

(Pending Committee Approval)

Meeting Minutes of Traffic & Transportation Committee

Bronx Community Board 8

Thursday, June 18, 2026 @ 7PM

Bronx Community Board 8 Office, 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

[Meeting Recording](#)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Introductory Remarks by Chairperson of the Committee. Chair Debby Allen introduced herself and said that this would be her last meeting as chair of the committee. She thanked committee members for their service and thanked the public for its attention to local transportation issues.

2. Roll Call.

Present (4): Deborah Allen, Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Sylvia Alexander (ADA via phone due to computer problems)

Absent (2): Yngrid DeLeon, Debra Harris.

There was a quorum.

Guests: Ed Green, BXCB8; Steve Matthews, BXCB8; Liam Donnelly, FDNY; Andy Buder, MTA Metro-North; Kyndal Coleman, Lower East Side Ecology Center; Kenia Taveras, Veterans Radio Dispatch; Joe Ben-Meir, Barry Stern, Wyldon Fishman.

3. Minutes of the April Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Safety and T&T Joint Resolution. The Chair made a motion, which was approved unanimously, to alter the agenda so that FDNY Battalion Chief Liam Donnelly, who was present, could speak to agenda item 6, a resolution from the committee and the Public Safety Committee regarding DOT changes to traffic patterns in areas of south of CB8 to which FDNY objects for safety reasons, and which could affect engine and ladder companies' response times in CB8.

Battalion Chief Donnelly said that the altered traffic pattern proposed by DOT would add to FDNY response times and would reroute fire equipment onto narrow side streets which double-parking can make impassable.

The Chair said that safety was paramount and for that reason, the resolution was necessary. Bob Bender questioned Chief Donnelly whether he was aware of any response from DOT to FDNY's objections to the altered traffic pattern. He said no.

Bob said that he agreed with the intentions of the proposal but felt that it was premature in the absence of more information about DOT's response to FDNY's concerns. He wants to hear from the affected community board and from local elected officials about how to resolve this matter without compromising safety before voting for the resolution.

Margaret Della said that a resolution was necessary. Ed Green, Public Safety committee chair, who attended the meeting on Zoom, said that only a resolution would get DOT's attention on this important matter.

The committee voted to approved the resolution.

The resolution passed., 3 to 1. [Resolution at end of minutes]

4. SAPO application. Kyndal Coleman, representing the Lower East Side (LES) Ecology Center, spoke for a SAPO request for a community recycling event on the curb lane of Riverdale Avenue between W. 259th and W. 260th Streets. The date indicated on the SAPO request has changed from Sunday, August 8 to Saturday, August 2, 2026. The time remains the same: set-up from 9AM to 10AM, breakdown from 2PM to 3PM. The event itself would take place from 10AM to 2PM. Asked by Chair Allen whether LES had discussed the event with the NYPD, Ms. Coleman said no. When informed that there is a bus stop on the side of Riverdale Avenue where the event will take place, she said that the event will take place north of the bus stop.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the SAPO on the condition that the NYPD has no objections. [Resolution at end of minutes].

5. TLC Application and Renewal. Ms. Kenia Taveras spoke on behalf of the TLC application for Veterans Radio Dispatcher car service on West Kingsbridge Road. Chair Allen noted that the 50th Precinct has not reported any problems with the car service. Ms Taveras explained that Blessing Car

Service, at the same location, is a new application, but it is owned by the same owner as Veterans, which is extending the car service primarily to handle medical transportation.

The committee voted unanimously to approve both the renewal and new TLC applications. [Resolutions at end of minutes].

6. Agenda item #6 was discussed following approval of the minutes. (Above)
7. Old Business. There was no outstanding old business brought up at this point. Instead, Chair Allen opened discussion with Mr. Andy Buder of Metro-North regarding MNR's plans to close the exit from the Riverdale MNR station in order to address flooding problems at the station. Mr. Buder explained that the traffic pattern at the station will be altered so that all vehicles will exit onto W. 254th St while the exit, which is W. 255th St., is closed for repairs. Mr. Buder said that MNR and DOT have discussed how they will reconfigure W. 254th St between Palisade Ave. and Railroad Terrace to change the current one-way portion of W. 254th St. into two ways so that it can accommodate traffic exiting the station.

The only homeowner whose property opens onto W. 255th St. has been informed about the impending work, as have neighboring homeowners.

