

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting  
Bronx Community Board 8  
[Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting Recording September 2024](#)

September 19, 2024, 7pm ET

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Sylvia Alexander, Debora Allen, Kelli Buford, Wayne DeBeatham, Yngrid DeLeon, Margaret Della, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Rosemary Ginty and Joshua Land

Committee Members Absent: Christopher Calhoun

Board Members & Staff Present: Julie Reyes, David Gellman and Ardhmir Malziu

Guests: Bronx DOT Commissioner Anthony Perez, DOT Rep. Daniel Wagner, Izania Gonzalez (Riverdale Press), Peter Clancy (Horace Mann School)

**Opening Remarks**

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

**Approval Item: Minutes (June 20, 2024 Meeting)**

Mr. Land referred the Committee Members to the draft minutes of the June 20, 2024, Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting for review and approval. Members advised that there appeared to be a malfunction with the videoconferencing system and recommended that the meeting minutes be amended to reflect the issue. Following discussion, the Committee approved the minutes with the noted corrections.

In favor: S. Alexander, D. Allen, K. Buford, W. DeBeatham, Y. DeLeon, M. Della, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty and J. Land

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**Information Item: Update on NYC-DOT Safety Improvements at Van Cortlandt Avenue South and Bailey Avenue**

NYC DOT represented Borough Commissioner, Anthony Perez and Dan Wagner provided an update on the proposed safety improvements at the intersection of Van Cortlandt Avenue South (VCAS) and Bailey Avenue, including the north bound I-87 (Major Deegan Expressway) Exit 11 off and on ramps, and presented to the Committee in February 2024. Commissioner Perez advised that NYC DOT received comments from the Community Board regarding the proposed and advised that the plans were adjusted to incorporate some of the Board's concerns, namely, the east bound flow of traffic along VCAS from the southbound exit to Bailey Avenue and asked Mr. Wagner to present the revised plans.

Mr. Wagner advised that NYC DOT was awaiting input from NYS DOT regarding proposed reconfiguration of the northbound exit ramp. He noted that, in the interim, NYC DOT would continue with Phase 1 of the project, the installation of the east sidewalk to enhance pedestrian access to Van Cortlandt Park and in advance of the arrival of winter. He further informed that additional modifications, Phase 2, were anticipated to occur during the Spring of 2025 and the full project would be completed by Fall 2025. (See, [Project Status Update: Van Cortlandt Park South & Bailey Avenue | September 2024 \(cityofnewyork.us\)](#).) In response to Committee Member inquiry, Mr. Wagner provided vehicle traffic counts of all activities at the intersection. He also advised that pedestrian traffic counts were also available. He also advised that corners would not be closed and pedestrian access would remain at all intersections. Community members inquired about installation of greenery on the new pedestrian island and were advised that Parks could not install trees but noted that NYC DOT would welcome the opportunity to work with local community organizations regarding plantings and trees. Committee members expressed concern regarding notice to the community about the DOT presentation and Chair Land advised that the concerns were noted and the process would be reviewed.

### **Review of FY 2026 Budget Requests**

The Committee reviewed the FY 2026 Committee Capital and Budget Requests submitted on behalf of the Committee and reviewed by the Budget Committee. Committee Members asked that step streets be included in future requests. Budget Committee Chair, David Gellman, advised that the District Manager planned to address the concerns separately with NYC DOT as the step streets are, primarily, unique to the northwest Bronx. Board Chair, Julie Reyes, advised that all budget requests would be submitted to the Community at the October 8, 2024 Budget Meeting and that there may be an opportunity to include the step streets in the final submission to the City. After discussion and ON MOTION, the Committee approved the modified Traffic and Transportation Committee FY 2026 Capital and Budget Requests as presented.

In favor: S. Alexander, D. Allen, K. Buford, W. DeBeatham, Y. DeLeon, M. Della, M. Gibbs, R. Ginty and J. Land

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

### **Committee Organizational Business**

Chair Land advised that several ministerial matters would be discussed at the next meeting, including the appointment of a Vice Chair and Secretary.

### **Approval Item: SAPO Application: Horace Mann School Homecoming Event (October 19, 2024)**

Referring to material provided to the Committee prior to the Meeting, Mr. Peter Clancy presented the request for a Street Activity Permit for the closing of Tibbett Avenue between West 246th Street and College Road on October 19, 2024 from 7:00am until 5:00pm to vehicular traffic for the Horace Mann School Homecoming. In response to Committee inquiries, Mr. Clancy advised that a 15-foot emergency lane would be maintained throughout the closure and approximately 28 parking spaces would be impacted. He further advised that the Head of School Security notified the Fieldston

Property Owners Association (FPOA) of the event. The Committee requested that evidence of FPOA notice and concurrence be provided and also that neighbors directly adjacent to the school be notified. Chair Land advised that he would ask the Board Office to contact FPOA. Mr. Clancy also advised that the school had an Idling Policy and that he anticipated that the Horace Mann community would adhere to the policy. Mr. Clancy advised that approximately 2,000 people were expected to attend and indicated that the event had been held in the past without incident. Lastly, he advised that School Security would be on site.

