

PENDING APPROVAL
CB8 Traffic and Transit Committee Meeting
March 18th, 2019
Public School 81 - Auditorium

Committee Members Present:

Dan Padernacht, Chair	Edward Green
Sylvia Alexander	Myra Joyce
Eric Dinowitz	Georgia Santiago
Diomarys Escano	I William Stone
Daniella Fuchs	Herb Young
David Gellman	

Committee Members Absent:

Eric Bell
Margaret Donato

Guests:

Captain Emilio Melendez, 50th Precinct	Sacha Joly
Detective Mindy Ramos, 50 th Precinct	Tara Quimby
Nivardo Lopez, NYC DOT	Betsy Friedman
Darisa Cruz, NYC DOT	Erica Noy
Julia Dubovsky, NYC DOT	Ken Sheehan
Richard Stewart, NYC DOT	Renee Rosen
Anne Kirrane, Public School 81	Aviva Schwab
Bob Bender	Aggie Kapelman
Lisa Daub	David Kapelman
Laura Spalter	Lauren Lieberman
Brendan Fitzpatrick	Kenneth Meburn
Patrick Hill	Peter Walters
Christine McDonald	Karen Carnavali
Helen Goldman	Mary Lett
Julia Kilpatrick	Kathy Leugels
Griff Braun	David Sklor
Stella Marletos	Joel Schwab
Stephanie Cruz	Alison Shadood
Christine Card	Glenn Ecababian
Daniel Padvan	Allen Fraza
Mia Diamond Padway	Martha Fraza
Giordana Avila	

Chair Dan Padernacht called meeting to order at 7:18pm.

Chair Padernacht thanked Anne Kirrane, Principal of P.S. 81, for hosting the meeting. Principal Kirrane welcomed all of the guests to the school.

1. Chair Padernacht stated that the traffic on West 256th Street between Riverdale Avenue and Mosholu Avenue during school drop-off at P.S. 81 has been creating issues for the community, neighbors, parents and the school. Chair Padernacht stated that Education Committee Chair, Sylvia Alexander, arranged a meeting with P.S. 81 Principal Anne Kirrane and the two committee chairs to discuss the issues and do a walk-through of the area. The group discussed possible solutions. After further discussions with NYPD and neighbors, the group decided to put forward a proposal to the Committee and public which appear as items one and two on the agenda.

Chair Padernacht delivered the presentation which is attached to the minutes. He stated that some of the problems included cars going in the wrong direction, double and triple parked vehicles, children walking in between vehicles in the roadway, intersections blocked and disputes occurring.

Captain Melendez, Commanding Officer of the 50th Precinct, stated the police have issued 100 summonses in the area in the last five months. He also stated he currently has four openings for Crossing Guard positions in his command but no one is applying for the jobs.

P.S. 81 Principal Kirrane stated that the time when most of the traffic chaos occurs is between 7:55am-8:20am. She stated that having extra parking spots will help expedite the drop-offs.

Ross Freeman (Resident that lives across street from area in question) reported that an accident occurred in the drop-off area, a parent threatened his wife over the issue of dropping off their child in the area, that cars dropping off children blocked driveways to resident homes regularly. Mr. Freeman suggested a “drop off line” for parents to leave their children at school might be a good idea.

Glen Encababian gave the Board a written statement about the proposal and read it aloud. It emphasized the “no standing” street signs on the south side of the street between Riverdale Avenue and Delafield Avenue were put there years ago to combat a problem of individuals causing disturbances for residents. He stated his concern that if those signs were removed the problem would resurface.

Several guests, including Betsy Friedman, suggested that the area needs a Crossing Guard because of the congestion and presence of small children, and

parents were manning the corners and volunteering their time to essentially do the job of Crossing Guards.

Stephanie Cruz, a P.S. 81 Parents Association Board Member, stated that she feels the street needs to be changed to a one-way street.

Brenden Fitzpatrick of Assemblyman Dinowitz's office read a written statement that recommended installation of signage designated as a School Drop-off Zone.

One guest inquired about the procedural aspects of having the area designated as a "Play Street." Bronx DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez explained that an application needs to be filled out and it is a multi-agency process, and there also has to be a significant amount of left turns (or accidents) in the area to warrant a change. DOT's most recent survey of the area suggests their statistics do not match the criteria required for changes to be warranted.

Tara Quimby stated that there is a parent at P.S. 81 who is blind and a chirping signal would be helpful at the

Committee Member Ed Green suggested that monetary fines posted on signage would be helpful to provide motivation to motorists not to make improper left turns at the intersection of 256th St & Riverdale Ave.

Committee Member David Gellman suggested the school provide a staff member to walk the children to school after their dropped-off.

