

CB8 Traffic and Transit Committee Meeting
September 12th, 2019
Marble Hill Community Center – 5365 Broadway

Committee Members Present:

Sylvia Alexander, Diomarys Escano, Edward Green (Vice Chair), Dan Padernacht (Chair), Tao Moran, Georgia Santiago, I. William Stone.

Committee Members Absent:

Eric Bell (Vice Chair), Margaret Donato, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Myra Joyce.

Guests:

Nivardo Lopez (NYC DOT), Keith Kalb (NYC DOT), Matthew Arancio (NYC DOT), Darisa Cruz (NYC DOT), Emily Riguelme (NYC DOT), Julie Schipper (NYC DOT), Yuvraj Ramsawack (NYC DOT), Charlotte Hammerman, Debbie Appel, Mick Fazio, Luis Lopez, Sinisi Janjusevic, Radmila Janjusevic, F. Lorraine Ray, Kiana Diaz, George Diaz, Tony Edwards, K. Broihier, Anthony Delorbe, Carol Hendricks, Yehia Nag, Sergio Villaverde (BX CB8), Daniel Hammerman, Journey Camargo, Davida Fried, Delano Kross, Grechy Morel, Hussein Dalio, Lisa Daub (BX CB8), Rosemary Ginty (BX CB8), Jose Dallia, Yehia Naji, Anthony Del Orve.

Chair Dan Padernacht called meeting to order at 7:07pm and introduced guests.

1. Request for City Bench Support from Kingsbridge BID

Request from Kingsbridge Business Improvement District to add two City Benches at 190 West 231st Street and 184 West 231st Street.

Katherine Broihier from Kingsbridge BID stated that benches are needed at the proposed locations because people need to sit while waiting for the bus. She stated she has spoken to merchants from Bravo Market, Star Furniture and Rainbow about this issue and they feel benches are needed in the proposed location.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the committee:

WHEREAS, a representative from the Kingsbridge Business Improvement District (“Kingsbridge BID”) appeared at the Traffic and Transportation Committee

seeking a letter of support for its request to the New York City Department of Transportation (“NYC DOT”) to add two City Benches at 190 West 231st Street and 184 West 231st Street;

WHEREAS, the Kingsbridge BID representative stated that benches are needed in the proposed locations because people need to sit while waiting for the bus;

WHEREAS, the Kingsbridge BID representative stated that she has spoken to merchants from Bravo Market, Star Furniture and Rainbow about this issue and they feel benches are needed in the proposed location.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 supports the request from the Kingsbridge BID to place a City Bench at 184 West 231st Street and 190 West 231st Street.

In Favor: S. Alexander; D. Escano; E. Green; T. Moran; D. Padernacht; G. Santiago;
I William Stone

Opposed:

Abstain:

2. NYC DOT proposal to make changes to Broadway between West 230th Street and West 225th Street.

New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) presented the "Better Buses Broadway Improvements Plan" to the Traffic and Transportation Committee. NYC DOT proposes to make changes to Broadway between West 230th Street and West 225th Street:

1. Create a Bus Only lane in one of the southbound travel lanes under the elevated train on Broadway between West 230th Street and West 225th Street between 7:00am and 7:00pm from Monday through Saturday;
2. Restrict parking to create a Truck Loading & Unloading Zone of approximately 140 feet on the southbound service lane of Broadway between West 228th Street and West 225th Street from 8:00am-4:00pm on Monday through Saturday;
3. Permanently prohibit rights turns onto Exterior Street by vehicles traveling northbound on Broadway to assist a “Queue Jump” for buses
4. Change approximately 120 feet of parking on West 228th Street from alternate side to metered parking spots.

The Bronx Borough Commissioner for NYC DOT, Nivardo Lopez, introduced presenters Julie Schipper and Yuvraj Ramsawack.

Julie Shipper stated the proposed plan was put out by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and was identified as a priority because of slow bus speeds. She stated the primary purpose of this plan was to increase bus speeds and DOT was hoping to have the plan implemented by late fall of 2019.

Project Timeline:

- July & August 2019: Gather feedback from bus riders/businesses along corridor
- September 2019: Corridor design presentation to Community Board 8 and finalize plan
- Late Fall: Street design and implementation
- Winter 2020 & Beyond: Post-implementation data & monitoring

Questions and Discussion:

Chair Padernacht asked if the plan's effectiveness relied upon the Broadway southbound service road being clear. Ms. Schipper answered yes.

