

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HELD SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2008
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Anthony Perez Cassino	Committee Chairman
Warren S. Dolny	Committee Vice Chair
Anthony P. Creaney	CB #8
Beverly Fettman	CB #8
Manny Grossman	CB #8
Thomas Giallorenzi	CB #8
Ari Goldman	CB #8
Karen Pesce	CB #8
Saul Scheinbach	CB #8
Laura Spalter	CB #8
I.W. Stone	CB #8
Bradford Trebach	CB #8
Herbert Young	CB #8
Krishan L. Baweja	DOT Bridges
Katherine Broihier	Kingsbridge BID
John DeSio	Riverdale Review
Carlos Gavila	
Keith Kalb	Bronx DOT
George Klein	DOT Bridges
Rachel Loonin	Riverdale Nature Preservancy
Connie Moran	Bronx DOT Commissioner
Claire O'Brien	
Robert Press	

1. The minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2008 were adopted.
2. Bridge Construction – West 246th Street and West 254th Street

DOT bridge officials provided an overview of the renovation of the overpasses along the Henry Hudson Parkway at West 246th Street and the Riverdale Avenue bridge (West 254th Street). These two bridges will undergo a renovation – not reconstruction like the West 252nd Street bridge – to provide new concrete decks, repave the roads, repair the fences and sidewalks and concrete under the deck. The walls will not be changed and no guardrail will be installed. Two-way traffic at West 246th Street will be maintained as

well as pedestrian traffic. DOT proposes to start work in October, and the work will take eight months. The committee inquired about detours during construction and requested crossing guards where necessary. DOT agreed to provide crossing guards. The committee agreed that DOT should work on both bridges simultaneously. DOT also agreed to coordinate work with the West 252nd Street bridge construction and the Con Edison powerline construction.

3. West 252nd Street Bridge Re-Construction

DOT Bronx Commissioner Constance Moran reported that the West 252nd Street bridge is slated to be completed in December of 2008.

4. Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North station parking lot renovations

Commissioner Constance Moran reported that the renovations to the parking lot at the Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North station have been completed. New lighting and pavement was added while 6-8 parking spaces were eliminated to make room for commuter buses and better traffic flow and safety.

5. Signage

Committee members mentioned signage concerns to Commissioner Moran. Warren S. Dolny provided a list of locations in need of stop signs or traffic lights and Commissioner Moran agreed to review. Manny Grossman stressed the need for a four way stop sign at West 252nd Street and Independence Avenue, where an accident recently occurred. Tony Creaney mentioned the area around Putnam and West 238th Street and the dangerous traffic conditions around Visitation School. Brad Trebach inquired about the parking spaces that were eliminated on Riverdale Avenue between West 258th and West 259th Street to create access-a-ride bus stops. Saul Scheinbach complained about the crumbling stone wall where the road crosses the stream at the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Spaulding Lane. Commissioner Moran agreed to look into each of these matters.

6. M29 Con Edison power-transmission line

T&T Chairman provided an update on the status of the M29 Con Edison power-transmission work along Riverdale Avenue. The Chairman has been in almost constant contact with Con Edison over the summer. Almost all the work (digging, laying pipe and repaving) has been completed for the areas from West 230th to West 239th Street and Riverdale Avenue. Some complaints were received from businesses and residents about traffic and parking, but overall that work went better than expected. Work is being

conducted from West 239th to West 252nd Street and Riverdale Avenue. Committee members mentioned the poor condition of the roadway and traffic delays near the construction, and asked that Con Edison do a better job. They also requested that Con Edison open up the roadway in the evenings and on weekends as promised. Con Edison did complete its work near PS 81 over the summer as promised. It is continuing to work north from West 256th Street and Riverdale Ave to the City line. Con Edison was also asked to make arrangements not to work near two local synagogues during the holidays, and they have said they would make sure not to do so.

7. Alternate-Side Parking Report

T&T Chairman reported that he has had a number of conversations with City officials during the summer about the Board's recommendation to reduce alternate-side parking from 4 days to 2 in certain parts of the community. Overall the plan seems to have been well received and the City has been asking for additional information, which was provided. A few days prior to the meeting the T&T Chair was advised that the City's review of the proposal will require a few more months to complete.

8. Kappock Overpass Construction

The north side of the overpass has been renovated, and work has begun on the south side. The exit to the Henry Hudson Parkway going north has been closed to accommodate the work. The last two phases (3 & 4) will take about 6 months.

9. NYC Plaza Program

Commissioner Moran reported that the City is soliciting proposals for the creation of pedestrian plazas along city streets. Under the program a street would be converted into a plaza such as has been done in areas of NYC. Information on the program has been distributed by the T&T Chairman to a number of local organizations for their input and consideration. The committee discussed some of the details of the program with the Commissioner.

10. Henry Hudson Parkway Guardrail

After many delays, the guardrail project from West 239th to West 246th Street was finally completed over the summer.

11. SAR Academy

T&T Chairman reported on a number of meetings and conversations that were had with representatives of SAR regarding traffic and parking concerns along West 254th Street

and along Palisade Avenue. Progress has been made in improving the situation, and SAR has provided the Board with a written traffic plan. The Chair thanked former Chairman Brad Trebach for his participation in meetings and efforts with this issue.

12. Train and Bus Delays at West 231st Street and Broadway

T&T Chairman wrote MTA over the summer with long-standing concerns about delays on the No. 1 train beginning at West 231st Street and overcrowding on the buses there, including the No. 7 bus. MTA responded by pledging to add 7 more buses during peak hours on the No. 7 bus line, and they will be managing the No.1 train delays by having some trains depart from West 238th Street as opposed to West 242nd Street.

13. Dumping/Warehousing Cars Initiative

T&T Chairman discussed a new initiative to enforce the law against cars that are left in parking spaces for weeks and months in areas of our community that do not have alternate-side parking regulations. The 50th Precinct has been alerted to the problem and will be working with the committee. The law states that cars can not be left in the same location for more than seven consecutive days. Local resident Claire O'Brien mentioned that there are a number of cars permanently parked in the vicinity of West 247th Street and Arlington Avenue. She provided the license plates and models of two cars, and the Chair agreed to forward to the police.

14. Hybrid Buses

In mid-2009 the City will add a few hundred new hybrid buses to its fleet. The bus depot that serves the Board area will get 45 new hybrid buses out of a fleet of 123.

15. Transportation Alternatives Report on Parking Requirements

T&T Chairman reported that this past August an influential group of community organizations, including Transportation Alternatives, recommended that the City eliminate parking requirements in new construction. The Board is on record as supporting increasing the parking requirements. The committee discussed the recommendation and agreed that it would be detrimental to the community and the Bronx.

16. Young Israel Synagogue

T&T Chairman reported on his meeting with representatives of Young Israel Synagogue to discuss the ongoing parking concerns in this area. They discussed various proposals, and the information will be communicated to DOT officials.

17. Automatic Public Pay Toilet at West 237th Street

T&T Chairman reported that a DOT representative advised him that the City is no longer considering adding a public pay toilet in the Bronx Community Board No. 8 area.

Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perez Cassino
Chairman
Traffic & Transportation Committee

APC:db