

(DRAFT Pending Committee Approval)

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
March 21, 2024

<https://youtu.be/btsZY8ExCaA?si=7AcoAg4tiXZLGoZU>

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

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

Committee Members Absent: Theodore Morris, Joshua Land and Eliane Lobos

Opening Remarks

Committee Chair Buford welcomed Committee Members and the Community and outlined the meeting process.

Approval Item: Minutes (February 15, 2024 Meeting)

Ms. Buford referred the Committee Members to the draft minutes of the February 15, 2024, Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting for review and approval. Following discussion, the Committee approved the minutes with the noted corrections.

In favor: S. Alexander, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

NYS-DOT Update on Henry Hudson Parkway Project Concerns

NYS DOT represented by Susan McClellan presented an update on the Henry Hudson Parkway Project, including the intersection of Independence Avenue and West 232nd Street. Ms. McClellan advised that the project remains on track for completion by September 2024. As a follow-up to the February 2024 Traffic and Transportation meeting, Ms. McClellan discussed measures to improve bus stops and pedestrian access along Independence Avenue due to the rerouting of the local and express buses from Henry Hudson Parkway. She informed that the agency was procuring a solar panel lamp as they cannot tap into the power lines. She further advised that the MTA would create temporary paved bus stops to better protect pedestrians.

Ms. McClellan discussed the stone cladding and informed that the cladding was not in scope for the project and would not be touched. The Committee reiterated that the HHP is part of a designated state scenic parkway and also a National Historic Highway and, if touched, the cladding along the walls adjacent to the parkway travel lanes should be restored to match the rest of the stone cladding along the scenic parkway. Ms. McClellan advised that she would review the concern and report back to the Committee at the April 2024 meeting.

Ms. McClellan informed that she discussed the community concerns about the closure of the southbound HHP West sidewalk at 232nd Street to pedestrians. She informed that the contractor advised that the closure remained necessary as heavy equipment was being stored at the location. Residents and Committee Members, again, expressed concern about the closure noting that continued closure presents a danger to pedestrians.

After discussion and ON MOTION, the Traffic and Transportation Committee adopted the following:

Henry Hudson Parkway at W 232nd Street

Whereas, at the February 15, 2024 meeting of the Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Committee (the Committee), the Committee requested that the NYS Department of Transportation request its contractor to remove equipment and materials stored on the south sidewalk of the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass at W 232nd Street to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street; and

Whereas, at the March 21, 2024 T&T Committee meeting, NYS Department of Transportation reported that the contractor informed that use of the sidewalk to store equipment and material was essential to construction operations; and

Whereas, the T&T Committee determined that the closure of the south sidewalk of the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass at W 232nd Street adversely impacts pedestrian safety.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 requests that NYS Department of Transportation remove the equipment and materials being stored on the south sidewalk of the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass at W 232nd Street to allow pedestrians to safely cross at the intersection.

In favor: S. Alexander, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, D. Gellman, M. Gibbs

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

NYC DDC Update on the Safety Improvement Plans for West 254th Street

Representatives from NYC Department of Design and Construction presented safety improvements slated for the West 254th Street corridor (Available here: [PowerPoint Presentation \(cityofnewyork.us\)](https://www.cityofnewyork.us)). Specifically, they advised that the enhancements would improve pedestrian safety and accessibility near the Salanter Akiba Riverdale (SAR) Academy on West 254th Street and along West 254th Street from Railroad Terrace to Riverdale Avenue (the MNR Corridor). The agency advised that the MNR Corridor is missing sidewalks and curbs, has poor roadway surfaces, lacks ADA compliant pedestrian ramps and has poor visibility.

They informed that, in 2023, temporary improvements were made along the MNR Corridor between Arlington Avenue and Railroad Terrace and noted that specific improvements included installation of a temporary pedestrian path along north curb, placement of flexible delineators to add protection for

pedestrians, painted pavement markings to organize traffic flow, installation of all-way stop controlled intersections, and new crosswalks on West 254 Street at Sycamore Avenue and at Independence Avenue. Community members informed DDC that drivers have managed to navigate the spacing of the flexible delineators and have been parking in the area and forcing pedestrians to walk in the street and recommended that DDC adjust the spacing.

Proposed permanent improvements include streetscape amenities (trees and planting strips), upgraded lighting and signage. Sewer and water mains are also expected to be modified and would include new catch basins and green infrastructures.

DDC discussed project timelines and noted that construction is scheduled to commence in the Fall of 2025. They advised that DDC planned to return to the Committee in the Fall of 2024 at which point 75% of the design plans would be complete. Given the length and breadth of the project, the Committee requested that DDC present the proposed improvements at the June 2024 Committee meeting to allow greater community input.

Old Business

NYC DOT: Van Cortlandt Park South and Bailey Avenue Safety Improvements

Deputy Borough Commissioner Cruz advised that the project was now slated to start in May 2024. In response to Committee inquiry, DC Cruz advised DOT determined emergency vehicles, tractor trailers and buses would be able to navigate the redesigned intersection. The Committee also inquired about congestion and pollution studies and were advised they were not conducted.

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After discussion and ON MOTION, the Traffic and Transportation Committee adopted the following:

Intersection of Van Cortlandt Park South and Bailey Avenue

Whereas, at the February 15, 2024 meeting of the Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Committee (the Committee), the NYC Department of Transportation presented plans to redesign the intersection of Van Cortlandt Park South and Bailey Avenue (the Proposed Redesign); and

Whereas, the Proposed Redesign will increase traffic congestion in the surrounding area and cause increased traffic along the Major Deegan Expressway approaching at exit 11; and

Whereas, the Proposed Redesign will exacerbate the major backups already occurring at that intersection and does not take into account the harmful impact the increased traffic will have on the community, including increased congestion and pollution.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, Bronx Community Board 8 (CB 8, Bronx) opposes the NYC Department of Transportation proposal to redesign the intersection of Van Cortlandt Park South (VCPS) and Bailey Avenue (the Proposed Redesign), including the closure of the slip lanes at the northbound off ramp of the Major Deegan

Expressway, Exit 11, and the removal of the slip lane from the eastbound lane of VCPS turning southbound onto Bailey Ave; and be it

Resolved, that CB 8, Bronx opposes the Proposed Redesign as closure of the slip lanes will adversely affect tractor trailers by reducing the turning radius and create a hazard to other vehicles and pedestrians and increase congestion and pollution in the area; and be it

Resolved, that CB 8, Bronx opposes the closure of the slip at the southwest corner of the intersection of VCPS and Bailey Avenue and the addition of a concrete bulb as closure of the slip and creation of the bulb will create a traffic hazard as large vehicles will have difficulty turning; and be it

Resolved, that CB 8, Bronx requests that NYC DOT thoroughly investigate the creation of a sidewalk/bike lane alongside the off ramp of the Major Deegan Expressway; and be it

Resolved, that CB 8, Bronx requests that NYC DOT halt implementation of the Proposed Redesign until the traffic studies recommended by the CB 8, Bronx T&T Committee are fully investigated and findings are reported to CB 8, Bronx and presented to the T&T Committee for community input, including any design changes, prior to any final decision and implementation of the Proposed Redesign, currently slated for May 2024.

In favor: S. Alexander, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, M. Gibbs

Opposed: None

Abstain: D. Gellman

Intersection of West 235th Street and Oxford Avenue

DC Cruz advised the study of the intersection was completed and DOT determined that the intersection did not warrant a traffic light and indicated that the current all-way stop was adequate. The Committee informed that drivers do not obey the signs and requested study of additional measures such as speed bumps and DC Cruz advised DOT would explore that option.

3616 Henry Hudson Parkway

A community member clarified that the building was requesting to have a “No Parking” sign installed and indicated that pictures of the proposed location were shared with the CB 8 Board Office for Committee consideration.

FY 2026 Capital and Expense Priorities

Committee Member Gellman, in his capacity as Budget Chair, reviewed the budget process. He recommended that the Committee remove the step streets from the list and indicated that the District Manager, Board Chair and Budget Chair would prepare a separate communication to the Borough

President regarding funding. In light of that, Committee Chair Buford advised that she would send a revised list of recommendations and asked that the Committee review and prioritize and noted that the list needed to be submitted to the Budget Chair by April 19.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

