

(Draft Pending Committee Approval)

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting

Bronx Community Board 8

Thursday June 15, 2023, 7pm ET

Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Committee Members Present: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs (CCM) 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.

Approval Item: Minutes (April 20, 2023 Meeting)

Ms. Buford referred the Committee Members to the draft minutes of the April 20, 2023 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting for review and approval. The Committee duly approved the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Veterans Radio Dispatcher Corp. License Renewal Application

Ms. Kenia Taveras, Secretary, Veterans Radio Dispatch Corp. (the Company), 131 West Kingsbridge Road, 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). Ms. Taveras informed that licenses are renewed every two years and advised that the Company was formerly known as Bailey Car Service and indicated the name change occurred around 2015. She stated that the vehicles are driver owned and that the Company does not own any vehicles. Ms. Taveras discussed the services offered to the community and noted that the Base maintains a direct phone connection at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) to aid with transporting military veterans following their medical appointments and VAMC staff and visitors to various destinations. The community and Committee Members expressed support of the business.

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

WHEREAS, Veterans Radio Dispatch Corp. (VRDC) came before the Traffic and Transportation Committee on June 15, 2023 requesting a letter of no objection to the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission for the renewal of its Livery Car Base License; and

WHEREAS, VRDC maintains its livery car base station for its radio operations at 131 West Kingsbridge Road within Bronx Community Board No. 8; and

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

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

WHEREAS, testimony was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Committee that VRDC 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 Veterans Radio Dispatch Corp. located at 131 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, New York 10463.

In favor: S. Alexander, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, D. Gellman, M.E. Gibbs, D. Travis
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

NYC DOT Update on Citi Bike Program

NYC Department of Transportation represented by Interim Bronx Borough Commissioner (IBC) Darisa Cruz, Holly Malone, Jesus Soto, Kevin Perez and Nick Acosta and Sam Hope with the Bike Share/Shared Mobility Unit presented the draft plan on the Citi Bike Program within the Community Board District. Mr. Hope informed that the community members would have approximately one month to provide feedback on the draft plan by visiting the nyc.gov/bikeshare website and informed that the final plan would be presented at the September 2023 T&T Meeting.

The Committee requested follow-up on plans for possible locations west of Irwin Avenue, including near Wave Hill, commercial districts, colleges, schools, nursing homes and other institutions, homes and parks as expressed by the Community during the March 16, 2023 T&T Meeting and in March 27, 2023 communication CB 8 Chair Spalter and T&T Committee Chair Buford sent to DOT. The Committee also

reiterated that docking stations should be placed off the roadbed to minimize reduction in parking. Placement of stations in daylighted spaces was also recommended. The Community requested detailed information on the number of parking spaces to be eliminated at each site.

The Agency discussed the process for when a bike return cannot be accommodated at the location nearest the renter's destination and what happens when bikes are left undocked. The deck shared during the meeting was also requested to allow posting on the CB 8 website and social platforms.

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

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) represented by Angela Salibi-Ghattas, Susan McClellan (Construction), and Nasim Ghani (Design) and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) representative Meagan Molina provided an update on the bus reroute from Henry Hudson Parkway West (HHP) to Independence Avenue. Ms. Salibi-Ghattas advised that approximately five trees along HHP were leaning into the roadway and impacting bus operations. She informed that NYS DOT, MTA, NYC Bus Operations and Metro-North Railroad met on June 6 and determined that clearance within the work zone were not consistent. Some portions of the travel lane were 11 feet, others 10 feet. It was noted that, by June 21, the contractor would adjust barriers to make all areas 11 feet, and shortly thereafter, the MTA would conduct a test run with a city bus to determine feasibility for returning buses to HHP. Responding to Committee Member inquiry, Ms. Molina advised that the Parks Department pruned the trees at the beginning of the project. However, the cause of the bus reroute was related to the actual size of the tree trunks that were creating pinch points and did not allow adequate clearance for buses to operate safely.

Committee Members expressed concern regarding DOT's lack of coordination with the MTA Bridge project occurring directly south of the DOT work zone. It was noted that the bridge project will extend the HH Bridge Pedestrian Path and encroach upon the DOT site. The restoration of the stone cladding was also discussed, and it was noted that HHP is part of a designated state scenic highway and also a National Historic Highway and that the cladding needs to remain the same throughout highway system. Committee Members advised DOT that this information was shared with DOT at T&T meetings held in September 2022 and January 2023 and DOT has yet to respond.

Community members expressed concern regarding the safety along Independence Ave, particularly near 231st and 232nd Street. State DOT was asked to reach out to Lehman College and NYC DOT to create enhancements to Independence Avenue during the reroute. Further, Ms. Molina informed that MTA prepared a map of the Independence Avenue detour showing points of entry/exit and dedicated stops and indicated that she would share the information with the Board Office for distribution.

The Community also requested an update on the HHP in general, including work hours, traffic management along the HHP service road when DOT closes exits and an overview of the project plan. Ms. McClellan advised that the project started in early June and the contractor would, per the permit, be working during the day, 7:00am-3:30pm with lane closures 10:00am-3:00pm. She informed that DOT would follow-up with the community regarding hours for exit closures and work to provide the revised project plan. Ms. McClellan indicated that she was not aware of any the overnight outside of the emergency work performed earlier in the year to stabilize the retaining wall to prevent collapse.

Old Business

Safety Measures (W 235th Street and Oxford Avenue)

Ms. Sylvia Alexander inquired about enhanced traffic at the intersection of W 235th Street and Oxford Avenue following the death of pedestrian in July 2022. She informed that drivers traveling east on W 235th are not adhering to the stop sign and that the intersection may be better served by a traffic signal. It was also reported that someone was struck at the same intersection in early June 2023.

Sedgwick Avenue/Van Cortlandt Avenue West

Chair Buford recommended DOT to revisit the traffic calming measures at the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West. She informed that many of the flexible delineators are missing due to recent accidents and also suggested that each direction move individually to aid in navigation.

New Business

Moped Restrictions (Walkway between Waldo and Irwin Avenues)

The Community requested traffic signs prohibiting mopeds from traveling along the walkway between the intersections of 240th Street and Irwin Avenue and Waldo Avenue and Manhattan College Parkway and adjacent to the Manhattan College Student Commons building.

Traffic Sign (Eames Place and Webb Avenue)

The Community inquired about the authority of a developer to change traffic signage and direction at the intersection of Eames Place and Webb Avenue following project completion and was informed that the developer cannot arbitrarily change signs and that the current DOT signage would remain in effect.

Next Meeting

Ms. Buford advised that the next meeting will be in September 2023 following summer recess.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.