC DOT Update on Broadway Bridge Project

NYC Department of Transportation represented by Interim Bronx Borough Commissioner (IBC) Keith Kalb and Ms. Darisa Cruz provided an update on the Broadway Bridge Project. Ms. Cruz advised that the project was expected to continue through Spring 2027 and provided no further details. DOT was asked to provide additional information and informed that the agency was not prepared to provide additional details, including full scope of project. Chair Buford advised that DOT was expressly asked to provide an update on the project, including what was being done, why it was being done and when it was expected to end, and noted that as the agency failed to address the full concern of the Committee. It was explained that as the project was originally presented several years ago, the Community Board, Committee Membership and community members had changed and that it was in the interest of DOT to provide greater details related to the project to aid in understanding of all interested and impacted parties. DOT was also asked to provide a Gantt chart detailing scope of work and schedule of the project. The IBC advised that the Gantt chart and scope of work would be provided to the Committee and noted that DOT would be prepared to present the matter following submission of the requested information. Responding to Committee Member inquiry, the IBC also advised that he was not sure of the

bridge being operational for maritime use but noted that it was operational at the time the work started.

NYC DOT Information on Loading Zones in the Marble Hill Neighborhood

NYC Department of Transportation represented by Interim Bronx Borough Commissioner (IBC) Keith Kalb and Ms. Darisa Cruz provided information on the installation of loading zones in the Marble Hill Neighborhood. Ms. Cruz advised that the spaces were being created pursuant to Local Law 168 of 2021, which requires DOT to create loading zones to enhance safety and reduce traffic congestion. The identified areas were West 225th Street between Adrian Avenue and Jacobus Place and Marble Hill Avenue between West 225th Street and Fort Charles Place. She further informed that each zone would take up two parking spaces and that the zones would be limited to daytime hours and overnight parking would be permitted. The specific hours were not known. She also advised that usage was not limited to local businesses but that the zones would be used by package delivery companies to aid in delivery to area residents as well as provide pick-up and drop-off services for individuals using livery vehicles.

Committee and community members expressed concern about the zones noting that the staging area for the Broadway Bridge Project takes up approximately two full blocks of parking along the south side of West 225th Street. It was also noted that a construction zone related to a major development project starting at 160 West 225th Street that includes a church and a 100-unit building was directly within the identified loading zone area. With respect to the Marble Hill Avenue location, the community advised that a school zone already utilizes several parking spaces and to further reduce parking would present a hardship to many community members and that both areas would likely create further congestion and hazards within the neighborhood.

Community members also asked if DOT had explored creating a loading zone along West 230th Street between Broadway and Godwin Terrace as there is pervasive double-parking along the corridor and impacts traffic exiting the Major Deegan Expressway. Ms. Cruz informed that the selected locations were determined based upon density, crash data and street geography and that the community could recommend additional locations.

NYS DOT Update on Henry Hudson Parkway Project (Southbound Henry Hudson Parkway Retaining Wall Rehabilitation at West 232nd Street)

NYS Department of Transportation represented by Mr. Thomas Bayer, P.E., Assistant to the Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation, NYC Region provided an update on the southbound Henry Hudson Parkway (HHP) retaining wall project, including the unexpected restriction on parking along the southbound (SB) HHP service road between West 235th and 231st Streets in late December 2022 eight months sooner than anticipated. Mr. Bayer informed that the heavy pre-Christmas rain event and subsequent refreeze caused progressive tilting to the retaining walls and increased concerns. He advised that the design letting was expedited to permit DOT to stabilize, reinforce and reconstruct the walls to mitigate danger to lives and property. He noted that ongoing tilting has slowed, and the initial rehabilitation project would begin shortly. He also informed that it is the hope of DOT to

return the parking spaces to the community and complete the project much earlier than the anticipated Fall 2024 completion date.

Responding to Committee Member inquiry, Mr. Bayer indicated that he would provide a Gantt chart detailing scope of work and project plan. He also informed that DOT would endeavor to restore the stone cladding as historic elements are generally included in rehabilitation projects.

Mr. Bayer answered questions from the community and informed that the work will, primarily, be performed during the day, contrary to the six months of night work originally anticipated as the selected contractor advised that the majority of the work could be performed during the day, reducing overnight noise. He also noted that there may be brief periodic traffic stoppages along the HHP service road during off-peak hours to permit the transport of materials. He also indicated that repaving and striping work, which will likely occur at night, may necessitate the need for detours along the HHP, the service road and Independence Avenue. There may also be occasional closures of the West 232nd Street exit and entry ramps.

Mr. Bayer noted that continuous monitoring of wall shift was in place and indicated that the tilt appeared to be stabilized. He also informed that DOT was working with the Department of Environmental Protection to employ degrading measures to mitigate flooding. He acknowledged that the parking lane is the only travel lane along the service road and was aware that prior to buses being rerouted along Independence Avenue several trees were clipped. He advised that DOT asked the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to inspect and prune the trees and informed that inspection and subsequent pruning was imminent. Lastly, Mr. Bayer informed that the northbound HHP retaining walls were inspected and advised that there were no current plans to rehabilitate the eastern retaining walls as the walls were not showing the same level of tilt as the western walls.

Old Business

Committee Member Alexander asked if NYC DOT provided an update on the request for additional calming measures at the intersection of Oxford Avenue and West 235th Street following a fatal pedestrian accident in July 2022 and discussed with DOT during the September 2022 Committee Meeting. Ms. Buford informed that she had not received any further feedback from DOT and indicated that she would follow-up.

New Business

MTA Bridge and Tunnel Bike, Pedestrian and Micromobility Strategic Action Plan

Committee Member Gellman informed that MTA Bridge and Tunnel recently published its Bike, Pedestrian and Micromobility Strategic Action Plan which includes the widening of the existing lower-level walkway on the Henry Hudson Bridge to create a shared use walkway for bicyclists and pedestrians on the north and south approaches to the path. The existing staircases would be removed and an ADA-compliant ramps would be installed. The project is anticipated to be completion in 2025. Mr. Bayer of NYS DOT was encouraged to have early conversations with MTA as the project would likely impact the Henry Hudson Parkway retaining wall project. Mr. Bayer thanked Member Gellman for the information

and advised that DOT was aware of the project and indicated that he would discuss the matter with the retaining wall project team.

School Zone Safety Camera at Kingsbridge Avenue and West 233rd Street

A Community Member expressed concern about the placement of the School Safety Zone Camera installed at the intersection of Kingsbridge Avenue and West 233rd Street which appears to capture only northbound traffic and suggested that the camera be repositioned to help reduce incidents during pickup and drop-off. Chair Buford indicated that she would share the information with the Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Henry Hudson Parkway Bridge at West 235th Street

A Community Member requested the procedure to request enhancement of the pedestrian bridge over the Henry Hudson Parkway at West 235th Street to include stairs. Member Travis informed that reconstruction of the bridge was on the list of priorities for the FY 2024 cycle. Member Padernacht clarified that a study of the bridge has been requested for several years and informed that basic repairs were performed several years ago. It was also noted that any changes would be a major undertaking and any repairs would have to render the bridge ADA-compliant, which it currently is not.

Next Meeting

Ms. Buford advised that the next meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2023.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.