

(Draft Minutes Pending Approval)

**Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8**

October 15th, 2020

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Eider Garcia

Chair Dan Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:06pm, conducted a roll call for attendance and introduced the guests:

Patrick Hill (Councilman Cohen's Office), Sam (Assemblyman Dinowitz Office), BX DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez), Captain Melendez (Commanding Officer of the 50th Precinct).

NYC DOT proposal to convert the two-way street at West 238th Street between Sedgwick Avenue and Cannon Place to a one-way street traveling westbound only:

Chair Padernacht asked BX DOT Commissioner Lopez if he knew the number of accidents on the street in question.

Commissioner Lopez stated he did not know offhand, and would have to check what data DOT had available.

Committee Vice Chair Deb Travis inquired as to what type of information DOT needed from community members to help set up street designs that promote good directional traffic flow.

Commissioner Lopez stated that community members should bring problem intersections and corridors to DOT's attention.

Guest, Laurie Roddy suggested a 3-way stop at West 238th Street and Cannon Place. She also suggested that stop signs in the area needed to be marked more clearly. She stated that removing illegally parked cars using placards and adding speed bumps would be helpful and there is no good reason for large trucks to be able to drive down the street in question.

Commissioner Lopez stated commercial vehicles are only permitted on this street if they are making deliveries. He stated that a truck route map is available on the DOT website.

Chair Padernacht stated he would put this item on next month's Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting agenda so community members could discuss this issue further.

Street Racing on local streets in the community:

Chair Padernacht noted problem areas for excessive speeding: Independence Avenue between West 232nd Street and West 246th Street, Henry Hudson Parkway and Major Deegan Expressway.

Chair Padernacht stated BXC8 had a meeting with DOT & 50th Precinct officials to discuss this matter. The Traffic and Transportation and Public Safety Committee Chairs and the BXC8 Chair signed a letter requesting DOT install speed bumps, increase enforcement on local streets and utilize Highway One and State Troopers to address the speeding problem.

Chair Padernacht stated he personally witnessed stepped-up enforcement on Independence Ave on 237th Street.

Captain Melendez, Commanding Officer of the 50th Precinct stated he had a meeting with NY State Troopers and they are aware of the speeding problem. He stated that Highway One had one Officer working on this issue; 5 summonses were issued, 1 apprehension was made and 1 vehicle was confiscated.

Captain Melendez stated there was an accident last night (10/14) that resulted in two "high end" cars crashing into each other at 236th Street & Riverdale Avenue due to excessive speed. A Mercedes Benz flipped over, four people were injured and none of them were residents of our area.

Captain Melendez stated that reckless driving or speeding alone does not constitute a necessity for officers to engage in a high-speed pursuit of a vehicle.

Chair Padernacht stated he put together a working group to create design changes for streets, to make speeding more difficult or undesirable for drivers.

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green inquired about any progress being made with regards to data recorded on Argus cameras.

Captain Melendez stated tickets are being issued due to cameras catching license plates on vehicles. He stated leasing companies and LLC's are renting vehicles to individuals that speed. He stated vehicles cannot be confiscated unless they are involved in a crime.

Guest, Coleen B stated 230th Street & 231st Street near Ewen Park is being used for street racing.

Captain Melendez stated that the gas station near that area is attracting many of the racers due to its proximity to the highway. He also stated that the 50th Precinct has a camera by the gas station.

Guest, Buzz Roddy stated that on 238th Street there is a lot of noise from "suped-up cars" with no mufflers that aren't speeding but are nonetheless making a great deal of noise.

Guest, Emilio Martin stated that PS 360 on Kingsbridge Terrace was a school zone but there was not enough speed bumps in the area, cars have been racing down the block and there have been plenty of accidents on record.

Captain Melendez stated he was not aware of any issues in the area in question but will have his NCO's look into it.

Guest, Joanie stated that Irwin Avenue, Corlear Avenue and Waldo Avenue have drag racing problems and residents have constantly called 311 but nothing has been done to properly address the problem.

Guest, Anselm Fernandez stated that on 232nd Street (Corlear Ave & Tibbett Ave) noise goes on all night even when cars are not speeding. Double parked cars are there making noise.

Captain Melendez stated Mr. Fernandez should call 311 and if the car is blocking a hydrant or double-parked they can be issued a summons, as per Vision Zero. He also stated that DEP has sound meters but the 50th Precinct does not.

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green suggested BXC88 and community members should coordinate efforts to propose legislation to restrict or regulate excessively noisy vehicles.

Guest, Kevin Johns stated that a kid on a motorcycle was speeding around the Van Cortlandt Village area regularly.

Captain Melendez stated that the 50th Precinct had recently confiscated eight scooters.

Guest, Cesar Medina stated that he was seeing a lot of paper New Jersey license plates in the area of 3710 Riverdale Avenue. He stated that they all seem to come out after 9pm. He also stated that many cars are "running the light" at 231st Street and Riverdale Ave.

7 Dash Place. Discussion of concerns of retaining wall on Dash Place side of property:

Chair Padernacht stated that he and the BXC8 District Manager plan to reach out to the Developer and request the Builders pavement plan and ask them to present it to the public. This will be a future item for the committee to discuss.

Proposal by community residents to add stop sign and crosswalk at intersection of Mosholu Avenue and Post Road:

Chair Padernacht proposed a separate working group for this intersection along Mosholu Avenue. Committee members & residents will report to the Committee next month.

BX DOT Commissioner Lopez noted that the bike lane proposal for Mosholu Avenue would be brought back to the Committee. He stated that nothing was done by DOT this year because of COVID, but they hope to address it in 2021.

New Business

Emilio Martin stated that the school zone by PS 360 is turning into a drag racing strip and the existing speed bumps are too far apart. He proposed an additional speed bump be put in to discourage drivers that speed in the area (North side of 2801 Kingsbridge Terrace).

Committee Member Georgia Santiago stated that there is constant noise at Broadway and 230th Street and there are a lot of people hanging out in the parking lot making noise.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Dan Padernacht
Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee