

ESCR CAG Meeting – June 23, 2022
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Sam Moskowitz Seth Coren Michael Marino Trevor Holland Sandy McKee Dianne Lake	Dov Goldman Christine Datz-Romero Ditashiah Kohn Robin Schatell Damaris Reyes Wendy Brawer
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DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Community Resources and Outreach
 - A. Community Programming & Coordination
 - 1. Community call for art posted in East River Park, Asser Levy Playground, Murphy Playground; 203 submissions collected city-wide. 40 pieces selected currently displayed in ERP.
 - 2. Certificate event held w DDC Commissioner Thomas Foley, CM Keith Powers, and CM Carlina Rivera
 - B. Hiring Compliance
 - 1. 5/25/22 Spring Virtual Information Session – Resumes - recording and presentation available on website under Past Event Recordings
 - C. Information Delivery
 - 1. Tabling in the community: 6/30/2022 Gouverneur Gardens, 1pm – 3pm
 - 2. Informational mesh panels have been reinstalled at Stanton Street gates
 - D. Construction Progress/Approach
 - 1. PA2
 - A. Asser Levy playground open with community artwork
 - B. Stuyvesant Cove Park: sea wall construction
 - C. E. 23rd St. Intersection: utility work, floodwall construction
 - D. West Service Road: floodwall construction
 - E. E. 15th St within Con Edison Facility: sewer reconstruction
 - F. FDR Dr. NB exit 7 ramp: pile installation and ECS work
 - G. Stuyvesant Cove Park south of E 20th St.: closure beginning on July 5th
 - H. Avenue C between E 20th and E 18th St: Con Ed work

E. Access/Signage/Safety

1. Southern portion of Stuyvesant Cove Park closed for construction activities through late summer 2022.
2. Greenway access look-ahead: greenway from E. 20th St. south will remain open until the Greenway from E. 20th St. north opens (Fall 2022), then close for Stuy Cove Park phase 2

II. Q&A

A. Dianne: Will Stuy Cove Park open before or after construction is completed?

1. Desiree: The southern portion of the park will be open for longer than Summer of 2022. The advisory may need to be updated.
2. Dianne: So, in the fall the northern portion will begin to reopen, but the southern section won't for another year or 2 years?
3. Desiree: Yes.
4. So, you don't have a timetable yet for the rolling reopening of the northern end?
5. Desiree: No, we are coordinating with Solar One and EDC.
6. Desiree: Revise Advisory to say late summer 2023.

B. Dianne: People are surprised to hear that the entire park will be closing because half was supposed to stay open.

1. Desiree: Because Asser Levy was able to reopen, there was some discussion about accelerating the Stuy Cove Park work to reopen the whole park sooner.
2. Damri (DDC PM PA2): The work is moving much faster than anticipated, and in an effort to give the park back, we have an agreement with EDC along with Solar One to extend the construction to the southern zone to expedite work. We are also working to give the park back pieces at a time. Most of the Northern area will be given back as we move southward.

C. Sandy: Are the sinkhole and bulkhead repairs ready to be started on the lower portion of Stuy Cove Park as well?

1. Damri: There are two sinkholes there. One is north of the ferry which we will resolve as we move into that zone. The one south of the ferry is not just a sinkhole, it is a sewer system that collapsed and which needs to be repaired. This is under the jurisdiction of EDC. We are working with them to create a plan and get funding. We don't have an exact timeline on when it will get done.

D. Sandy: Is the bulkhead going to be repaired as well?

1. Damri: I assume you mean seawall.
2. Sandy: Yes.

3. Damri: There are challenges with the seawall, it is a little more invasive. It might have areas where it is deteriorating more than expected. A solution for that has to come from the EDC; we have to take guidance from them on how to proceed.
- E. Sandy: Will the Greenway closures affect bicycle access or just pedestrians?
1. Damri: Currently pedestrians and bikers are using the same access way. It is expected to stay the same. The bicycle usage is very minimal, it is mostly pedestrians.
 2. Sandy: That might be because the signage is very difficult to navigate.
 3. Damri: We understand that people want to use it however it is beneficial to construction it is not used. There is a larger plan of the detour which construction will prefer to get used. We are being accommodating to have this in place to allow for the small volume that prefer to use it.
- F. Robin: I biked from 16th to 20th street and there are no signs and no bike path. I would suggest something gets done there for cyclists and pedestrians as well. For the parallel conveyance, will the piping not go up Broome Street because it affects the Hillman Housing Corporation?
1. Damri: There was a meeting held between East River Housing Corp. and the Hillman Housing section there. Information was not being transferred from one constituency to another. That isn't in DDC's jurisdiction. The city agreement is with the East River Housing Corp., and that's all we know about. It's being worked out, and we are in talks right now.
 2. Robin: I represent the Hillman Housing Committee on this CAG committee, and there is not a happy resolution. My understanding is that our 830 units are going to be affected. Our heat and hot water may potentially be affected, and both housing complexes are being asked to finance some of this work. This is suddenly being brought to our attention for the fall.
 3. Damri: We understand the concern, cost, and impact. This is being worked out. The conversation that was had planned out where the impact could happen one day at a time where you may be having the interruption of heat and hot water. All parties, businesses, and residents are impacted by the construction. We are trying to minimize it.
 4. Robin: I might need to have a conversation with you and Desiree separately about this.

5. Damri: We will be having the meetings on site; I will provide the information to Desiree so you can attend the next meeting.
6. Dov: I wanted to clarify that any communication East River received in regards to that was sent over to Hillman. There was nothing that was held back. So as soon as we knew was the same day that Hillman knew.

III. PA1 Construction Activities and PA1/PA2 AQM Updates

A. June/July 2022 Construction Activities

1. Corlears Hook Park partial closure: temporary bridge installed Sunday 6/5, flagpole area closing week of 6/27, Corlears Hook bridge removal 7/10
2. Shared-use path work to E. 10th Street will continue for 6-8 months for retaining wall and Con Ed work.

B. PA1 Construction Work Sequencing

1. Soil stabilization process begins on the waterfront/esplanade, progress made on Esplanade removal

C. PA1 Houston Street Pedestrian Access

1. PDC (Public Design Commission) presentations on ESCR website have lots of info and renderings
2. Passive use area
3. Existing retaining wall will remain
4. Shared-use path comes up to grade with FDR; most other areas it goes under the overpass
 - a. Existing retaining walls channel park users to signalized crosswalks
 - b. Sight lines improved
 - c. Bollards to be installed for pedestrian protection

D. Access/Signage/Safety

1. 5/23/22 ERP site visit updates
 - a. Conditions on detour paths improved
 - b. Track entrances completed
 - c. Partial wayfinding signage installed
 - d. Several access maps installed on site
 - e. Water fountains fully operating
2. Additional signage in advance of Delancey Street bridge closure and for upcoming PA2 Greenway closure
3. Access plan updated on 6/20/22; more to be posted onsite

E. Environment

1. PA1 AQM May 2022 Update
 - a. PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of May

- b. 4 occasions where the PM level passed the PEL for under 20 minutes
- c. Outlier reading on 5/22: extremely high reading for 2 minutes at 9pm, likely an anomaly

F. PA2 AQM May 2022 Update

- 1. PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of May
- 2. PM levels surpassed the PEL for 15 min TWA on 8 occasions during construction hours

IV. Q&A

A. Michael: Will there be lighting or safety planning for people coming off the ferry at night on the bridge near Corlears Hook Park?

- 1. Desiree: They added lighting along the bridge structure. I will follow up with you on where exactly we will have lighting and adding some near the playground.
- 2. Michael: The 8-foot fence is there to stop people from throwing things over the bridge?
- 3. Desiree: Correct. There is lighting on the ramp as well.

B. Wendy: On the old shared-use path, the bicyclers and runners could move rather quickly through there. It's not so clear on the new path how bikers and runners will be separated from park users who are entering and leaving.

- 1. Desiree: There is a delineated, two-lane shared use path which continues for both sides through the park. This is the only area where people come together on grade. The other areas are more separated. I imagine there would be separate pavement markings, but I have to check. I'll come back with what that will look like.
- 2. Wendy: To me that's a safety issue. Will vehicles be driving on the shared use path?
- 3. Desiree: It will operate with parks department vehicles as they need to navigate around site.
- 4. Wendy: So only parks vehicles?
- 5. Desiree: I think other vehicles as needed will be in the park.
- 6. Wendy: There is a very large new parking lot next to the tennis courts. How will drivers access that lot, and will they be driving through the park?
- 7. Desiree: There's a parking lot in East River Park?
- 8. Wendy: South of the tennis court there is a new parking lot adjacent to the eco play area, directly across from the fireboat house on the FDR side.

