

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT THE BOARD OFFICE
DECEMBER 17, 2013**

PRESENT

Daniel Padernacht
Robert Press
Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Tony Creaney
Anthony Fella
Georgia Santiago
Herb Young
Andrew Sandler
Harold Fink
Rao Ravinootala
Marcia Allina
Christina Taylor
Frank Anelante
Bob Davis
Myra Joyce
Robert Spalter
Tanya Lee

AFFILIATION

CB8, Committee Chair
CB8, Committee Vice Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
rep. Councilman Koppell
NYSDOT
NYSDOT
FVCP
FVCP

The meeting was held at the board office and was called to order at 7:32pm by Chairman Dan Padernacht. A quorum was not present for the meeting so no action was taken by the committee. It is noted that it was snowing outside which made the roads difficult to travel.

The first item was a presentation by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) on the reconstruction of the bridge on the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87) which overpasses the Mosholu Parkway. The contract number is #X720.40. The purpose of this reconstruction is to bring the overpass up to modern code and install new safety measures. The clearance of the overpass will be raised from its current 11 feet to 14 feet. The superstructure is to be replaced and the current stairway on the west side of the bridge will be replaced with an ADA compliant ramp. Drainage will be improved and new barriers will be installed on each side of the bridge as well as the median in the roadway.

Construction will be comprised of two pre-construction stages and three construction stages. Pre-stage A involves the removal of the current median barrier to install a rideable surface for later use. Temporary barriers will be placed in the area. Pre-stage B involves preparing the outside shoulder area to make enough room for nine lanes of traffic. It is planned that three lanes of traffic will remain open in each direction during peak usage hours while three lanes are being reconstructed.

Stage 1 is the closing of the three northbound lanes (easterly side of bridge) for reconstruction.

Stage 2 is the closing of the three southbound lanes (westerly side of bridge) for reconstruction.

Stage 3 is the closing of the three middle lanes for reconstruction.

The bid date for the project is December 19, 2013 with an anticipated start date of Pre-stage A in March 2014. The expected completion date is approximately three years later in June 2017.

The anticipated construction dates are:

Pre-Stages: March 2014 – October 2014
Stage 1: October 2014 – August 2015
Stage 2: August 2015 – May 2016
Stage 3: May 2016 – March 2017

As part of the bridge reconstruction, four trees will be removed for the project but 50 new trees will be planted. There will be stone masonry reconstruction, landscaping, drainage, new lighting and a new ADA compliant pedestrian walkway ramp. The ramp is to replace the steps that lead from the bridge to the park. There were several questions and concerns raised about the ramp.

Committee member Bob Bender stated that the new ramp as planned would lead from the bridge to an area in Van Cortlandt Park which is an immediate incline. Committee members believe that this new ramp as leads to an area that is unsuitable for individuals with disabilities and the plan is counterintuitive to the purpose of the change from steps to a ramp. This item will be further discussed by the committee.

During the construction period the speed on the roadway will be reduced to 35 MPH. Solid lines will be painted to indicate the restriction of lane changing and deliveries of construction materials are expected in off peak hours. There will be two staging areas. One is located near the Van Cortlandt Park Avenue South northbound exit/entrance area and the other is one mile south of the construction area. At certain times the roadway may be closed for 15 minute intervals. The construction crews are permitted to close the roadway for a 15 minute period per one hour during off peak times. All lanes will be open during Yankee home games and gridlock alert days.

The 3616 Henry Hudson Parkway issue was laid over to the January meeting since no one requesting the parking change was present.

The Stevenson Place parking issue was laid over to the January meeting since no one requesting the parking change was present.

Old Business

Vice Chair Robert Press stated that he believed there was a lack of concern by Con Edison during their oil to gas conversion work in the streets of CB8. Press stated that metal plates placed by Con Edison have become a hazard to walk or drive on now that it is snowing and Sanitation drivers either bump into metal plates or raise their plows which do not permit the clearing of the snow from the plates. Andrew Sandler of Councilman Koppell's office mentioned that on West 238th Street one snow plow had moved a metal plate in the roadway leaving an open area of the trench it was covering. Chair Padernacht stated that the committee could reach

out to Con Ed in the future asking the construction crews to embed the plates in the roadway by creating platforms slightly lower than the roadway for the plates.

Residents raised the Hudson Greenway link route through Riverdale. It was requested that the matter be placed in the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Chair Padernacht stated that he brought the issue to the Executive Committee and it was decided that the issue would remain in the Parks Committee and that any traffic issues would be directed to the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Chair Padernacht did open a discussion with committee member Bob Bender who is also the Chair of the Parks Committee. It was agreed that it was most efficient to hold a joint committee meeting on the issue so that both committees were informed about the project.

New Business

There was a complaint of the lack of snow removal on the HHP overpasses, pedestrian walkways and step streets. Andrew Sandler of Council Member Koppell's office stated that Department of Transportation is responsible for overpasses while the Department of Sanitation is responsible for step streets.

Robert Press stated that he believed U-Turn signs should be placed on Riverdale Avenue and by PS 24. Chair Padernacht stated that the issue can be presented at the January meeting but believed it was more of an enforcement issue.

The parking issues surrounding West 254th Street will be placed on the January agenda.

There was a request for more speed bumps on Fieldston Road. Chair Padernacht stated that the exact location should be submitted to the committee for review.

The question of legal parking on West 252nd Street and Sycamore Avenue was raised by a local resident. Chair Padernacht stated that the issue will be discussed at a later meeting but first wanted to verify whether it was a public street.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Dan Padernacht
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee