

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

### **MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 20, 2011, AT THE KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS REHABILITATION CENTER 3400 CANNON PLACE, BRONX, NEW YORK**

#### **PRESENT**

Daniel Padernacht, Chair  
Robert Press, Vice Chair  
Nils Graham  
Mike Heller  
Pedro Reyes  
Georgia Santiago  
Andrew Sandler  
Daniel Johnson

#### **AFFILIATION**

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representing Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
representing Assemblyman Dinowitz

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

The committee discussed the City Council bill asking the state legislature to pass NYC Parking Permits for on-street residential parking as introduced in the State Senate by Senator Squadron.

It was stated that the cost in other cities was approximately \$30-\$45 but it was not known what the cost would be here. There was concern about the limited parking in Community Board 8 to accommodate this restricted parking and visitors. In addition, it was asked whether cars would be ticketed or towed if parked illegally. More information is needed.

A Slow Zone Proposal by elected officials for the Independence Avenue area was presented. Daniel Johnson of Assemblyman Dinowitz's office read a letter to DOT requesting the Slow Zone area which was supported by the local elected officials as well as PS 24, RKA, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The Slow Zone would run from West 232<sup>nd</sup> to West 246<sup>th</sup> Street on Independence Avenue and will be bordered by Palisade Avenue and the HHP South Service Road.

Chairman Padernacht noted that huge cement posts which can take up to two parking spaces at several entrances to the slow zone area would take away several needed parking spaces and inquired if no parking spaces could be taken away.

A vote to support the Slow Zone proposal

5 in favor M. Heller, P. Reyes, D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago.

1 opposed N. Graham

There was then a vote to add a stipulation to use only signage and not cement posts that would take away any parking spaces passed 6-0

A vote to add a stipulation that the HHP service road south be excluded from the 20 MPH rule  
5 in favor M. Heller, P. Reyes, N. Graham, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago. 1 opposed R. Press.

Discussion continued as to the five points in the letter to DOT from the elected officials.

Chairman Padernacht took separate votes as to some points in the letter:

#1 - A traffic study of the area. The Chair stated this is underway.

#2 - A 20 MPH speed zone for Independence Ave. A vote was taken – 5 in favor M. Heller, P. Reyes, D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago. 1 opposed N. Graham.

#3 - Extend the bus loading area on West 235<sup>th</sup> Street. A vote was unanimous in favor 6 - 0.

#4 - Have DOT do a study of the timing of the traffic lights at the overpasses of West 232<sup>nd</sup>, 239<sup>th</sup> and 246<sup>th</sup> Streets to alleviate backups and gridlock at the three intersections. A vote was unanimous in favor 6 – 0.

#5 - Placement of a speed bump on Independence Avenue northbound between West 232<sup>nd</sup> and West 235<sup>th</sup> Streets. R. Press, a resident of Independence Avenue, stated that the street is designated as an emergency route and did not believe such impediments to emergency vehicles may be put in the roadway. A vote was unanimous against 6 – 0.

Robert Press noted the problem of a blind corner on Independence Avenue southbound at West 235<sup>th</sup> Street which came about with the change to angle parking. He stated that the blind spot will exist unless the safety zone at the corner by PS 24 is enlarged or the intersection redone. He added that there should be a bike lane on Independence Ave.

The chair will seek a meeting with the principals of PS 24 and RKA with the committee and elected officials to discuss traffic concerns.

Safe Routes to Transit proposals for the corners of Broadway and West 231<sup>st</sup>, 238<sup>th</sup>, and 242<sup>nd</sup> streets were tabled to the next meeting. It was noted that Council Member Koppell has opposed the placement at West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street as a traffic hazard.

New Business - Concerns of people crossing Broadway when coming off the northbound #1 train at West 231<sup>st</sup> Street which allows for crossing not at the corner. People see the red light for southbound traffic at the corner not knowing that the light may still be green for northbound traffic that does not turn onto West 231<sup>st</sup> Street.

A resident raised the question of putting a speed bump on Bailey Place by Fort Independence Avenue. The Chair stated that the Bailey Place retaining wall is still being worked on and Andrew Sandler of Council Member Koppell's office asked if DOT or DDC could place the speed bump requested.

Concerns of no crosswalks at intersections on Fort Independence Avenue at Bailey Place, Orloff Avenue and Heath Avenue were raised. There will be further discussion on the topic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Dan Padernacht  
Chairman  
Traffic & Transportation Committee