

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Minutes of January 17, 2017
Riverdale Mental Health Association Conference Room

Committee Attendance:

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

Non-Committee Board Attendance:

Vice Chairman Rosemary Ginty
Board Member David Gellman

Guests:

Deirdre K. Parker, Gov't & Comm. Rel.
Laura Azze-Singh, Operations Planning
Michael Ribosh, Dept. Of Buses
Stephanie Bogerd, Dept. of Buses
Joe Rodriguez, Dept. of Buses
David Burrowes, Dept. of Buses
Robert Bruno, Dept. of Buses
John Dhuman, Dept. of Buses
Deborah Wallace, Committee for Better Bus Service
Roderick Wallace, Committee for Better Bus Service
Giordana Arila, Committee for Better Bus Service
Maija Kirby, Committee for Better Bus Service
Len Daykin, community resident
PO Cintron, NYPD 50 Precinct
John Evans, Brown's Jewelers
Bobby Liu, Kai Fan
Tracy Shelton, KRVC
Nat Solomon, Mutual Housing Association
Eileen Gracian, community resident
Robert Press, Bronx Voice
Frederick Klein, representing Assemblyman Dinowitz
Christina Lang, representing Senator Klein
Josh Stevenson, representing Councilman Cohen

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

Discussion of three SAPO resolutions with respect to planned street festivals were discussed and passed as follows:

Be it Resolved:

- 1) The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve the North Riverdale Single Block Festival with full street closure on May 7, 2017, to be held on Riverdale Avenue between West 258th and 259th Streets. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato, Joyce
- 2) The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve the South Riverdale Block Festival with full street closure on September 17, 2017 to be held on Riverdale Avenue between West 236 Street and West 238 Streets. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato, Joyce
- 3) Though located in Community Board 7, The Traffic and Transportation Committee votes to support the Bronx Week Food and Arts Festival – Street Festival, full street closure on May 21, 2017, to be held on Mosholu Parkway between Bainbridge Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue East. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato, Joyce

Bx10/20 service issues:

Deborah Wallace from the Committee for Better Bus Service presented on the general findings of her organization: They have organized a petition for better service that the elected officials deliver to MTA several weeks ago, She spoke a bit about the history of current route configuration and associated service problems. Buses are overcrowded, spacing is uneven, there is bus bunching and the new low floor buses creating problems for standing riders. This poor quality service is impacting upon the quality of life for local residents and property values.

Frederick Klein for Assemblyman Dinowitz – Outlined his long efforts to have service improved on these lines and correspondence with the NYCT over a period of years.

Councilman Cohen – reiterated need for improved service, per personal observation from his office which has a clear view of passing buses.

Deirdre Parker of NYC Transit spoke about problems facing the bus system and efforts being taken to improve services; double parking, street repairs, deliveries, emergency services, often no advance notice disrupt bus service. Spoke about service levels on BX10, 10,500 daily riders now a 5% increase in ridership. Current schedule dates from spring 2015. Last quarter 2016 ridership survey results being analyzed and action will be taken based on need for fall 2017. There may be a service increase, but more buses don't help with bus bunching.

Dispatching has been enhanced and Bus Trak being used to adjust performance, moving buses around. Bronx Road control examined route, and BX10 was rerouted to Paul Avenue instead of Goulden Avenue to avoid a bottleneck. Seems to be helping; also bottleneck by Montefiore on Gun Hill and Bainbridge was addressed last summer. Conversely, BX 20 ridership is declining so agency sees no need to improve service. Mr. Heller observed that long headways and irregular service may be reducing ridership. Ms. Parker said she will see if some midday improvements can be made. More #1 subway service should even loading on buses. She described bus types, going all low floor fleet, provides easier wheel chair access and faster loading. Interior is same size as old high floor buses. Heller spoke about fare evasion via rear doors being left open. Should not affect ridership data – checkers and GPS data is analyzed.

New service concepts were discussed: Looking at BX3 extension to north Riverdale. Bx1 to 239 or 246 street via Kappock Street will be looked at. Extensions of routes are not cost-free and require additional buses or longer headways. BxM1 Via HHP to west side? Extend routes into Yonkers? Agency agreed to look at ideas. Mr. Ribosh also discussed how GPS is being used to improve service --all supervisors have tablets to see service to make adjustments. Can CB help with PD and NYCDOT street supervision?

Roderick Wallace said high levels of ridership is smoke and mirrors blame for bus bunching. Dave Gellman said little bus bunching on BX10, Deborah Wallace faulted bus interior design.

Request for resurfacing Stevenson Place and request for new crosswalk across Sedgewick Avenue.

Presented by Nat Solomon: Danger for elderly people crossing the street. Very long block needs a crossing between Giles Place and VCP West. Being considered by DOT. Committee will consider a resolution.

FT Independence Y Intersection at Heath Avenue:

High traffic area with no traffic controls or crosswalk. Wide, uncontrolled intersection. May have a rally on the subject. To be discussed at next meeting as agenda item.

New Business - NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Location TBD.

Minutes submitted by Michael Heller