Committee Member Eric Dinowitz suggested a permanent traffic signal to indicate no turns in the morning hours. Also, he asked about a barrier on the street during the morning hours. Chair Padernacht stated that he discussed with Education Chair Sylvia Alexander and Principal Kirrane a temporary barrier in the morning on West 256th Street and Mosholu Avenue to prevent right turns in the morning hours. Chair Padernacht asked DOT Bronx Commissioner Nivardo Lopez about such a barrier. Commissioner Lopez stated a permit is needed from SAPO to erect any kind of permanent barrier on the street.

Committee Member Daniella Fuchs stated one entrance is backed up consistently because there is not sufficient time to make a left turn at the light and cars are stuck for minutes before they can make the turn.

Chair Padernacht stated residents of the area were sent notices of this issue being

discussed at tonight's meeting by the Board Office and were given the opportunity to address any concerns they might have.

Chair Padernacht proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 has received testimony of traffic safety concerns on West 256th Street between Riverdale Avenue and Mosholu Avenue;

WHEREAS, Public School 81 students enter at the West 256th Street entrance for the morning arrival;

WHEREAS, the safety of our children is of paramount concern to Bronx Community Board No. 8;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT install No Standing signs on the south side of West 256th Street between Delafield Avenue and Mosholu Avenue between 7:00am and 9:00am; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT install left turn signal lights at the intersection of West 256th Street at Riverdale Avenue traveling eastbound and westbound onto West 256th Street; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT improve the signage to increase the visibility for the no turns restriction from 7:00am - 9:30am onto West 256th Street, with enforcement language; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT investigate the use of flashing or static electronic traffic signals at or prior to the intersection at West 256th Street and Mosholu Avenue to alert drivers to the no turns restriction from 7:00am-9:30am; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT install an Accessory Pedestrian Signal, or chirping signal, at the intersection of West 256th Street and Mosholu Avenue.

In Favor: S. Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Diomarys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, I William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

2. Julia Dubovsky of NYC DOT delivered a presentation of a proposal to install Enhanced Crosswalks on Hudson Manor Terrace at West 236th St., West 237th St., and West 239th St. A copy of the presentation is attached.

It is noted that the Traffic & Transportation Committee passed a resolution on April 19, 2018 requesting that the NYC Department of Transportation study the intersection at West 237th Street and Hudson Manor Terrace to determine if a crosswalk can be installed at that location. The full Board passed that resolution on May 8, 2018.

Committee Member Diomarys Escano asked if the enhanced crosswalks will reduce existing parking spaces, and if so, how many spaces will be lost. Julie from DOT stated that approximately 7-8 parking spots will be lost as a result of enhanced crosswalks.

Chair Padernacht stated residents of the area were sent notices of this issue being discussed at tonight's meeting by the Board Office and were given the opportunity to address any concerns they might have.

Chair Padernacht's proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, the intersections on Hudson Manor Terrace at West 236th Street, West 237th Street and West 239th Street are in proximity to schools, playgrounds and religious institutions;

WHEREAS, an enhanced crosswalk is where DOT stripes a crosswalk at a location that does not have a traffic signal or stop sign and adds signage to highlight the crosswalk and daylight the area just before the intersection;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee supports the installation of enhanced crosswalks at the intersections on Hudson Manor Terrace at West 236th Street, West 237th Street and West 239th Street.

In Favor: S. Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Diomarys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, I William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

3. Discussion to add the construction of a sidewalk on the north side of West 254th St. from Riverdale Avenue to Palisade Avenue to the Traffic and Transportation Committee Budget Requests.

Chair Padernacht explained that the Board passed a resolution asking NYC DOT to investigate the possibility of installing a sidewalk on the north side of West 254th Street between Riverdale Avenue and Palisade Avenue. DOT had responded that if the Community Board was interested in installing sidewalks, it should be placed on its capital budget requests because there were obstructions in the

roadway such as utility poles that would need to be moved and in consultation with DEP, it was determined that there was insufficient drainage in the area.

Monetary charges for property owners was discussed: Guest asked if property owners would get billed for sidewalk installed in front of property. DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez stated the charge cost is approximately \$12 per square foot of sidewalk which is subject to change.

Chair Padernacht asked Commissioner Lopez who would bear the cost of the capital improvements for the infrastructure improvements noted in DOT's letter response. Commissioner Lopez stated that the City would pay for the infrastructure improvements which is the reason for the capital budget request.

Bob Bender stated people have to walk in the street because there is no sidewalk and he is concerned someone might get hurt. He asked DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez how DOT would rate the risk. Commissioner Lopez stated he had no access to available data to assess the risk at this meeting.

Chair Padernacht read statements on behalf of the North Riverdale Merchants Association who is in favor of the budget request. In addition, he read a letter from resident Jodie Colon, who is in opposition to the budget request. Each of these statements were sent to the Board office prior to the meeting.

