

# Capital Budget

## MCB7's Priorities for The NYC FY 2016 Capital Budget

Adopted November 5, 2014

### Department of Education

1. **Amend the DOE Capital Plan to include renovation of the West End Secondary School (f/k/a Beacon High School) building. \$50M**

The West End Secondary School for Urban Studies will open in September 2015 in the space previously used by Beacon High School (located on 61st between West End Ave and Amsterdam Avenue). WESS will enroll a 6th grade for 2015-16, and will phase in to a 6-12 middle and high school.

WESS will represent a net addition of new middle and high school seats that are desperately needed in our District.

Among the priorities for the renovation of the building are an expanded cafeteria; a reconfigured gym and exercise space; an auditorium/assembly space (potentially combined with the expanded cafeteria); upgraded facilities for science, music, visual and performing arts; enhanced ADA compliance, especially rest rooms and street access; and usable outdoor space either on the roof or space adjacent to the building.

Since the school is phasing in one grade per year, a coordinated phased approach to renovation could be employed to meet these needs over a period longer than a single summer.

The current 2015-19 Capital Plan should be amended to include investment to meet these retro-fit needs.

### Department of Parks and Recreation

2. **Cherry Walk, Riverside Park, 100th to 129th Streets, at the Hudson River. \$5M**

Reconstruction of the existing bicycle and pedestrian path, including repaving the existing asphalt path, installing new park security lighting, and reconstructing sections of the existing rip rap edge and the landscape between the Henry Hudson Parkway and Hudson River. The Cherry Walk is part of the Hudson River Greenway. Since it was constructed a couple of decades ago, and particularly as other sections of the Greenway to the north and south of this segment have been opened, the number of cyclists using the Cherry Walk, both commuters and recreational cyclists, has exploded. The Cherry Walk is also

heavily used by walkers and runners. It was built without lighting, which makes it dangerous after dark. Furthermore, it has suffered substantial deterioration because of its vulnerable location, unusual storms and its heavy use. Because it is part of the Greenway, there is the possibility of federal funding for this project, up to \$2.5M, with the necessity to fund the rest of the cost with NYC funds.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **3. Install pedestrian count-down timers at 10 intersections on Central Park West, Riverside Drive and other dangerous locations. \$50K**

The safety of our pedestrians is paramount. Countdown timers allow pedestrians to more carefully gauge the amount of time left to cross an intersection, and whether they should even attempt the crossing, depending on where in the cycle they arrive. Count-down timers also enable drivers to estimate better how much time remains before they will be required to stop. Many drivers, previously feeling the need to speed up when seeing the flashing red hand, will not need to speed up when given measured time and will easily cross the intersection at normal speeds with a count of 5 or above. Drivers observing the count will not be surprised by a quick signal change to yellow and red due to the advance notice provided by the countdown winding down. Countdown timers save lives.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **4. Equipment for District #7. \$150K**

Purchase a crew cab pickup truck (\$40K) and a mini-packer for garbage collection (\$110K). These vehicles are necessary for the District's operations. They will permit far more efficient deployment of the limited number of staff personnel, reduce or eliminate waiting times for existing shared vehicles to become available and/or to be repaired, and reduce unnecessary use of fuel.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **5. Bloomingdale Playground (Amsterdam Avenue, 104th-105th Streets. \$900K**

Renovate the playground, which serves P.S. 145, West Prep Academy and the adjacent community, with new play equipment, safety surface, lighting, fencing and landscaping.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **6. Basketball Courts and Soccer Field, Riverside Park. \$500K**

Reconstruct the basketball courts at 102nd Street and the steps leading to them and the 101st Street soccer field. This project would also provide two volleyball courts.

## **New York Public Library**

### **7. Renovation of the Bloomingdale Branch Library. \$9.6MM**

The Bloomingdale Branch is among the most heavily used in Manhattan, with dramatic increases in every relevant category including circulation, attendance, and the demographics of users. New residential construction and the lingering effects of the economic downturn compound the increased usage. Bloomingdale, like many branches needs extensive modernization to meet this demand.