Chair Padernacht followed that if the service road was not clear, and cars continued to double park in that area, could the plan make congestion worse in the area. DOT answered yes.

Chair Padernacht asked how many parking spots would be shifted from alternate side parking to metered parking on West 228th Street. DOT stated six (6) parking spots.

Committee Member Georgia Santiago asked if metered parking for the nearby church would be affected and where would the people who lived in the projects be able to park their cars. DOT responded that alternate side parking will be affected on West 228th Street.

Committee Member Silvia Alexander asked how cars are supposed to make a left turn if busses are cutting across traffic lanes to make the left.

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green inquired about traffic build up in the area and the involvement of Police traffic enforcement agencies to regulate it.

Committee Member Diomarys Escano inquired about the effectiveness of the jump queue in the proposed area. DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez stated that if DOT doesn't eliminate the right turn onto Exterior St. the jump queue will be ineffective.

Chair Dan Padernacht asked DOT if the bus queue would be affected by vehicles traveling eastbound on West 230th Street making a left turn onto Broadway towards the Major Deegan Expressway that are normally stuck in the intersection after the light turns. DOT did not find this to be a problem.

Journer Camargo asked how busses will be able to get in the left lane from the proposed bus lane without causing more traffic. Ms. Camargo raised concerns about the proposed loading zones: Will trucks actually unload there or will they simply just pull in front of the stores like they presently do.

Jose Dallia stated he is the owner of the furniture store and he is concerned there will be nowhere for his customers to park. He is afraid his store will go out of business as a result.

Delano Kross stated he is the owner of the business Flowers by Zenda. He stated the block has many businesses that depend on double parking. He stated the problem is on West 230th St., not West 228th St. He stated there are 30 businesses there and he has a petition from business owners and residents opposing the DOT proposal. He submitted the resident's proposal to the Traffic and Transportation Committee and NYC DOT.

Anthony Del Orve stated he is a neighborhood resident and feels strongly that the DOT project will have a negative impact on the community. He stated that losing six (6) parking spots will be a big loss for the community and the traffic in the area is dangerous for pedestrians, especially children.

CB8 Member Sergio Villaverde inquired as to how many feet of parking area will be removed. BX DOT presenter stated 120 feet of parking space would be lost (20' per parking spot). CB8 Member Sergio Villaverde inquired if some parts of the DOT proposal could be implemented but not other portions of it.

NYC DOT Bronx Commissioner Lopez responded by saying this proposal is a directive from the Mayor's Office and the intention is to implement it as designed.

Committee Vice Chair Ed Green inquired about the merchant / resident petition and what the process is for NYC DOT to take this document into consideration regarding the proposal.

CB8 Chair Rosemary Ginty stated the bus lane is the shortest she has seen and is unlikely to produce the results that DOT intends. She stated she believes this project is ill-conceived and should not be implemented because of the overall negative effects it will have on the community.

Chair Dan Padernacht presented the following motion to the committee:

WHEREAS, the NYC DOT has presented the "Better Buses Broadway Improvements" plan to the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8;

WHEREAS, the Marble Hill Merchants Association strongly opposes the proposal;

WHEREAS, serious questions about the effectiveness of the proposal have been raised;

WHEREAS, serious safety issues for pedestrians and students have been raised about the proposal;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 opposes the Better Buses Broadway Improvements plan in its current form.

In Favor: S. Alexander; D. Escano; E. Green; T. Moran; D. Padernacht; G. Santiago;
I William Stone

Opposed:

Abstain:

3. Traffic controlling measures at Netherland Avenue at West 232nd Street

Resident request for traffic controlling measures at Netherland Avenue and West 232nd Street travelling northbound and southbound was postponed.

4. Approval of minutes

June minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Old Business / New Business

Debbie Appel, a resident of 3801 Hudson Manor Terrace, stated that DOT had removed 14 parking spots in her neighborhood and residents are having difficulty parking their cars. Four other residents of the area accompanied her to the meeting. They brought a petition signed by 145 neighborhood residents stating they want DOT's newly installed enhanced crosswalks removed because they create a hardship on residents of the community when it comes to parking their cars.

Chair Dan Padernacht told the residents the Traffic and Transportation Committee would revisit the issue at next month's meeting and give the residents an extended opportunity to present their issue with the enhanced crosswalks.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.