Chair Padernacht stated residents of the area were sent notices of this issue being discussed at tonight's meeting by the Board Office and were given the opportunity to address any concerns they might have.

Chair Padernacht proposed called for a vote to add the request for the creation of a sidewalk on the north side of West 254th Street between Riverdale Avenue and Palisade Avenue to the Committee's capital budget requests:

In Favor: S. Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Diomarys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, I William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

4. Request to change parking regulations to No Standing 16 feet north of driveway at 4765 Henry Hudson Parkway (Riverdale Presbyterian Church) in order to daylight the entrance and departure of vehicles.

Representatives of Riverdale Presbyterian Church presented a proposal to "Daylight" the area in question and eliminate 1-2 parking spots to create visibility to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

Chair Padernacht stated residents of the area were sent notices of this issue being discussed at tonight's meeting by the Board Office and were given the opportunity to address any concerns they might have.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the Committee:

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Presbyterian Church has requested the daylighting of its entrance at 4765 Henry Hudson Parkway by creating a No Standing Zone to the north and south of its driveway;

WHEREAS, the entrance is located approximately 100 feet south of the Henry Hudson Parkway southbound exit ramp to West 246th Street;

WHEREAS, the entrance is used throughout the week by several different organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, NYC DOT install No Standing signs 16 feet south and north of the driveway at 4765 Henry Hudson Parkway in order to daylight the entrance and departure of vehicles.

In Favor: S. Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Diomarys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, I William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

5. Request to change parking regulations to No Standing at Netherland Avenue between driveways at rear of building garage of 3616 Henry Hudson Parkway. Presently, a fire hydrant exists at the location.

Erica Noy made presentation requesting no standing zone in this area. Ms. Noy stated that cars frequently park in this area, illegally, as there is a fire hydrant. The parked vehicles create a hazard to the motorists leaving the garage.

Chair Padernacht stated residents of the area were sent notices of this issue being discussed at tonight's meeting by the Board Office and were given the opportunity to address any concerns they might have.

Chair Padernacht proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, residents of 3616 Henry Hudson Parkway have requested that NYC DOT install No Parking signs in between the entrance and exit lanes of the garage to its building which is located in the rear on Netherland Avenue between Henry Hudson Parkway East and West 236th Street ,

WHEREAS, testimony was presented that a fire hydrant exists in between the exit and entrance ramps to the garage with less than 12 feet between each respective driveway and the fire hydrant;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, install No Parking signs in between entrance and exit ramps to the garage of its building which is located on Netherland Avenue between Henry Hudson Parkway East and West 236th Street.

In Favor: S. Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Diomarys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, I William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstain: David Gellman

6. Chair Padernacht stated that he was working with David Gellman and Daniella Fuchs on the Bicycle Safety Event proposed for June 23, 2019. More details to follow next month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Dan Padernacht, Chair
Traffic and Transportation Committee

Minutes taken by Traffic and Transportation Committee Vice-Chair Ed Green

March 18, 2019

To Community Board 8 Traffic and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you with regards to proposal number one for the meeting on March 18 Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting. Please note that the requested change of the parking regulations should be on the southside of West 256 street from Delafield Avenue to Mosholu Avenue. The signs on the south side of the street from Riverdale avenue to Delafield Avenue which are no standing except school buses were put there almost 20 years ago to stop a horrible horrible problem.

There were teenagers and hoodlums coming from as far north as Eastchester and as far south as Washington Heights all to hang out and do dastardly deeds {drugs were being sold and used and we even found condoms and sent them to the Police Commissioner} in the backyard of PS 81 and of course that spilled out to West 256 street. My children were scared to even look out of their window! The residents on this block were held hostage and we had considered selling our house because of the constant noise from car radios and screaming teenagers/ young adults. We could not even get into our driveway with parked cars blocking our driveway. Across the street on the southside was a horror show with cars parked and even double parked. This would go on from the late afternoon into the early morning hours every day. The no standing except school buses sign along with the no trespassing signs and the fence put on the retaining wall along with the 50th precincts vigilance solved the problem but if those no standing except school buses signs are removed the problem will start once again.

To get those signs put up there the West 256 Street Block Association worked with
The 50th Precinct
June Eisland
Jeff Dinowitz
The Riverdale Neighborhood House
The Community Board {Education Committee and Public safety Committee} with Grace Belkin
The Dept of Education
The Dept of Transportation
North Riverdale Homeowners Association (Laura Spaulter)
Riverdale Press

PS 81 and even Mr. Parker came to meetings on the issue.

And maybe more.

We would call 311 or 911 sometimes 20 times at night.

Just the idea of having the no standing except school buses signs removed causes me to shutter and believe me the 50th precinct doesn't want to come back here 20 times a night.

Thank you,

Glenn Encababian, President West 256 Street Block Association