

**Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**September 19, 2017**  
**Citadel Rehabilitation and Nursing Center**  
**3400 Cannon Place**

**Committee Members Present:**

Eric Bell, Vice Chair, Margaret Donato, David Gellman, Myra Joyce, Vice Chair, Dan Padernacht, Chair, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter

**Committee Members Absent:**

Eric Dinowitz, Daniella Fuchs, Herb Young

**Guests:** Joshua Stephenson (Councilman Cohen's office), Katherine Broihier (Kingsbridge BID), Jordan Laks (Transportation Alternatives), Toni Butler, Barbara Velez, Robin Stevensci, Tyler Hill, Gary Smalls (NYC DOT), Darisa Alcantara (Bronx DOT) Terence O'Toole (NYPD), Brendan Fitzpatrick (Assemblyman Dinowitz's office)

**Discussion re Con Ed Gas Project and Electric Project in Van Cortlandt Village**

Representatives from the DOT introduced themselves (Gary Smalls, Darisa Alcantara, Keith Kalb)

**Issues:**

- Notices of parking restrictions and other disruptions were issued within one week of disruptions with vague information.
- Contractors are holding parking when they don't need it, they are blocking the street. These parking issues are exacerbating the currently horrible parking situation.

Mr. Padernacht communicated with Councilman Cohen and Bronx DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez, seeking resolutions to these issues. A meeting will be held in October or November to find ways to work with the community and determine how the City Council can help.

Kathryn Broihier of the Kingsbridge BID thought that the DOT limited construction projects unless there is an emergency. People who are home during the day are suffering the brunt of the noise and environmental fallout from these projects.

**Proposal to change the meters at Manhattan College Parkway to 2 hour parking** (currently 12 hour parking) to increase parking availability for merchants.

Toni Butler said the meters are 6 hours, not 12 hours. She stated that cars are double parked all day and if the meters are changed to 2-hour parking cars will be backed up to 259th. Might create a bigger problem. She spoke with the merchants who told her that the taxi stands create a larger problem.

Mr. Gellman stated that commuters use the long parking time to park and take the subway. He thinks it's better for people to drive to the subway than drive downtown.

Ms. Spalter spoke with Alan from Sporting Goods store who said that two of his employees use the 6-hour parking. He said it would be better for community to leave it.

**Motion to change meters to 2 hours:**

In favor: Dan Padernacht, Laura Spalter

Opposed: Eric Bell, Margaret Donato, David Gellman, Myra Joyce, Georgia Santiago

**Report on the Parks Department and Police Department plan to address bus double parking on Broadway during track events at Van Cortlandt Park**

Detective Inspector O'Toole presented the proposal to park buses on the Major Deegan service road from 233<sup>rd</sup> Street to the city line. He is in conversation with the Traffic Commissioner to change signs indicating the bus layover zone for VCP events. DI O'Toole said there are buses currently parking there.

Event organizers have been consulted and given a map. Buses can only drop off and pick up by VCP. They cannot stand.

Neighborhood residents Toni Butler, Barbara Velez and Robin Stevens said they saw an 85% improvement on Saturday because DI O'Toole was there. With no police presence on Sunday double parking and buses stayed by the park. Parks Department is not doing anything. They said that VCP Administrator, Margot Perron, said she is not responsible for the residential side of the street. They have been bringing this problem to the NYPD, Parks Department and CB8 for years. Where is the accountability?

Jordan Lake of Transportation Alternatives asked about dropping off at Golf private parking lot? O'Toole: That area is for private cars. Not suitable for buses.

Mr. Gellman suggested they come to the Parks Committee meeting. The coaches will be there to address these problems.

Mr. Bell suggested changing the verbiage on the parks department permit

Ms. Spalter – asked about the possibility of auxiliary officers enforcing this. Issue will be brought up in detail with the Parks Committee meeting.

### **Proposed locations for City Benches in CB8**

Ms. Santiago spoke about the benches at the 228th and Broadway bus stop. Dangerous because one of the benches is practically in the street. Mr. Padernacht will address this with Mr. Moerdler who is on MTA.

### **New Items**

Eric Bell - street light outages on major streets on Deegan & on 87 and the exits. DI said sites with LEDs were going out. Nivardo Lopez, Bronx DOT Commissioner, had them fixed. There is a problem with generators for these lights.

Kathryn Broihier, Kingsbridge BID - Bus stop moved from 230<sup>th</sup> St. (Post Office) to in front of Land & Sea. This has caused complete chaos with the high & middle school kids sitting all over the steps. Football players: Urinating on side of building, going into the restaurant and taking coins from the fountain. This goes on from 2 to 7:30pm. Ms Broihier is asking that the location of the bus stop be reconsidered. Mr. Padernacht said that this is a DOT and MTA issue. DOT wants the MTA to request to move the bus stop. We need to find out why the change was made and then discuss moving it back. Mr. Padernacht requested that Ms. Broihier send a letter to the T&T Committee to move forward on this.

James Willen, who lives near 260th Street, often bikes up and down Broadway. He is bringing to the attention of the committee the dangerous situation at the off ramp from the Henry Hudson Parkway onto Broadway. People ignore the stop sign, and it is difficult to see cars coming and pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Willens is requesting that someone take a look at this intersection. DI O'Toole said they issue a number of speeding summonses.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Bell – Striping needed at the crosswalk at 238th by Kingsbridge Ave., in front of Riverdale diner. This crosswalk is on the schedule repainting.

DI O'Toole spoke about the request for a school play street at Eames Place school. Streets will need to be reconfigured for this to be effected. T&T Committee will take this up in November. Dan will reach out to the parent coordinator who made the request.

Resurfacing requests: Dan will submit requests.

### **Approval of minutes:**

April – In favor: Eric Bell, Margaret Donato, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter

Opposed: None

Abstained: David Gellman

May - In favor: Eric Bell, Margaret Donato, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter

Opposed: None

Abstained: David Gellman

July – In favor: Eric Bell, Margaret Donato, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter

Opposed: None

Abstained: David Gellman

Submitted by Myra Joyce, Vice Chair