

CB8 Traffic and Transit Committee Meeting
May 16th, 2019
Riverdale Senior Services - 2600 Netherland Avenue

Committee Members Present:

Sylvia Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Margaret Donato, Diomarlys Escano, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Edward Green (Vice Chair), Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht (Chair), Georgia Santiago, Herb Young.

Committee Members Absent:

Eric Bell (Vice Chair), I. William Stone.

Guests:

Nivardo Lopez (NYC DOT), Caitlin Toner (NYC DOT), Daniel Wagner (NYC DOT), Brendan Fitzpatrick (AM Dinowitz), H. Broihier (Kingsbridge BID), Rosematy Ginty, J. Sproull, Michel Hodge, Stacey Hodge, Linda Frohlich, Jerry Frolich, Susan Dounn, Joshhua Stephenson, Simone Saltman, George Diaz, Jack Marth, Bob Drake, Elizabeth Thompson, Darisa Cruz.

Chair Dan Padernacht called meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Chair Padernacht informed the guests that sign-in sheets are public info and are subject to FOIL requests.

Chair Padernacht introduced guests.

Agenda item #1: Mark Simon (NYC DOT - EV Policy) began presentation for pilot program to provide Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on streets in various communities. Topics included:

- Pilot program: One hundred curbside charging stations throughout the city. Fifty parking spots will be used for charging station poles; two available spots per charging station (1 pole will provide 2 charging stations).
- Eight spots proposed for the Bronx Community Board 8 area.
- Possible CB8 locations: Manhattan College, Van Cortlandt Park Pool, Croton Aqueduct.
- Private vehicles as a major source of GHG emissions. Goal is to reduce emissions by 20% by 2025 and 80% of emissions by 2050.
- DOT stated they met with City Councilman Cohen and Congressman Espallat as part of the outreach process for the project.

- DOT encouraged the public to visit the public portal to recommend potential sites for charging stations.
- Presenters stated Con Edison will handle the installations.
- Reaching out to property owners (Supermarkets, etc.) to install EV stations.

Chair Padernacht inquired about the process of picking locations for charging stations. DOT stated that major institutions, educational institutions, medical centers, commercial activity, high visibility, turnover and utilization were all factors involved in the selection process.

Public discussion included:

- The loss of parking spots in the neighborhood.
- Amount of time it takes to charge vehicles.
- TESLA's many EV charging stations in NY.
- Guest recommended tax incentives for driving EV cars.
- Guest suggested that other methods of creating parking spots be investigated by DOT.
- Guest inquired about price differential between gas and electric cars.

Agenda Item #2

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the committee:

WHEREAS, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 recognizes the need for Accessory Pedestrian Signals (auditory/chirping signals) throughout Community Board 8 near school crossings, senior centers and major intersections;

WHEREAS, Riverdale Senior Services has brought to the attention of the Traffic and Transportation Committee several intersections in which such auditory signals are in need;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests that NYC DOT install Accessory Pedestrian Signals at the following locations:

1. Broadway and West 231st Street
2. Johnson Avenue and West 235th Street
3. Riverdale Avenue and West 236th Street
4. Riverdale Avenue and West 238th Street
5. Riverdale Avenue and West 259th Street

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, H. Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

Agenda item #3

Proposed enhanced crosswalk on Cannon Place at West 238th Street. Plan would include the removal of 2 parking spots to provide daylighting of area.

Caitlin Toner from DOT gave presentation on street markings / high visibility crosswalks.

Chair Padernacht inquired about a traffic study. According to DOT, traffic study was done twice in three years. The last traffic study was stated to be done on 4/15/18.

E. Dinowitz stated that 4/15/18 was a Jewish holiday and likely had low volume traffic activity on that day.

Guest suggested installing barriers (pylons), because cars will sit in the designated no parking areas unless they are obstructed.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee (the“Committee”) supports the NYC DOT proposal to install an enhanced crosswalk at the intersection of Cannon Place and West 238th Street, resulting in the loss of one parking space;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Committee requests that NYC DOT investigate the possibility of placing a road rail in this location to prevent the illegal parking of vehicles in which the enhanced crosswalk seeks to remove parking.

In Favor: S. Alexander, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, H. Young

Opposed:

Abstain: E. Dinowitz

Agenda item #4:

Proposed enhanced crosswalk at Kappock Street at Palisade Avenue was discussed. Proposal would include the removal of 8 parking spots. Topics of discussion included:

- Extending pedestrian space.
- Upgrade pedestrian ramps.
- Install high visibility crosswalk.
- Expand pedestrian network.

DOT BBC Lopez explained that proper drainage (water run-off) was examined.

Guest suggested curb extensions at this location, similar to the ones at Cannon Place and Orloff Avenue. DOT Bronx Borough Commissioner Lopez stated this idea would have to be evaluated.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee (the“Committee”) supports the NYC DOT proposal to install an enhanced crosswalk at the intersection of Kappock Street and Palisade Avenue, resulting in the loss of three parking spots.

In Favor: S. Alexander, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Fuchs, D, Gellman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, H. Young

Opposed:

Abstain: E. Dinowitz

Agenda item #4:

Discussion of traffic light at Putnam Avenue West and West 238th Street to address the traffic to and from Riverdale Crossing:

Guest stated one-way signage and a traffic light needs to be installed at the location in question. Guest stated most of the traffic goes into BJ's.

Chair Padernacht stated CB8 has received numerous traffic related complaints about this area.

Agenda item #6:

Step Street repair at Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North Station:

Chair Padernacht asked Committee Members to explore areas where Step Street repair might be needed.

Guest suggested that 238th Street and Cannon Place be investigated for Step Street repair. Guest suggested railings be inspected, citing safety concerns.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee (the“Committee”) requests that NYC DOT investigate the sidewalk staircase located at

Bradley Terrace between Palisade Avenue and Edsall Avenue to check the integrity of the retaining wall, handrails and cracks in platforms and steps.

In Favor: S. Alexander, M. Donato, E. Dinowitz, D. Escano, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman,
E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, H. Young

Opposed:

Abstain:

Agenda item #7:

The Committee discussed planning for the Bicycle Safety Event on June 23rd, 2019.

The minutes for the April Traffic and Transportation meeting were approved unanimously.

There was no old or new business to discuss.

Meeting was adjourned.