8. Snake Hill (W. 253 St. between Fieldston and Post Roads) Concerns. Discussions are underway between DOT and Horace Mann and Riverdale Country School regarding school bus parking. DOT says it is studying residents' safety concerns in the area.
9. New Business. The chair reported that DOT is considering the Land Use committee's request that DOT study whether to add no parking regulations on W. 252 St. from Sycamore Avenue to Henry Hudson Parkway West service road.

Mr. Barry Stern spoke about the same area. He is concerned about how the synagogue that will be built on the corner of W. 252 St and Arlington Avenue might change the parking in that area. Currently, there is no parking on W. 252 St. but there are also no parking restrictions. He would like Arlington Ave. between W. 252 and W. 254 Streets to be studied, too. He also reported that events are being held in the former Kennedy

house on W. 252 St and Independence Ave. that bring substantial parking to that location, which he believes could inhibit fire equipment from getting through that corner.

Mr. Joe Ben-Meir attended the meeting to express his concern that W. 236th Street between Netherland Avenue and the Henry Hudson East service road needs repaving. He also wants Kimberly Place to be changed to two-way traffic. Chair Allen said she will relay his request to DOT.

The committee next discussed briefly the plan to replace the bus pads on Riverdale Ave. and W. 261st St. and Broadway and W. 261st St. We need more information about whether both sides of both streets are affected and whether these bus stops will be moved during construction work.

The committee took up the report from SCRE about various problems regarding MTA work on Broadway. Chair Allen said that MTA will respond to the board on this matter before the June 24 board meeting. Margaret Della noted that a site visit with all three councilmembers and staff in early June showed improvement in the conditions there. But there is still more that needs to be done to maintain the highest safety standards in the area.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes Submitted by Bob Bender

**JOINT RESOLUTION
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE &
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Re: FDNY Concerns Regarding DOT Bailey and Sedgwick Avenue Bike Lane Proposal, Protected Bike Lane Barriers, and Impacts on Emergency Response Times

WHEREAS FDNY attended the May 18th, 2026, Public Safety Committee meeting and attended the June 18, 2026 Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting. The FDNY communicated urgent operational concerns about the impact of certain NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) street redesign proposals on emergency response times and rescue operations; and

WHEREAS FDNY representatives stated that **response times are critical for both civilian and firefighter safety**, and that DOT's proposal to convert Sedgwick Avenue to

one-way southbound would have a **direct negative impact** on FDNY's ability to respond to fires, medical emergencies, and Critical First Responder (CFR) calls; and

WHEREAS FDNY submitted written correspondence to Bronx Community Board 8 expressing concerns by Engine 43 and Ladder 59 and requesting the Board to assist with community outreach regarding DOT's Bailey and Sedgwick Avenue Bike Lane project; and

WHEREAS FDNY stated:

- DOT's plan would convert Sedgwick Avenue to one-way southbound from Fordham Road to W 183rd Street; and
- DOT proposes northbound detours via Cedar Avenue and W 183rd Street to Loring Place, or via University Avenue to Fordham Road; and
- E43/L59 apparatus cannot safely use Cedar Avenue or W 183rd Street to Loring Place due to narrow, winding streets and chronic double parking; the rigs do not fit; and
- Using University Avenue to Fordham Road **would add 2–3+ minutes to response times** to E43/L59 first and second due boxes; and
- Converting Sedgwick to one-way southbound will directly and immediately impact E43/L59 responses to first, second, and third due boxes and additional alarm boxes north of Fordham Road; and
- E43/L59 also respond second, third, and fourth due into Inwood; DOT's change would **severely delay** their arrival and leave E95/L36 operating alone for extended periods; and
- A substantial portion of affected responses cross multiple Community Boards and City Council districts, and FDNY has asked neighboring battalions and community leaders to be informed and to assist with community education; and
- DOT is advancing projects that include protected bike lanes with concrete barriers, and such installations can **restrict apparatus positioning, turning, and access to hydrants and building fronts**; and

WHEREAS there is **insufficient publicly available, citywide data** assessing the impact of concrete-barrier protected bike lanes on FDNY response times, apparatus access, and rescue operations; and

