

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting

Bronx Community Board 8

November 16, 2023, 7pm ET

Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

Committee Members Present: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, Ingrid DeLeon, Mary Ellen Gibbs and Joshua Land

Committee Members Absent: David Gellman, Eliane Lobos, Theodore Morris

**Opening Remarks**

Committee Chair Buford welcomed Committee Members, Elected Officials and the Community. She then outlined the meeting process.

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Buford informed the Community that the CB8 office receives notice of various closures within the District due to work being performed by city and state agencies as well as local utility companies and indicated information related to the closures are routinely posted to the CB 8 social media platforms and encouraged the Community to check the platforms for projects that may impact their neighborhoods.

**Presentation of West 254th Street Plan and Capital Plan.**

NYC DOT – Darisa Cruz, Deputy Bronx Commissioner, Renee Lucian and capital team, Arginder Singh and Hayden Benjamin and Alina Nivona

Ms. Alina Nivona presented the interim safety plan and reviewed measures implemented between Railroad Terrace and Arlington Ave. In response to Committee Member inquiry, DOT informed that the request was made by SAR Academy. She explained that the street is narrow, lacks a sidewalk and visibility was and hazardous to kids walking home from school. She informed that the construction of sidewalks was slated for 2025 and the current measures were implemented to better protect pedestrians on an interim basis. It was also noted that the permanent build out would include five feet of sidewalk on each side of the roadway.

The community expressed concerns regarding the number of parking spaces lost due the project and noted that the current work resulted in the loss of approximately 13 parking spots. DOT indicated that the 13 spots were taken away to permit sidewalk installation and also provide vehicular access. DOT explained that West 254th Street is very narrow. The typical roadway is 8 – 33 feet. In order to accommodate two lanes, 34 feet is needed. As such, only able to accommodate parking on one side at most of the locations. DOT stated that it continues to work on the design of the street and remodel. However, it noted that measures will include accommodation of emergency vehicles needing to make turns and intersections will be daylighted to provide a better line of sight for emergency vehicles, service trucks and drivers, in general. There were existing *No Parking Anytime* restrictions east of Arlington Ave and switched to *No Standing Anytime* to ensure that travel is accommodated.

DOT informed that it would review loss of additional spaces lost in surrounding streets due to the conversion and would also follow-up on turning radiuses and street width.

### **Curb Management Plan**

DOT informed that it did not have a curb action management plan presentation. They will share the report to CB-8 but don't have a current action plan. Deputy Commissioner Cruz provided an overview of the program and informed that curb management is a way to better regulate the curb and accommodate different uses. It will better address issues, including rate increases of parking meters and loading zones, usually used for a commercial corridor. The report takes into account the differences of each community.

Chair Buford expressed concern over the rollout and implementation of programs. She further noted that in 2024-2025, NYC will expand the trash collection program and mandate that residential buildings use large bins for trash collection. The use of these bins will result in the loss of several parking spaces outside and near buildings as it was reported that each bin will take up at least four parking spaces. She inquired about the measures the DOT will take to look at the impact of all projects, in the aggregate, rather than continually rolling programs out without consideration of consequences or impact to residents from prior or future projects. Will DOT look at programs in their totality, or must districts and residents continue to plead with DOT.

### **Old Business**

Chair Buford thanked DOT for addressing questions posed at the September meeting and informed that the DOT responses were shared with Committee Members.

#### **Angle Parking on Broadway between W 228th and 230th Streets**

DC Cruz provided an update to the initial DOT response and informed that angle parking will be returned to the west side of Broadway between West 228th and West 230th Streets.

#### **Intersection of W 235th Street and Oxford Avenue**

DC Cruz advised that the report on the traffic study of W 235th Street and Oxford Avenue should be available by the end of December 2023.

#### **Citi Bike Program**

Committee Members and the community expressed concern over the rollout of the Citi Bike Program. Specifically, Vice Chair Calhoun advised that the community was upset due to the installation of two stations on Marble Hill Avenue at 225th and 227th Streets, one of which, the 227th Street location, was not included in the plan presented at prior meetings. It was noted that each location takes up 3 parking spaces, a loss of 6 spaces in one block and in an area directly adjacent to the long-term Broadway Bridge project that has already resulted in the loss of eight parking spaces along W 225th Street.

DC Cruz advised that issues related to the Citi Bike programs can be shared with the bike share team. She informed that the goal of the program is to have stations within 5 minutes of each other to increase usage. She also noted that the program was intended to promote a culture to transit with a multi-modal

experience, get on a bike to the nearest station. The community was also asked to include photos with any concerns and also provide additional options, if available.

The Committee also reminded DOT of the request to have stations installed near the other Metro North Stations in the District, Spuyten Duyvil and Riverdale. It was also noted that the rollout was different from the plan presented at the September 2023 T&T Meeting.

Several community members expressed concern about the installation of Citi Bikes in and around the Amalgamated Houses, particularly along Van Cortlandt Park South where two stations were installed resulting in the loss of five parking spots at each location. Greatly impacting the Amalgamated residents and staff at St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm.

Chair Buford encouraged the community to send their concerns related to the program to the CB 8 Board Office so that it could be aggregated and submitted to DOT. She indicated that there was no submission deadline. She also informed that she was working to schedule a meeting with the new DOT Borough Commissioner, Anthony Perez, and would address the concerns with him.

### **New Business**

#### **Orloff Avenue**

The community expressed concern regarding the loss of parking on Orloff Avenue. DC Cruz advised that the restrictions were temporary and related to paving work and not connected to the Citi Bike rollout.

#### **Henry Hudson Parkway**

Committee Member Gibbs noted that, in recent weeks, trucks have gotten stuck under overpasses along the Henry Hudson Parkway and suggested that NYS DOT install signs near entry ramps noting height restrictions. A community member also suggested the installation of a height bar that would deter trucks from entering.

#### **Dead End Sections at Broadway and W 237th and 231st Streets**

A community member expressed concern about signage and parking at two dead end streets, W 231 and W237 Streets at Broadway and the Major Deegan Expressway. He noted that there are *No Parking Anytime*, *Street Cleaning* and *2-Hour Parking* signs that appear to contradict each other. He noted that the streets are rarely cleaned and that people are being ticketed. Would like better information on the usage of the streets.

DOT suggested that the individual report the concern to NYC via 311 to request Sanitation review the locations and send a copy of the complaint to the CB 8 Board Office. DOT will work with Sanitation to determine proper signage.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.