

(Draft Minutes Pending Approval)
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
March 18, 2021

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom Video / Audio Conference

Committee Members Present:

Dan Padernacht (Chair)
Sylvia Alexander
Margaret Donato
David Gellman
Mary Ellen Gibbs (CCM)
Ed Green (Vice Chair)
Georgia Santiago
Deb Travis (Vice Chair)

Committee Members Absent:

Joyce Campbell Priveterre.

Guests:

Sam (AM Dinowitz), Joyce Moran, Rosemary Ginty (BXC8), Gia, Eric Kollin, Rose Sandak, Jill Shaifer, Burt Bragin, Michael Amabile, Len Greco, Robin Weber, Fred Grumm, Alessandra Cozzi, Steve Weinstein, Phyllis Dichek, Stacy Sewell, Camelia Tepelus.

Committee Chair Dan Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

1. Announcement of Committee Members and Guests

Chair Padernacht took a roll-call of Committee members and introduced guests.

2. Discussion of channeling and speed bumps at intersection of Independence Avenue and West 235th St., West 236th St., West 237th St., West 239th St.

Chair Padernacht stated he had been contacted by community residents voicing concerns about this proposal. They didn't have the opportunity to speak at last month's T&T meeting, so rather than have the full board vote on the resolution he decided to bring it back to committee to be discussed further.

Eric Kollin stated barriers would prevent cars from entering the non-parking areas on Independence Ave. in front of his building and this would have a negative effect on residents of

the building. He stated it would prevent Access-A-Ride, ambulances and taxi's from picking up elderly and disabled passengers and would also cause Amazon, Fedex and other delivery vehicles to double park, causing traffic to cross double yellow lines to go around them, which would lead to potential accidents. He sated it would also have an effect on city snow removal.

Eric Kolin presented photos to demonstrate his rational against the barriers. He stated the residents of his building are opposed to adding barriers.

Rose Sandak voiced her opposition to the delineators in front of 3901 Independence Ave. and was concerned that the bike lanes being tabled by the T&T Committee would be brought back up again.

Committee Vice Chair Deb Travis stated there is no motive to bring back the bike lane proposal the community overwhelming objected to.

Terrence Moran, resident of 3901 Independence Ave. stated he had concerns about the speed bumps making things worse. He stated cars drive right through the crosswalks to avoid speed bumps. He asked if accident statistics were available.

Deb Travis stated there were 7 pedestrian injuries, 1 bicyclist injury, 4 motorist injuries, 55 crashes, and 6 crashes involving trucks on Independence Ave between 232nd St to 249th St. between 2015-2020.

Gia stated that she feels the residents of the neighborhood were being punished for the actions of a few people engaging in illegal activities.

Joyce Moran asked if anyone decided to include residents of the Independence Ave area when putting together the working group making these decisions. She said her building was not approached. She asked where the accidents were occurring.

Deb Travis stated co-ops in the area were notified by BXC8. She presented a map of where the accidents occurred (NYC Crash Mapper).

Steve Weinstein suggested red light cameras would be a better solution than speed bumps.

Chair Padernacht stated BXC8 has requested speed cameras and are waiting for a response to that request.

Eric Kollin suggested that 239th St. and 240th St. are aesthetically more suburban-looking streets and adding flexible delineators would give the area a more urban look that would be less desirable for many of the residents that moved to the community specifically because they prefer a more suburban environment.

The committee unanimously agreed to modify the resolution and remove the flexible delineators on the Northwest corner of 239th St. and Independence Ave in the working groups proposal.

The committee unanimously agreed to modify the resolution and remove the flexible delineators at the West 240th St. intersection and replacing them with a rubber speed bump in their place.

The committee unanimously agreed to modify the resolution and remove the flexible delineators on the North West corner of the West 237th St. intersection (due to sanitation pick up concerns). 2 delineators at the crosswalk were agreed upon. The 2 that preceded the crosswalk were determined to be an obstruction and should be removed.

3. Discussion of traffic light at Independence Avenue and West 237th St.

Deb Travis stated that she believes the intersection would feel safer if there were a light there and she spoke to community members that supported a traffic light at this location.

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green stated a community resident at the previous meeting had expressed concerns about traffic getting backed up in this area due to cars coming off the Henry Hudson Parkway at 237th St. and also because the traffic lights would be spaced too close to other traffic lights which could also contribute to traffic congestion.

Committee Member David Gellman also expressed concerns about traffic backup at this location.

Ed Green stated DOT has a history of implementing street configuration projects unfavorable to the community and he would be against asking DOT for a feasibility study for anything that didn't have overwhelming community consensus.

Committee Member Sylvia Alexander stated there are Crossing Guards at that intersection during school hours and doesn't believe there should be a light there.

Mary Ellen Gibbs stated she feels a traffic light would make things safer for children.

Rosemary Ginty stated the issue of traffic lights on Independence Avenue has been a longstanding issue for the community and schools and the traffic lights at 235th St & 236th St. were designed to assist the schools and were deemed sufficient to ensure school safety in the area.

The committee voted on whether or not DOT should do a feasibility study on a traffic light at 237th St. & Independence Ave.

In favor: Donato, Gibbs, Padernacht, Travis

Opposed: Alexander, Gellman, Green

The Committee voted 4-3 in favor of a feasibility study by DOT. This item will go before the full board for a vote.

4. Street paving requests for the Community Board

Chair Padernacht asked the committee to email the Board office any streets they think need to be resurfaced. Our goal is to get the street-resurfacing list to DOT by May 15th.

Deb Travis suggested 238th St. between Independence and Blackstone be put on the paving list.

Joyce Moran suggested West 240th St. be put on the paving list. Chair Padernacht stated it was on our priority list.

5. Committee Budget Requests

Chair Padernacht read a draft of the T&T Committee's expense budget requests:

- 1) Install ADA accessible curb cuts throughout Community Board 8.
- 2) Install accessory pedestrian signals (auditory chirping signals) throughout Community Board 8 near school crossings, senior centers and major intersections.
- 3) Install countdown pedestrian traffic signals throughout Community Board 8.
- 4) MTA restore full BX20 service.
- 5) Increase funding for School Crossing Guards throughout Community Board 8.
- 6) Clean up and repaint step street located on Broadway between West 231st St. and West 232nd St.

Chair Padernacht stated read a draft of the T&T Committee's capital budget requests:

- 1) Create a sidewalk on the North side of West 254th St. from Riverdale Avenue to Palisade Ave and rehabilitation of the infrastructure on the street to provide for adequate drainage.
- 2) Rehabilitate step-street and Summit Place between Heath Ave and Bailey Ave.
- 3) Rehabilitate step street at Broadway between West 231st St. and West 234th St.
- 4) Perform a feasibility study for replacing the pedestrian walkway at West 235th St. over the Henry Hudson Parkway.
- 5) Build a sidewalk staircase connecting Independence Avenue from 5900 Arlington Ave to West 251st St.
- 6) Increase the resurfacing of streets in community Board 8 to 15 lane miles.
- 7) Install elevator at West 242nd St. elevated train.
- 8) Provide funding to connect Goulden Ave with Dickinson Ave at the intersection of Sedgwick Ave to create one safe intersection for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Ed Green suggested a joint capital budget request with the Public Safety Committee for cameras at the subway stations on the #1 line at 242nd St., 238th St., 231st St., and 225th St.

Deb Travis suggested reconstructing the sidewalk on the North side of West 235th St. between Independence Ave and Henry Hudson Parkway.

Deb Travis suggested reconstructing the sidewalk on the East side of Independence Avenue between 240th St. and 242nd St.

Deb Travis suggested improving connections for bicycles across the Broadway Bridge. Chair Padernacht stated DOT had a plan to do this.

Deb Travis suggested the Henry Hudson Bridge walkway area was not adequate for bicycles and bike accessibility would provide needed to access the Greenway on the other side of the bridge. She suggested it needs a study. Chair Padernacht stated MTA has made it clear that bikes are not supposed to be ridden in that area. He stated that renovating the bridge to suit this purpose would cost 125 million dollars.

Mary Ellen Gibbs stated 261st St. by the bus stop has broken asphalt and suggested having the street repaired. Chair Padernacht suggested we contact DOT and inquire about it.

Deb Travis stated she often hears complaints about it being too dark on the North side of the street on Reservoir Ave from Sedgwick Ave to Goulden Ave, and if there could be decorative style park lighting it would be appreciated by neighborhood residents.

Chair Padernacht stated he would put together a final draft of budgetary items for the next T&T Committee meeting.

The committee unanimously approved February's T&T Committee minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm.

Dan Padernacht
Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee

Minutes submitted by Traffic and Transportation Committee Vice Chair Ed Green.