

(Draft Minutes Pending Approval)

**Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
September 17, 2020**

Meeting Conducted Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

Committee Members Present:

Dan Padernacht (Chair)
Sylvia Alexander
Diomarys Escano
David Gellman
Ed Green (Vice Chair)
Deb Travis
Mary Ellen Gibbs (CCM)

Committee Members Absent:

Margaret Donato
Eider Garcia
Georgia Santiago

Chair Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

1) Chair's Report

Summary of discussion:

- Water main project HEDA 003 is almost completed. Most of the roads have been resurfaced.
- MTA charging fares again on busses. More subway ridership.
- Open Streets program has been initiated on Johnson Avenue. Thanks to KRVC for being the applicant. Also, thanks to Bob Heisler and Nick Fazio for their work getting the initiative done.
- Kappock Street & Palisade Avenue working group met with NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg onsite to discuss its proposal for altering the intersection. We are looking to incorporate more green in the intersection while maintaining safety features. We are awaiting DOT response.

2) 3893 Waldo Avenue - Discussion and concerns of retaining wall on Dash Place side of property

Mr. Torkin (Owner/Developer) commented on:

- Dash Place will be expanded to 18ft.
- DOT is reviewing the builder's plans. Once the plan has been approved it can be shared with BXC8. Developer does not share plans until DOT approves.
- Hand demolition of the site.
- No asbestos on site. DEP investigated it. Clean ACPS

Committee Members and Community Residents expressed concerns about:

- Large weeds growing from the property.
- Demolition of the house.
- Asbestos on site.
- Timeliness of project completion.

Chair Padernacht explained that the Committee is concerned with the affect that the construction may have on the retaining wall that holds up Dash Place. Chair Padernacht invited the Developer to present the Builder's Pavement Plan to the Committee when the revised plans are finalized and submitted to Department of Buildings. Chair Padernacht noted that the committee received a redacted Builder's Pavement Plan from DOB. It was redacted because the first plan was not approved.

3) Street Racing on local streets in community

Summary of points raised during public discussion:

- Cars speeding and doing "donuts" at random times.
- 50th Precinct has determined it's too dangerous to conduct high-speed chases.
- Speed bumps were taken off Independence Avenue for resurfacing.
- Speed bumps will be put back but no date available yet, as per DOT.
- Drag racing has gotten worse since roads have been paved.
- Many cars with out of state license plates have been observed drag racing in the area.
- A redesign of streets could reduce drag racing/speeding.
- Car noise has increased dramatically since pandemic began.
- People have been hanging around in cars waiting for others on West 235th Street to congregate for drag racing.
- Excessive speeding on Henry Hudson Parkway and Major Deegan Expressway.
- Teenagers getting high in parked cars, congregating before they speed around the area.
- Moving violations, DUI can be used as a deterrent.
- Police have to be present to enforce certain laws.
- Send license plate numbers and videos of incidents to BXC8 via email; the Board will forward it to 50th Precinct Officers who will be on the lookout for offenders in question.
- Harrison Police Department seized vehicles for similar infractions. Examine measures they took to achieve this. Can our community legally do the same?

- Effectiveness of speed cameras. Committee should ask State Troopers to focus on speeding.
- Speed bumps needed on Riverdale Ave at West 236th St.
- Publicize the issue as much as possible to bring attention to it and embarrass the agencies responsible.
- Fixed speed camera can be installed, as per Assemblyman Dinowitz.
- Radar or speed enforcement. Boots on cars.
- Safety for School Kids & bicycle riders
- Motorcycles coming from highways are revving engines at 239th St. Riders are not only teenagers.
- Poor visibility for pedestrians on Independence Ave near the Whitehall, where cars speed; unfinished street; never developed; no traffic light; many kids cross the street at this location.
- Organized illegal racing activity; possibly organized through phone apps and social media.
- Legislation needed for increasing fines for people that obstruct visibility of license plates.

Chair Padernacht stated that the Chairs of the Traffic & Transportation Committee, Public Safety Committee and District Manager are already working with DOT and NYPD on the issue. The Chairs and DM met with Captain Gervin of the 50th Police Precinct this past week to discuss a plan.

Chair Padernacht stated the following immediate actions:

There will be Letter request to DOT for restoration of speed bumps on Independence Avenue between W 232nd St. & W 246th Street;

A letter request for a Mobile traffic camera on Independence Avenue between W 232nd St. & W 246th St,

A letter request for a Mobile traffic camera on Riverdale Avenue between W 230th St. & W 236th St,

a Request to 50th Precinct for increased police presence from the 50th Precinct, and assistance from Highway One Units and State Troopers for parkway and highway.

4) Member ideas for Committee discussion in FY 2020-21

- Mary Ellen Gibbs - Repaving the roads, uneven roads
- Deb Travis - Identify bike routes
- David Gellman - Suggested Committee Chair reach out to Committee Members to see if they express interest in joining working groups

5) New Business

Chair Padernacht stated that due to the volume of work, he believes the Traffic and Transportation Committee is in need of a 2nd Vice Chair, and asked committee members to contact him if they expressed interest in the position.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.