On-going structural renovation must be paired with a re-imagining of the interior. Needed additional work includes new lighting throughout the facility; renovation of the basement to serve client needs instead of dead storage; a separate and appropriately-equipped teen center; enhanced computer facilities; and furniture replacement.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **8. Replacement of curb-cuts.**

DOT does not have funding to repair existing curb-cuts/pedestrian ramps. CB7 is conducting a survey of all curb-cuts in the district. Phase One of the survey covering 57 curb-cuts from West 60th-89th Streets identified the following conditions: 10 super-bad; i.e.: basically impassable, require immediate fix; 23 severe cases; definitely high-priority and should be repaired as soon as possible; 15 bad but not yet terrible, yet if allowed to deteriorate would probably become severe cases; 9 not great but not good; bear watching.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **9. Fund speed cameras throughout MCD7.**

Speeding near schools continues to be a problem throughout the district, with some areas, such as West 95th/West 96th Street-with nearby entrances/exits to the Henry Hudson Parkway, a particular concern. Strategically placed speed cameras would make the areas close to schools much safer for children and all pedestrians.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **10. Fund street-scape safety improvements.**

Many streets in the district need new treatments - whether it be bulb-outs, sidewalk extensions, traffic-calming, bicycle parking, etc.

## **Departments of Parks and Recreation and Transportation**

### **11. The Rotunda, West 79th Street in Riverside Park. \$100M**

Federal, State and City funds are needed for the restoration of the 7 bridges, masonry and steps and basic infrastructure. The Rotunda is seriously deteriorated and needs to be restored. This joint DOT/Parks project would involve reconstructing the roadbeds and underlying vaulted ceiling of the café area; restoring the plaza and long-dormant central fountain; adding improved kitchen facilities for the restaurant; renovating the bathrooms; renovating the park office and maintenance spaces on the garage level. ADA access would be provided from the street level to the park and café levels. Drainage and electrical infrastructure would be replaced throughout. The inner and outer parapet walls around the traffic circle would be strengthened to meet modern codes.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **12. Pedestrian-initiated traffic crossings in Central Park.**

Electric and other infrastructure, and programming capacity, to coordinate traffic signals in Central Park electronically, including providing the ability for pedestrian walk signals to be activated by "push buttons" when pedestrians want to cross the Drives. The traffic signals in Central Park were installed decades ago, essentially to govern private motor vehicle traffic, which has increasingly been prohibited in the Park. CB7 supports, at a minimum, a trial period during which all private motor vehicles would be prohibited from using the Drives at all times. But currently, regardless of time of day and the amount of motor traffic and other conditions in the Park, the signals on the Drives can only be governed manually. The confusion among cyclists as to whether they must stop at red lights when no pedestrians are crossing, and the failure of many cyclists to do so -- among other factors -- has highlighted the need to provide up to date functionality to the traffic signal system in Central Park, so that the thousands of recreational users - - pedestrians (including runners), cyclists, skaters, etc. -- can be made as safe as possible from collisions on the Drives.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **13. Soldiers and Sailors Monument, West 89th Street on Riverside Drive. \$1.5M**

Phase I stabilization, including windows, roof and interior marble, as well as a conditions survey of this magnificent but badly deteriorated monument.

## **New York Public Library**

### **14. Renovation of the Performing Arts Library (Lincoln Center). 5.5M**

The Performing Arts Library serves both local and City-wide needs. It is ideally located within the Lincoln Center campus, an easy walk from Carnegie Hall, LaGuardia High School and the Special Music School among many other public schools, and Fordham; is a short commute from the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, and other colleges and conservatories. The Performing Arts Library boasts a vigorous circulation and is heavily used, and enhances the cultural identity and resources of our Upper West Side community. The building is in ~~need of~~ extensive need of system-wide structural renovation, including foundation waterproofing; sidewalk replacement and drainage management; safety and security upgrades such as improved exterior lighting, replacement of exterior doors and security cameras; as well as replacement of the HVAC systems including steam pressure stations, air compressors and steam heaters.

The A/C component (a \$350K upgrade) is critical both to meet the needs of library users as well as to promote the preservation of fragile manuscripts, scores and original ephemera.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **15. Fund red light cameras throughout MCD7.**

Failure to yield & running red/amber lights with the resultant vehicular/pedestrian accidents resulting in serious injury and/or loss of life - continues to be a serious concern throughout the district. The placement of red light cameras - particularly in areas known to be at a high risk for vehicular/pedestrian conflicts - would send a strong message to operators of vehicles that speeding and improper/illegal movements will not be tolerated, and violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **16. Restoration of the landscape at the Hippo Playground area of Riverside Park (91st-95th Streets). \$750K**

Reconstruct pathways, ramps and adjacent landscape around Hippo Playground, including the spectacular Crabapple Grove area and the 91st Street entrance to the park, all of which are severely deteriorated.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **17. Funding for an Upper West Side pilot for variable traffic signal timing.**