After discussion and ON MOTION, the Committee adopted the following

**WHEREAS**, Peter Clancy representing Horace Mann School attended the Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting on 9-19-24 to ask for support of their SAPO application to celebrate their Homecoming Event on October 19, 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, Horace Mann School is requesting the street closing of Tibbett Avenue between West 246 Street and College Road from 9:00am - 5:00 pm, and

**WHEREAS**, the Homecoming event has been held in the past with no issues, and

**WHEREAS**, 2,000 persons are expected to attend the all-day event, food will only be served in the cafeteria, and there will be on-site Security all day, and

**WHEREAS**, on condition that the Fieldston Property Owners Assoc. as well as the residences nearby will be notified of the event and a fifteen-foot lane for emergency vehicles and resident vehicles will be available on the closed street,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Bronx Community Board No, 8 Traffic & Transportation Committee approves this SAPO application.

In favor (7): S. Alexander, K. Buford, W. DeBeatham, Y. DeLeon, M. Della, M. Gibbs, and J. Land

Opposed (2): D. Allen, R. Ginty

Abstain: None

**Dining Out NYC Sidewalk Application – Casa Tobala Corp.**

Chair Land advised that the application previously initially included in the meeting materials and was removed as NYC DOT attached the incorrect drawings to the application and that the issue was remedied, and the materials were resubmitted earlier in the day and distributed to the Committee for consideration. Committee Members expressed concern regarding the timing of the submission and that it was not prudent to ask the Committee to consider the application as the Committee did not have sufficient time to review. Other Members advised that the applicant should not be penalized for the agency mix up.

After discussion and ON Motion, the Committee determined that it would consider the application.

In favor: D. Allen, K. Buford, W. DeBeatham, Y. DeLeon, M. Della, M. Gibbs and J. Land

Opposed: S. Alexander, K. Buford and R. Ginty

Abstain: None

Following the vote of the Committee to add the item to the agenda, the Committee approved the application.

In favor: D. Allen, W. DeBeatham, Y. DeLeon, M. Della, M. Gibbs and J. Land

Opposed: S. Alexander and R. Ginty

Abstain: K. Buford

### **Old Business**

MTA Design of 242nd Street Station – A Community Board Member expressed concern over the installation of the elevator on the west side of the station and requested that the Board reach out to the agency to have the elevator relocated to east side of the station entrance. A Committee Member expressed the desire to have a utilization study conducted.

Edsall Avenue leading to Spuyten Duyvil MNR Station – A Community Member requested an update on the milling and repaving of Edsall Avenue. She further advised that the asphalt curb was in complete disrepair and causing flooding in the area. Chair Land advised that he would ask the Board Office to obtain the milling and repaving schedule and follow up accordingly.

Repaving Extension of Tibbett Ave on JFK Campus – Committee Member expressed concern about closure of Tibbett Avenue south of West 230th Street following repaving and was advised that the street would be open to vehicles during school operation. The Committee was also informed that NYC DOE owned the street.

### **New Business**

HHP near 3616 – A resident advised that a chunk of concrete fell off the highway and indicated that a lot of mud forms on the service road when it rains and asked the Committee to contact the appropriate agency to have the matter remediated. The resident was encouraged to contact 311, obtain a complaint number and forward the complaint number to the Board Office so that it could track the matter.

Street Closures: VerVeelen Place and West 236th Street between Broadway and Major Deegan Expressway

A resident requested to have DOT review signage at two dead-end streets located between Broadway and the Major Deegan Expressway, Verveelen Place and West 236th Street. Former Committee Chair and current Member Buford advised that DOT recently reviewed the locations and determined that the signage at both locations was appropriate and indicated that the Board Office had the information.

Renaming West 237th Street between Broadway and the Major Deegan Expressway

A member of the public advised that a petition was submitted to rename the intersection of West 237th Street and Broadway “Stella D’Oro Way” and requested that the Committee consider the

application. The residents were advised the street renaming process was available on the Board website and to submit the application as outlined. Committee Member Ginty advised that the Board Office has historical information regarding naming streets after a business and encouraged the Chair to get the information from the Office and share it with the Committee.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Prepared by: Kelli Buford