WHEREAS Bronx Community Board 8 supports safe active-transportation infrastructure but affirms that **public safety and unimpaired emergency access must be prioritized** in any street redesign.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that NYC DOT immediately abandon its proposal to convert the Sedgwick Avenue corridor identified in DOT's Bailey and Sedgwick Ave Bike Lane project to a one-way southbound street, pending a full operational review with FDNY and affected stakeholders.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that NYC DOT pause all citywide installation of new concrete-barrier protected bike lanes until comprehensive, independently verifiable data is collected, released, and reviewed showing no adverse effect on FDNY response times, apparatus access, and rescue operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that FDNY, with consultation from local battalions, be designated a required reviewing agency for any DOT street redesign or protected bike lane project that could affect emergency vehicle access, turning movements, or apparatus positioning.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that DOT and FDNY jointly produce and publish a data-driven analysis that includes: measured response times before and after protected barrier installations; simulations of apparatus routing under proposed one-way conversions; hydrant and building access studies; and mitigation plans where impacts are identified.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that DOT and FDNY convene a public meeting with affected Community Boards, elected officials, and local battalions to review the data, discuss operational constraints, and identify mutually acceptable design solutions prior to any construction.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall be transmitted to the NYC Mayor, Bronx Borough President, all Bronx Community Board 8 elected officials, Bronx Community Boards 5, 7, and 12, the commanding officers of affected FDNY battalions, and the City Council members representing the affected districts.

Statement of Rationale

FDNY has provided specific, operationally grounded concerns demonstrating that DOT's proposed one-way conversion of Sedgwick Avenue and the installation of concrete-barrier protected bike lanes would **materially delay emergency responses** for Engine 43 and Ladder 59 and for other units that rely on Sedgwick as a primary route. Delays of multiple minutes in first, second, and mutual-aid responses increase risk to life and property and extend periods during which neighboring units operate without expected support. Before DOT advances a design that alters traffic flow and apparatus routing, the City must produce transparent data and work with FDNY and community stakeholders to ensure emergency response capability is not compromised.

In favor (3): Debby Allen, Sylvia Alexander and Margaret Della

Opposed (0)

Abstained (1): Bob Bender

Draft
Traffic & Transportation Committee Resolution
June 18, 2026
SAPO Application
Community Recycling Event
Curb Lane Closure
Riverdale Avenue (East Bound Street Side)
between West 259th Street and 260th Street
Riverdale Avenue Bronx, NY 10471
on August 2, 2026 9:00am-3:00pm

WHEREAS, Community Recycling Event is requesting Curb lane only closure located on Riverdale Avenue (East Bound Street Side) Between West 259th Street and West 260th Street application to the Department of Transportation New York City (DOT); and

WHEREAS, Community Recycling Event representative appeared before the Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Committee on June 18, 2026, to provide details of their request which would allow Curb lane closure located at Riverdale Avenue (East Bound Street Side) Between West 259th Street and West 260th Street 9:00am - 3:00 pm on August 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted as required by DOT requirements for Curb lane closures; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Traffic and Transportation Committee recommends approval of the Community Recycling Event contingent on the applicant must coordinate with the 50th Precinct community affairs liaison to outreach to local business at least one week in advance of the event.

In favor (4): Debby Allen, Bob Bender, Sylvia Alexander and Margaret Della
Opposed (0)
Abstained (0)

Draft
Traffic & Transportation Committee Community Board 8
Resolution
June 18, 2026
New License of Blessings Car Service, LLC
131 West Kingsbridge Road, Apt ST 1J
Bronx, New York 10468

WHEREAS, Blessings Car Service LLC, located at 131 West Kingsbridge Road, Apt ST 1 J Bronx New York 10468 came before the Traffic and Transportation committee on June 18, 2026 requesting a letter of support to the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission for a new base license; and

WHEREAS, Blessings Car Service LLC, would provide additional transportation resources for those community members needing access to medical appointments and other essential destination ; and

WHEREAS, Blessings Car Service LLC would provide employment opportunities

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Traffic and Transportation Committee has no objections for the letter of support for Blessings Car Service LLC, new Base License.

In favor (4): Debby Allen, Bob Bender, Sylvia Alexander and Margaret Della

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Draft
Traffic & Transportation Committee Resolution
June 18, 2026
Renewal Application of Veterans Radio Dispatcher Base
TLC Base License B02436
131 West Kingsbridge Road, Apt ST 1J
Bronx, New York 10468

WHEREAS, Veterans Radio Dispatcher Base, TLC Base License Number B02436, located at 131 West Kingsbridge Road, Apt ST 1 J Bronx New York 10468 came before the Traffic and Transportation committee on June 18, 2026 requesting a letter of support to the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission for the renewal of its livery care base license; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Radio Dispatcher Base, TLC Base license requires renewal every two years; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 has not received any complaints about Veterans Radio Dispatcher Base or livery operations in the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Traffic and Transportation Committee has no objections for the letter of support for Veterans Radio Dispatcher Base TLC located at 131 West Kingsbridge Road, Apt. ST 1J Bronx New 10468.

In favor (4): Debby Allen, Bob Bender, Sylvia Alexander and Margaret Della

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)