

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
HELD JANUARY 28, 2010  
AT ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH  
3250 ARLINGTON AVENUE  
BRONX, NY 10463**

**PRESENT**

Anthony P. Cassino  
 Andrew Cohen  
 Warren S. Dolny  
 Thomas Durham  
 Yael Levy  
 Damian McShane  
 Saul Scheinbach  
 Laura Spalter  
 Bradford Trebach  
 Emilie Aleandes  
 Aliza Appelbaum  
 Nicholas Black  
 Steve Catechis  
 Vasco Da Silva  
 NYS Assemblyman Dinowitz  
 Ellen Feigenbaum  
 Rachael Feigenbaum  
 Ellen Feld  
 Candice M. Giove  
 Sandra Kaufman  
 Ariel Maher  
 Mathew Marcus  
 Randi Martos  
 Robert Press  
 Andrew Sandler  
 Cori Worchel

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chairman  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 CB 8  
 Riverdale Press  
 Blue Bay  
 Sotheby's  
 Sotheby's  
 Riverdale Review  
 Hudson Pointe at Riverdale  
 Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
 rep. Councilman Koppell

1. Alternate Side Parking Sign Changes - Chairman Cassino provided update on status of changes to parking signs. DOT is still changing the signs east of Broadway to reduce the number of days from 4 days to 2. DOT has completed that process west of Broadway. The committee will continue to monitor their progress and any issues that may arise.

2. Street resurfacing requests - Chairman Cassino thanked board members for providing locations for street resurfacing. The requests were forwarded to DOT for possible repaving in the Spring.

3. Metro-North Rail link request for support for hybrid buses - Metro-North requested a letter of support from the Board for their proposal to purchase six hybrid buses to be

used for their Rail Link. The committee unanimously supported the request, and will ask Board Chairman McShane to send a letter of support.

4. MTA Service Changes - the committee discussed proposals by the MTA to cut service in order to close a large budget gap. The committee discussed putting forth a resolution in opposition to the elimination of metro cards for students and a change in Access-a-Ride that would eliminate door to door service for customers. Assemblyman Dinowitz stated that the State had provided funding to ensure that the metro cards for students would not be eliminated, so a resolution was proposed opposing the change in Access-a-Ride. The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. Riverfest Event - Yael Levy presented a resolution that was previously passed by the Parks Committee in support of the upcoming Riverfest Event. Riverfest is a one day event in the Spring that will take place at a location to be determined near the water in Riverdale. The event will include music, entertainment and educational programs designed to raise awareness of the need to improve access to the waterfront. The idea grew out of the recent meeting concerning the Greenway and the study being conducted to examine possible routes for the Greenway in the Bronx. The event has been supported by numerous community organizations and elected officials. The vote on the resolution was unanimously in favor with one abstention (Tom Durham).

6. Pedestrian Street at 235th and Johnson Avenue - Chairman Cassino outlined a pilot program created by DOT that enables communities to close specific streets to traffic during certain days. A power point presentation was provided as well as handouts describing the program in more detail. The program's goals are to support local businesses and create a stronger sense of community by bringing people to the area and providing local entertainment and programming. Businesses can extend to the curb but can not transact business outdoors unless they have a sidewalk café license. This specific proposal would close Johnson Avenue between 235<sup>th</sup> and 236<sup>th</sup> Street to traffic on 4-6 Sundays beginning the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup>. A lengthy discussion ensued about how the program would work and whether it will be beneficial to the community and the business community. Some raised concerns about the loss of parking and whether it would drive people away from shopping in the area. A representative of Blue Bay restaurant on Johnson Avenue expressed opposition to the proposal saying the loss of parking would hurt his business. Others expressed support for the idea saying that the open space and entertainment would bring more people to the area to recreate and shop. Other questions raised included the length of time of the street closing, the exact number of Sundays, possible alternate parking sites, and whether seniors would be negatively impacted by the program. Despite the fact that most businesses on the street had been directly invited, only one business attended. The Committee expressed a need to hear from the local businesses before making any decision so it was decided that they would be polled to get their opinion on the proposal. After that information is gathered it will be presented to the Committee and another meeting will be held to hear from the public. After that information is gathered the Committee will make a determination as to whether to make any recommendation on the proposal to the full board.

7. Kingsdale Dispatch Car Service TLC Renewal -- local car service company Kingsdale Dispatch is applying to renew its license with the TLC and has requested a letter from the community board and other local organizations saying that there are no objections. Chairman Cassino mentioned that the 50th Pct. did not have any concerns with the company and no one present at the meeting indicated any concerns either. Committee voted unanimously in favor of Board Chair McShane sending a no objection letter for Kingsdale Dispatch license renewal.

Submitted by,

Anthony Perez Cassino  
Chairman  
Traffic & Transportation Committee