Many intersections have variable crowd conditions depending on time of day - for instance, when schools let out, the PM rush hour, the AM rush, etc. DOT has said they cannot at this time program traffic signals by time of day. We believe this technology is important for safety, and must be pursued.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **18. Increase funding for street and curb lane resurfacing. \$200K/lane mile**

There are 193.6 lane miles of paved streets in CD7, slightly more than 10% of the lane mileage of all of Manhattan. The huge increase in street cuts for utility work, including fiber optics and cable, and construction has left CD7's streets in dire shape. Side streets and intersections are particularly rutted. Many blocks on Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue have ruts as deep as 6 inches in the parking lanes near the curbs.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **19. Green Outlook, Riverside Park. \$2.8M**

Build the "Green Outlook" facility on the no longer needed south parking lot near the 96th Street tennis courts, including a landscaped overlook, a solar-powered comfort station using state-of-the-art compost technology and a sustainable parks maintenance building. This project would serve thousands of Greenway users, tennis players and other park users. This project would "green" a currently paved space and dedicate it to park users. Total cost: \$5.5M (The Riverside Clay Tennis Assn. plans to raise \$2 million, including \$500,000 for a maintenance endowment.) Council Member Brewer has allocated \$1.2M.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **20. Sol Bloom Playground (West 91st-92nd Streets, CPW-Columbus Avenue.) \$1.5M**

Renovate the schoolyard, which serves P.S. 84 and the adjacent community, into a multi-purpose play area with a track, mini-soccer field and basketball courts that can be fully utilized by the students during the school day and neighborhood youths after school and on non-school days. (FY14#17; FY15#19)

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **21. Renovation of Anibal Aviles Playground, West 108th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. \$1.5M**

Renovate the playground, including new play equipment, safety surface, drinking fountain, lighting, fencing and landscaping.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **22. Dinosaur Playground, West 97th Street, Riverside Park. \$3.5M**

Reconstruct the playground, including new play equipment and swings, safety surface, update of bathrooms in the adjacent comfort station, which would be made accessible for people with disabilities.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **23. Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, West 60th Street. TBD**

Replace roof and skylight in the old portion of the building.

## **Department of Transportation/Department of Environmental Protection**

### **24. Reconstruct Riverside Drive, West 104th-110th Streets. \$2.95M**

An inter-agency effort has mitigated serious drainage problems on Riverside Drive from West 104th -110th Street. Full reconstruction is needed to improve drainage, replace catch basins that do not meet current standards, increase the curb reveals, and repair unsafe medians affected by subsidence.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **25. Bennerson Playground, West 64th Street, Amsterdam Houses. \$1.5M**

Provide additional funds so the whole playground can be renovated at the same time, including new play equipment, spray shower, an additional drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches, perimeter fencing, plantings and lighting. Former CM Brewer and CM Rosenthal allocated \$1.55M for the renovation of basketball courts.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **26. Visually Handicapped - Accessibility.**

Those of our community with handicaps, are frequently unable to share in a quality of life open to others and a free access to the world outside their homes. Moving along the streets, the visually handicapped have no way of knowing if it is safe to cross the street. We are recommending that audible signals be developed by DOT to indicate red lights.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

**27. Frederick Douglass Playground, West 102nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. TBD**

Replace the synthetic turf field, which has outlived its life span, and repave the handball courts.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

**28. Happy Warrior Playground, West 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, PS163. TBD**

Repave the multi-purpose play area; rebuild and expand the parkhouse as a district headquarters for M&O; and add a storage facility.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

**29. Matthew Sapolin Playground, West 70th Street, PS199. TBD**

Upgrade the playground, including resurfacing the pavement around spray shower, replacing the safety surface, and replacing the backboards.

## **Department of Transportation**

**30. Fund a speed/red light camera pilot to enforce TLC (only) violations.**

Pending a check of the legality of such a program, this would catch TLC-licensed vehicles who are speeding or running red lights, or other illegal movements.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

**31. Restoration of the perimeter sidewalk along Central Park West between 59th Street and 110th Street. \$250K/block**

The Park's perimeter sidewalks along Central Park West have buckled and present tripping hazards. Hex pavers, curbs and benches would be replaced. With the completion of the reconstruction of Columbus Circle and Frederick Douglass Circle, the Central Park West sidewalk in CD7, which connects the two locations, would complete the improvements.

## **Continuing Support: Department of Parks and Recreation**

**32. Reconstruction of Naumburg Bandshell**