

(Draft Minutes Pending Committee Approval)
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
November 17, 2022

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom Video / Audio Conference

Committee Members Present:

Kelli Buford (Chair)
Sylvia Alexandser
Chris Calhoun
David Gellman
Mary Ellen Gibbs (Community Committee Member)
Dan Padernacht (Vice-Chair)
Debra Travis

Committee Members Absent:

None

Committee Chair Kelli Buford called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

1. Announcement of Committee Members and Guests:

Chair Buford took a roll-call of Committee members and announced meeting procedures.

2. APPROVAL ITEM: Committee Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2022

Chair Buford called for discussion and vote on the October 20, 2022 minutes.

In Favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun, David Gellman
Mary Ellen Gibbs, Dan Padernacht, Debra Travis
Against: None
Abstain: None

3. Future of West 242nd Street at Manhattan College Parkway

Jim Wacker presented concerns about the pedestrian walkway located at West 242nd Street and Manhattan College Parkway. The pedestrian path is between 3875 Waldo Avenue and Brust Park. The pedestrian path also leads to the rear of the new building at 3893 Waldo Avenue. Mr. Wacker advised that former Bronx DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez stated that the pedestrian walkway would remain and that it would not be converted to permit automobile traffic to 3893 Waldo Avenue.

Abigail Martin, the president of the cooperative board at 3875 Waldo Avenue stated that its building does not support any improvements to the street to support vehicular use on the street. Ms. Martin stated that she believes their building has vested rights to the street.

Chair Buford will request the builder's pavement plan from the Department of Buildings for the new construction at 3893 Waldo Avenue to investigate whether there are any plans by that owner to use the street for vehicular use.

4. NYC Department of Transportation Presentation on Permanent Carshare Program

NYC DOT presented a proposal to implement the Permanent Carshare Program at certain locations in Bronx Community Board 8.

The Permanent Carshare Program was presented by Bronx DOT Commissioner Keith Kalb, Holly Malone (DOT) and Stevie Feig (DOT). In addition, Eric and Adrienne Moretz of Get Around and Torrey Fishman of Zipcar contributed to the presentation.

Ms. Feig discussed the Carshare Program and explained that the Program provides on-demand access to a vehicle for short-term use, usually by the minute, hour or day. NYC DOT's Carshare program designates dedicated parking spaces for the use of eligible carshare organizations (CSOs). These parking spaces are located at curbside locations and in municipal parking facilities citywide. Carshare members may reserve a vehicle, walk up to the car at their reservation time, and drive away, returning later to the same reserved spot.

Four locations with two dedicated spaces at each location reserved for the Carshare Program were proposed for the district. The locations in CB8 are at the corners of the following streets:

3536 Cambridge Avenue
3600 Irwin Avenue
2785 Arlington Avenue
4652 Manhattan College Parkway

It was noted that Get Around was seeking one location (2 parking spots) at 3536 Cambridge Avenue. Zipcar was seeking the other three locations (6 parking spots).

Other details about the Program include parking spaces in pairs at the corners of residential, unmetered blocks. Spaces will both be sited on the same block in the first 40' before or after an intersection. Spaces must be sited at non-metered, non-truck loading locations with Alternate Side Parking (ASP) and street cleaning no more than two times per week. Back in angle parking locations are not allowed. Spaces must be sited in a permanent parking lane (cannot convert to a moving lane). The parking spaces shall not be within 750 feet from a private garage. 20% of the parking spots must be in an equity zone. DOT is looking for locations that are otherwise near other public transit.

The City will issue permits for each approved location (2 parking spots) at the cost of \$475 per year. Permits are annual and will be revisited on an annual basis. DOT will review the usage of each location and determine whether it should be removed.

If a carshare space is blocked, the renter can call 311 and find the closest legal parking spot. DOT works with NYPD on problem sites or placards in carshare spots.

Committee members remarked that the \$475 annual cost is very low for a parking spot in this area. DOT stated that it is based upon an administrative fee that is tied to New York State legislation.

A board member stated that the use of public parking spaces was an expropriation for a commercial profit-making business. Several committee members stated that the reduction of parking spots in the community would have harmful effects to the average resident, who is already struggling to find location with the current supply.

DOT advised that the Program was anticipated to roll out in the district in late December 2022 to early January 2023 and indicated that DOT was seeking comments from the community in next 30 days.

Board Chair Spalter and Chair Buford stated that the Community Board needed more time to review the proposal. Chair Buford asked for 90 days prior to any implementation for the Community Board to get comments to DOT. Commissioner Kalb stated that he would get back to the Community Board but would not commit to giving more time than 30 days.

D. Padernacht proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) first presented its Permanent Carshare Program to the Traffic and Transportation Committee on November 17, 2022;

WHEREAS, DOT stated that it would give Bronx Community Board 8 only 30 days for comment on the Permanent Carshare Program;

WHEREAS, Traffic and Transportation Chair Buford and Community Board 8 Chair Spalter asked that DOT give the Community Board 90 days to comment on the Permanent Carshare Program;

WHEREAS, DOT stated that they would get back to Community Board 8 on whether they will permit comments beyond the 30-day period;

WHEREAS, this is an interesting yet complicated proposal;

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 wishes to have a meaningful, merit-based discussion on the proposed Permanent Carshare Program with an opportunity to investigate the locations, inform the public and elicit testimony from the Community District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 rejects the Permanent Carshare Program locations in Community Board 8 based upon a failure of DOT to give Community Board 8 adequate time to review the proposal, especially given the fact that the presentation was not given to the Community Board to review the details prior to the November 17, 2022 Traffic and Transportation meeting.

David Gellman seconded the resolution.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun
David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Dan Padernacht,
Ineligible to Vote: Debra Travis

5. No old business
6. No new business

Kelli Buford
Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee