

(Draft Minutes Pending Approval)
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
June 17th, 2021

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom Video / Audio Conference

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Margaret Donato
Joyce Campbell Priveterre
Georgia Santiago

Guests:

Nivardo Lopez (BXDOTC), Aurora De'Armendi, Nat Solomon, Eric Bell, Vittorio Bugatti.

Committee Chair Dan Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.

Announcement of Committee Members and Guests:

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

1. Resident request for No Standing Zone on south side of Stephenson Place along retaining wall to Fort Independence playground:

Mark (Guest) stated cars with placards are parking in this area and it prevents street sweeping and snow plowing, causing conditions to deteriorate.

Resolution to approve the request was passed unanimously by the committee 5-0.

Yes votes: Dan Padernacht, Silvia Alexander, Mary Ellen Gibbs, David Gellman, Ed Green.

2. DOT proposal for an enhanced crosswalk at Greystone Ave. & West 242nd Street:

This matter is being continued for further discussion from the May Traffic & Transportation meeting which has a greater background of the project. Please see the May minutes for additional information on the topic.

BXDOTC Nivardo Lopez discussed traffic analysis of the area in question.

Committee member David Gellman questioned why there is a no standing zone that is taking up potential parking spaces.

BXDOTC Lopez stated he will inquire into this matter and get back to Chair Padernacht when he gets an answer.

Eric Bell (Guest) stated that removing the parking spot is helpful to cars making a left-hand turn.

Committee Member Mary Ellen Gibbs stated that the pedestrian crosswalk would be helpful to people with disabilities and the elderly.

BXDOTC Lopez stated if traffic volume was higher, DOT would not be installing the crosswalk, for safety reasons.

Chair Padernacht asked BXDOTC Lopez when DOT is planning to install the crosswalk. BXDOTC Lopez stated the crosswalk would be installed sometime during the summer.

Chair Padernacht inquired if DOT has any accident data for the intersection in question.

BXDOTC Lopez stated there has been no one killed or injured at this intersection.

Chair Padernacht stated the next full Board meeting will not be until September, so any vote on a resolution would not be until then.

Chair Padernacht asked BXDOTC Lopez if DOT planned to install the crosswalk anyway. BXDOTC Lopez stated "yes".

Chair Padernacht called a vote on the DOT proposal:

In favor: D. Gellman; D. Travis

Opposed: S. Alexander; M. Donato; M.E. Gibbs; E. Green; D. Padernacht

The resolution to approve the request failed.

Chair Padernacht stated there have been no accidents in the area and he does not feel this decision needs to be rushed at this moment. He also stated that for process purposes it is always best to get community support.

3. Resident request for traffic safety measures in Van Cortlandt Village:

Modification of traffic island at Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West:

Chair Padernacht stated the island was a bad idea and there has already been one death there. He also stated the intersection is dangerous and asked BXDOTC Lopez to study it.

Reinstall yellow caution light at bend between Stephenson Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West:

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green stated the flashing numerical countdown timer that used to be at the intersection was replaced by a flashing "hand" signal and the numerical countdown timer should be reinstalled.

BXDOTC Lopez stated he would find out why the countdown timer was removed, and if it turns out that it was removed in error he would have it reinstalled.

Nat Solomon (Guest) stated the caution light had been knocked down during a storm and was never replaced.

Traffic study for crosswalk at Stephenson Place and Sedgwick Avenue at 3850 Sedgwick Avenue:

Chair Padernacht stated Sedgwick Avenue used to have 3 travel lanes and a parking lane in this area.

BXDOTC Lopez stated he does not believe this is a proper 22 feet for 2 travel lanes.

Committee Vice Chair Deb Travis stated there is a visibility issue for pedestrians and cars when they are making a left turn on Sedgwick Avenue to Van Cortlandt Avenue.

BXDOTC Lopez stated this is a reoccurring challenge that he intends to bring up with a higher level of DOT Management. He stated it does not qualify for traffic control and he would have more information about this matter in September.

Vote was taken for a letter of request to DOT for traffic study of this area for pedestrian and vehicle conflicts.

Mary Ellen Gibbs: Yes; Ed Green: Yes; Dan Padernacht: Yes; Deb Travis: Yes.

Adjust the timing of the traffic light eastbound at Van Cortlandt Park South and Dickinson Avenue to relieve back-up of vehicles:

Nat Solomon stated the traffic gets backed-up behind the traffic light at Van Cortlandt Park South and Dickinson.

Speed camera on Sedgwick Avenue between Giles Place and Stephenson Place:

Ed Green stated he would need to see data indicating there have been accidents in the area due to speeding. He suggested a speed camera in this area could cause residents to pay expensive speeding tickets unnecessarily.

BXDOTC Lopez stated accident data would be needed to justify installing a speed camera.

Request for no honking signs in area:

BXDOTC Lopez stated DOT removed a lot of “no honking” signs and are not installing them anymore.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Traffic and Transportation Committee minutes for May were unanimously approved.

5. Outstanding Business / New Business:

Vittorio Bugatti (Guest) stated there is a flooding problem on Henry Hudson Parkway East by West 236th Street. He stated it becomes an issue when it rains and stated he has photos of how bad it gets.

Chair Padernacht suggested Mr. Bugatti email his photos to BXCB8 and the Board will contact DOT about it.

BXDOTC Lopez stated the area is on DOT's schedule for repairing.

Chair Padernacht thanked Committee Vice Chair Deb Travis for constructing a new Excel sheet for street resurfacing and stated the sheet was sent to members of the committee.

Mary Ellen Gibbs suggested Netherland Avenue between West 235th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway be added to the repaving list. Chair Padernacht added it to the list.

Chair Padernacht thanked the committee for their contributions, dedication and time during his tenure as Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Dan Padernacht
Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee

Minutes submitted by Committee Vice Chair Ed Green, pending approval.