9. Desiree: The maintenance and operations facility?
 10. Wendy: There are the three parking lots in the new park. One on the Greenway by Pier 42, one further south, and one by the tennis courts.
 11. Desiree: Those are for Parks maintenance and operations. There isn't parking for the community in the park.
 12. Wendy: There's no parking for people using the tennis courts?
 13. Desiree: I don't believe so. I'll double check.
 14. Wendy: It's a big parking lot. In the past there hasn't been many, so I'm wondering why 3 parking lots.
 15. Desiree: I'll get a response before the next meeting.
- C. Wendy: Are you including more monitoring locations on the community side due to the construction related to the parallel conveyance, the bridge work etc.?
1. Desiree: Parallel conveyance is a completely separate project from PA1 and PA2. Once it comes on board, everything related to parallel conveyance will be reported on separately. For PA1, I don't know where the new monitoring will go but they will be associated with the construction work.
- D. Wendy: On Montgomery Street there is a floodgate going up on the west side of the FDR, correct? When does that work begin?
1. Desiree: There is not a hard start date on that. There is still coordination with Gouverneur Gardens and the project team. It is scheduled for this year.
- E. Dianne: Will the Con Ed lines be buried underneath the access path on Houston Street?
1. Desiree: Yes. This is the only location where the Con Ed lines will have significant fill.
 2. Dianne: What will happen if they need work?
 3. Desiree: They would need to dig it up.
 4. Dianne: I'm surprised to hear this because I thought one of the main considerations for this plan was not burying the Con Ed lines because it would be too difficult for them to maintain. How long is the area in which they will be buried?
 5. Desiree: I will have to get back to you on that. I would imagine that it is an isolated area in this intersection.
- F. Wendy: In the CB3 meeting, Dianne asked about the north end of PA1 that is now getting closed and the detour. Is there more information on the timing of when that area will be available?
1. Desiree: This is a question for Parks.

2. Paula: I don't remember if we asked, but I'll make a note of it now.
3. Desiree: Melissa was on the CB3 meeting and she mentioned that she thought it was going to finish at the end of the year.

CAG-Only Portion

- I. Paula: Attendance has been poor both last month and today. Any thoughts on why?
 - A. Chat: Nice weather
- II. Paula: I've sent a link to the areas of concern document that were largely identified through the survey of priorities. This is a way of monitoring of some of the concerns that arise. It does not replace the question log.
 - A. Sandy: I'm not sure of what the schedule is for CB6. Our biggest concerns are about the Greenway and having bicycle lanes in place. In our portion of the work the bicycle route is the most affected currently.
 1. Paula: We will reach out to DOT about signage.
 - B. Robin: With the parallel conveyance work beginning soon, are they presenting this info to other committees? It is alarming that there hasn't been any community feedback, and construction is set to begin within the next few months.
 - C. Wendy: Can we get Con Ed to come to a meeting?
 1. Paula: I'll ask DDC.
 - D. Wendy: Can you also ask about the restitution fund?
 - E. Dianne: I believe we are in hurricane season now. We haven't heard anything from DDC on what their safety protocols are. There are cranes, exposed power lines, equipment, and excavated dirt. We have raised this issue multiple times during the ULURP, and we would like to know their emergency plan.
- III. Tara: We did inquire about the charcoal briquettes that are being put in flower beds in Corlears Hook Park. They will continue with signage but unfortunately will not be providing any sort of receptacle to allow for proper disposal. They will keep an eye out for the debris.
 - A. Wendy: 4th of July is coming, and I just looked at the city's website about the closure of the FDR. The most southerly part where people can get on is at 20th street. Is there any way we can get it opened up in this community?
 - B. Paula: Please put this in an email and sent it to me.
- IV. Tara: If everyone could review and vote on the bylaws that would be great for us to move forward and start implementing what's being proposed. I hope you

find the priority document useful. If anyone has suggestions on alternate meeting times/days our inboxes are open.