

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Minutes of December 20, 2016 Meeting
William E. Irwin, Jr. American Legion Post 774
3035-37 Corlear Avenue (between West 230th/231st Streets)

Committee Attendance:

M. Heller
D. Fuchs
A. Creaney
E. Bell
M. Donato
N. Friedman
S. Alexander
G. Santiago
H. Young
S. Sarao
J. O'Brien
M. Joyce, Community committee member

Non-Committee Board Attendance:

Chairman Dan Padernacht
Board Member David Gellman

Guests:

Robert Press
Joannene Kidder – NYCDOT
Rahul Shah – NYCDOT
Eric Kelly – HNTB, DOT consultant
Keith Kalb – NYCDOT
N. Lopez – NYCDOT
Martin Collins, former chair, Manhattan CB 12
Deirdre Parker – MTA NYC Transit
Josh Stevenson, representing Councilman Cohen

The meeting opened at 7:40 PM. The November 2016 minutes were reviewed. The Committee approved unanimously.

NYCDOT 225 Street Bridge Presentation: Mr. Heller introduced Joannene Kidder, Chief of Staff of NYCDOT Bridges Division, who introduced various DOT representatives. Consultant Eric Kelly of HNTB delivered the presentation about the bridge project. The movable Bridge is opened at least once monthly to insure its operation.

The 225 street movable bride, owned by NYCDOT, requires rehabilitation. The consultant listed all the agencies that have involvement with the bridge including the Coast Guard, NYCDOT, Metro North, NYCTA and communities in Manhattan and the Bronx. Slides showing the bridge were displayed. This is the third bridge spanning the waterway at this location, built 1962.

There are three spans; middle is the lift span and rises to 134 ft. of clearance. NYCTA IRT 1 subway has three tracks and bus route users including BxM1, Bx7 and Bx20. Many pedestrians and average about 40 bikes both ways per day.

Rehab is needed but structure is in good condition. The projects will replace the roadway deck, rehabilitate mechanical systems, electric systems and the water fenders that protect the structure. A solid riding surface will be installed for bikes on northbound side of bridge. Underwater cables will be removed and replaced by "droop cables" that rise and fall and move with the moveable span tower instead of under water. The project will take 36 months and be built in three stages, starting April 2018. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions when the bridge is in the down position. Many testing cycles will disrupt subway service and road availability, primarily at night. At night full closings will be notified in advance, with most closing at the end of the project to make sure bridge is working properly. Metro North will not be impacted.

Staging: 1 – middle portion; 2 – right lanes out on east side of bridge, other sidewalk and lanes in service; 3 - remaining lanes. When roadway is not in service, tentative plan to detour bus routes via 225 street, Bailey Avenue, Sedgwick Avenue to University Heights bridge. Public outreach will be conducted via a full time community liaison, social media notifications in Facebook, twitter, and contact with community boards, elected officials and news media.

Planning for bus diversions with MTA. Mike Heller asked if they would consider some diversions via the HHB. Eric Bell inquired as to bike lanes integration – the bridge is part of Appalachian bike trail.

Joseph O'Brien asked to clarify night time openings -- there will be 150 openings, 5 per day for 30 consecutive days at end of project.

Chairman Padernacht asked for further clarifications about subway closures. Most will be at midnight-5 pm through the week at the end of job. Shuttle buses will be in service, with considerable delays for late night riders. MTA representative Parker was not certain of station where subway termination will be yet. Discussion of notification ensued.

Question answers: walkway railing and lighting will be repaired. Trains should turn at 207 street. DOT should do bi-weekly updates. David Gellman suggests University Heights as a transfer point.

MTA NYCT 225 Street Bridge Track Project: Presented by Deirdre Parker – MTA NYC Transit. Involves Southbound track panel replacement. Middle and northbound tracks are to be replaced at a later date. Working south from 225 toward south. The tracks at end of life project includes new signaling, rails, power, contact rails and walkways. Work will be Saturday – Sunday for two weekends, February 18-19 and 25-26, starting Saturday 4 am and ending sunset on Sunday. Summer work will be three weekends, July 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30. There will be no service on those weekends with shuttle buses from 137-242 street, allowing other work to piggyback. Regular bus routes will run normally as the bridge will not be raised. Southbound traffic lanes will be closed and two-way traffic will run on northbound side of bridge. Pedestrian sidewalks will be open on both sides. Cranes will be located at 225 Street/Broadway and 9th Avenue near hospital. Traffic agents will be provided.

A discussion took place as to long shuttle bus travel times, and potential ways to make travel more palatable.

North Riverdale – a quick update to say the revised report has not been issued and the board has no position.

Bus Service -To be discussed at the next meeting. Bx10/20, suggestions for Bx3 extension to serve north Riverdale, change terminus of Bx1, and run express service down HHP.

Resolution supporting Councilman Salamanca Legislation. In City Council Transportation Committee. Would amend city admin code to require DOT to notify council members and CB's about muni meter installation. Councilmember Cohen is a sponsor. Resolution read by Chair Padernacht. Passed unanimously.

New Business - Request for 4 way STOP signs at corner of West 235 Street and Oxford Avenue, Joshua Stephenson said request had been denied and would be resubmitted.

Mike Heller requested that board members and public submit resurfacing lists.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next meeting, Tuesday, January 17. Location TBD.

Minutes submitted by Michael Heller.