

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 16, 2012
AT the RIVERDALE JEWISH CENTER – 3700 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE**

PRESENT	AFFILIATION
Daniel Padernacht	CB8
Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Arlene Feldmeier	CB8
Michael Heller	CB8
Maria Khury	CB8
Robert Press	CB8
Georgia Santiago	CB8
Andrew Cohen	CB8
Robert Fanuzzi	CB8
Commissioner Constance Moran	NYC DOT
Keith Kalb	NYC DOT
Michael Blaustein	State Senator Jeffrey Klein
Daniel Johnson	Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
Andrew Sandler	Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Tully Harcsztark	SAR
Binyamin Krauss	SAR
Debra May	SAR
Gilad Mor	SAR
Jennifer Firestone	
Sherida Paulsen	
Patti Schechs	
Brad Schreiber	
David Kapelman	
Louis Benjamin	
Ann Rauch	

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Chairman Dan Padernacht.

New Traffic Signs for West 254th Street between Sycamore Avenue and Independence Avenue

It has been proposed to this committee that No Stopping, No Standing, and No Parking signs be placed on both sides of West 254th Street between Independence Avenue and Sycamore Avenue. This street is on a steep hill with a sharp, winding curve. It is in close proximity to the SAR school.

The proposed regulations/signs were called to a vote.

6 in favor: D. Padernacht, S. Alexander, A. Feldmeier, R. Press, M. Heller, G. Santiago
1 Abstention: M. Khury
0 Opposed

There was mention of taking away parking further east on West 254th Street but the Chair would not discuss until the community was properly notified.

Traffic Calming at Netherland Avenue and West 254th Street

A request was made to the Committee for a crosswalk and or traffic calming device at Netherland Avenue and West 254th Street by the entrance to SAR High School. A speed bump was requested on the hill between Arlington Avenue and Netherland Avenue. It was stated by NYC DOT Bronx Commissioner Moran that the requested speed bump may not be advisable because of the steep slope of the hill. Commissioner Moran stated to the committee that a crosswalk cannot be placed on an intersection without a traffic light or sign.

The vote was taken to request a crosswalk and Stop sign at the intersection of West 254th Street and Netherland Avenue:

7 in Favor: D. Padernacht, S. Alexander, A. Feldmeier, M. Heller, M. Khury, B. Press,
G. Santiago

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

Slow Zone Presentation

NYC DOT Bronx Commissioner Constance Moran presented the recently approved "Slow Zone" for Riverdale. The zone is a contained area around P.S. 24, the P.S. 24 Annex, M.S./H.S. 141 (RKA), Seton Park, and the Riverdale Temple Pre-K School. The area includes West 232nd Street to West 247th Streets and the Henry Hudson Parkway Service Road (not including the service Road itself) to Palisade Avenue. There will be gateway markings that indicate "Slow Zone" which will be placed at the 10 entrance points to the area and will indicate a 20 MPH speed limit. There will be 9 speed humps placed in the slow zone. A speed hump is lower than a speed bump and can be driven over at 20 mph. It is anticipated that the speed humps will be installed in November 2012. All other markings and entrance gates should be completed by March 2013.

Old Business

Chair Padernacht presented copies of proposed signage for the Henry Hudson Parkway for Exit 22 southbound, and Exits 20 and 22 northbound. The signs prominently display Riverdale Avenue.

A vote was taken by the committee to support the proposed signage:

7 in Favor: D. Padernacht, S. Alexander, A. Feldmeier, M. Heller, M. Khury, R. Press,
G. Santiago

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

The traffic patterns near two new construction developments in the Kingsbridge area were raised by committee member Maria Khury. The developments are the (1) BJ's Wholesale (and accompanying retailers) development on West 238th Street and Broadway and the (2) retail development on West 230th Street and Broadway. Khury stated that she has a business near the proposed developments and she is concerned about the possible traffic back-ups that may occur due to the developments. Community Board 8 Board Chair Bob Fanuzzi added that, in the case of the West 230th Street Retail development, West 230th Street will be blocked at times for trailers to back into the shopping center.

Committee member Khury asked that the Traffic and Transportation Committee take up the issue of traffic in the areas of the new developments. Chairman Padernacht responded that the West 230th development was before another sub-committee and the traffic issues presented are design issues which should have been addressed by that other committee. The Chair stated that the committee will consider whether there is anything to be addressed with respect to this issue by Traffic and Transportation at this time.

Vice-Chair Press said that in Manhattan there are regulations that include limiting the size of the trucks which may mitigate the closure of West 230th Street during truck deliveries. The Chair stated that the Board should ask the developer for its final traffic plan to the board as soon as practical.

The timing of the recently installed solid red arrow light on the northbound direction of Broadway at Manhattan College Parkway was raised. The committee has received complaints that traffic is backing up due to the new traffic control. DOT will look at the timing of the traffic device. Committee member Bob Press suggested that the Westchester Bee Line Bus Stop at Broadway and West 242nd street be moved further up or down Broadway to ease some of the traffic back-up.

Residents of the area are asking the committee to place No Parking signs on Independence Avenue between West 246th Street and West 247th Street. The Chair stated that the committee will seek comment from the FDNY to inquire whether there is a safety concern with getting their trucks through the street.

New Business

The Chair introduced the amended rules regarding applications for certain street closures (street fairs, block parties, farmer's markets and clean-ups) that are submitted to the Community Board office by the Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO). The amended rules went into effect in December 2011. The Chair stated what he believed was an important changes to the rules. The Community Board now has the power to approve, approve with conditions or deny an application. See Rules of the City of New York, Title 50 Section 104. If the Community Board approves with conditions or denies the application, the applicant has five business days to respond to such conditions or denial. If there is no response, then the conditions or denial is automatically granted.

To date, it is understood that the Chairperson of the Community Board or the District Manager of Community Board 8 has been signing off on applications submitted to the Board office. This has been without the application going to a committee or to the Community Board members. The Chair presented a resolution to the committee affirmatively calling for SAPO applications for street fairs, block parties, farmer's markets and clean-ups to be submitted to a committee and to the Community Board for a vote. The Chair believes this will give the public an opportunity to comment on the application and will give the applicant a public forum to explain the application. In addition, the Chair stated that all Board members should be voting on these particular applications.

The Chairman asked for a vote on the general consensus of the resolution:

6 favorable: D. Padernacht, S. Alexander, A. Feldmeier, M. Heller, R. Press, G. Santiago
1 Abstention: M. Khury
0 Opposed

The Chair stated that the resolution will be presented for a vote at the next Traffic and Transportation meeting so that the public can have additional notice of the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13p.m.

Dan Padernacht
Chairman

Minutes submitted to the Chair by Vice-Chair Robert Press.