

**Bronx Community Board 8 Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025**

**Meeting Recording**

Meeting started 7:00 pm.

**Roll Call:**

In attendance (6): Chairperson J. Land, Syliva Alexander (ADA), Debbi Allen, Dr. Wayne DeBeatham, Yngrid DeLeon, Mary Ellen-Gibbs

Absent (2): Kelli Buford (online), Margaret Della

Board Members: Joy Campbell Priveterre, Ed Green, Laura Spalter, Julie Reyes

**Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes:**

Committee meeting minutes approved unanimously -January 16, 2025.

In Favor (6): J. Land, S. Alexander, D. Allen, W. DeBeatham, Y. Deleon, M. Gibbs

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

**Chairperson's Report**

Step Street Reports made by the committee and board members are being reviewed to submit to DOT and for FY27 Budget Priorities list.

**Guest Speaker Jeff Kimelman** – Lawyer representing the Bronx DA's Office on Priscilla's law:

Oversees all vehicular crimes in Bronx County from Left turn cases to leaving the scenes to forged plates.

Bronx DA Clark has not stated her position on this law yet.

Priscilla's law, if enacted, in terms of a motor vehicles case, it is crucial to identify the vehicle. It would be a tool if someone fled the scene. Being able to identify any vehicle and who it is registered to is crucial to prosecution. Helps to give summons in cases of traffic violations i.e. running red lights. E-bikes are very fast and can be dangerous.

Question: What is the determinator whether a summons is returnable to the DMV or to criminal court. A traffic summons versus making it returnable? Are these incidents prosecuted criminally?

Answer: There is a dividing line that some of the summonses are at the DMV. Since 2019. Summons are prosecuted by the police officer and traffic court. One of the things if it was made a misdemeanor it would get into criminal courts. Wreckless driving is a misdemeanor. The right-of-way law, AC-19-190. It was a law for vision zero, it was a law that was passed a decade ago. The goal was to criminalize criminal negligence. Pedestrians are in a crosswalk, and someone goes through the left turn. They are negligent and cause serious injury. That used to be a summons under VTL-1146. The administrative code and the mayor they have prosecuted in criminal court. A lot of

people have problems across the state since it was uniquely for NY City. The court of appeals upholds it because of NY City and the millions of people. We are situated in a way that we need a law. It comes from criminal court.

There is a presumption that if someone violates Priscillas law. If there is a summons, then it will be a criminal court action.

Laura: 90% of ebike riders leave the scene of the accident. This law would be a tool.

Jeff: DOT has more of those cases. There is a high incident of leaving the scene. They tend to leave the scene more. They mask their plates, not letting law enforcement recognize who the car is or the driver.

Question: What does prosecution do with “ghost” plates? Are the laws strong enough to discourage prosecution?

It is a huge challenge. It is not just used for low level toll evasion but for violent crime. It is a challenge to prosecute from other jurisdictions. Someone from Texas could testify if that plate even exists. It is resource intensive. If it is a heavy case, then you “weigh” the resources.

A good solution is to impound the cars. That directly affects people. Then they cannot get to work. Impounding the car and showing up with the proper registration, forged plates, fake plates, stolen plates.

Dr DeBeathem: Assuming this goes into effect would any crime that occurs be classified as vehicular crime? DWIs are classified as an Ebike; they are considered motor vehicles. 125 of Vehicle traffic law. They are electric powered. They can go fast. They are considered vehicles. So driving recklessly can be criminal.

Ed Green:

Question: You mentioned discovery laws being an issue. Ever since the bail reform came in there is more for you to do. You lost a lot of staff. How can community boards help to get discovery laws more manageable? You cannot lobby for it.

Jeff Kimmelman: The DA was in Albany and gave testimony regarding discovery law. It is a big push to eliminate the list of controlled substances that need to be named. 46 states don't require you to name the drug. If a cop pulls you over and you don't tell it and are impaired, right now the cops don't have much recourse. You cannot even prosecute them. There has been a push by the DA to change that law. Discovery, since there is not a lot of lobbying, if there is anything you can do is if civilians observe then cooperate with the prosecutors. Give adequate contact information. You can give an email or a google voice number. Sometimes lose on discovery when civilians see the breaking into cars or items stolen. Without them it doesn't matter. Sometimes PD shows up and we get some information from them, but we do not get enough information from the community. Easier when it comes to certifying compliance with the discovery laws. The DA can work on transfer of information overall. In the Governor's recent bill brings a level of reform that it will help us handle the breadth of cases.

ED: When will we know that?

Jeff: Soon they will tell when the discovery reform is

**Fiscal Year 2027 Budget priorities.** Went over list from last year.

Lighting needs 236<sup>th</sup> or 238<sup>th</sup> and Independence roundabout lights by monument. Still dark at the intersection. We will let Farrah know.

Go over step street reports

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

Sylvia has issue at crossing of 235th street and Oxford Ave. outside of Keyfoods: working towards for 2 ½ years in front of key foods there is a stop sign, car came and almost hit Sylvia. Not stopping at the sign. DOT turned us down for a light here. Delineator is not helping. Reported to 311 to Mayor's office.

Need a larger sign or do DOT study and put a flashing yellow light.

Kelli:

Prepare a resolution to go to the DOT and formally filed with the DOT that they do a traffic study at that intersection. We can ask them for recent statistics at this intersection. There are delineators. If drivers are not stopping then it is not a deterrent. Then the committee put forth a resolution and ask them to consider and this way there will be a record. Farrah can send it to DOT.

Introduction of a resolution for porous pavers from Chair Josh Land. DOT use less hard surfaces and incorporate permeable surfaces where possible. Helps eliminate runoff. He will prepare a resolution to discuss at next meeting.

Dr. Wayne DeBeatham: at Tibbet's they park involved the right of way with Dean. The point being that we should consider the interaction of the built-environment and a lot of effects we're having related to that. We have a lot built environment (in the Bronx). There are serious consequences if there is no appropriate marsh lands for the water to drain into. The rainwater then floods those areas. This has to do with the environment. We should integrate proper drainage into ongoing and future projects. With environmental changes we have had storms where the Major Deegan gets flooded. The parkways always get flooded. We should get other committees, Parks & E & S to dovetail.

Mary Ellen Gibbs: 2727 Kappock street they took away the greenery, built something with pavement to slow traffic and now it floods, it creates a lot of water.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Josh Land