



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members

From: Victor Dadras

Date: November 23, 2021

Re: Bicycle Network Development

On Monday, November 22, 2021, the CB11 Transportation Committee met to discuss the Bicycle Network Development (BND) proposal from the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) that affects the western portion of Community Board 11.

Present

Committee Members

Victor Dadras, 1st Vice Chair and Committee Chair

Christine Haider, 2nd Vice Chair

Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair

Joan Garippa

John Kelly

Eileen Miller

Albert Galatan

Stephan Popa

Benjamin Turner

Jena Lanzetta

Chris Scherer

Carin Bail

Wendy Pelle-Ber

Paul DiBenedetto

Jason Chen

Lindsey Mayer, non-Board Committee Member

Lander Bravo, CB11 Board Member

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Mr. Dadras commenced the meeting by reviewing the BND report that was researched and compiled by Joseph Marziliano and Christina Coutinho. He also reviewed the recommendations in the summary report of the CB11 Bicycle infrastructure Subcommittee.

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Ms. Mayer questioned why 56 Avenue from Oceania Street to East Hampton Blvd. was not being recommended for protected lanes. Mr. Euler spoke about 188 Street between Utopia Parkway and 48 Avenue being problematic; it could go further south to Underhill Avenue or 58 Avenue near Francis Lewis High School. Mr. Popa stated that the Board must be mindful of the bus stops and pedestrians boarding on the proposed lanes that are along bus routes. Mr. DiBenedetto voiced concern with rushing a Board decision. He feels that this issue should not be brought to the full Board for a vote until the January 2022 Board Meeting. Ms. Lanzetta has had a great deal of feedback from the Northwest Bayside Civic Association expressing that 35 Avenue from the dead end at the Cross Island Parkway to Crocheron Avenue should not be recommended. She also stated that 33 Avenue has been suggested as an alternate but doesn't believe this is a good location either. She feels 26 Avenue is the best suggested location.

As the discussion continued, Mrs. Haider wanted to confirm that there will be no loss of parking with the proposed lanes. Mr. Dadras said one or two parking spots per block may be lost due to daylighting some corners. Mr. Kelly agrees with Mr. Euler regarding 188 Street and cited the benefit for school children that could bike to Peck Park. He also feels this recommendation should be made as soon as possible. Mrs. Haider agrees and feels we need a full study before we submit a recommendation. Mr. Bravo also feels that the 56 Avenue location needs further study and mentioned that the intersection with Luke Place is more dangerous. Mrs. Miller stated that the Bayside Hill Civic Association is opposed to bicycle lanes in Bayside Hills. Mr. Turner pointed out that CB11 represents all the people of the district and good street design is needed for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists. He also feels we need to get our feedback to DOT as soon as possible. Mr. Popa also referred to the omission of the Little Neck and Douglaston areas and stated that the narrowing of lanes does reduce speeding. He also said that www.mymaps.google.com is a useful tool. It requires a sign-in with a google account. Ms. Scherer stated there is a clear need for a bicycle network. She did question where the connections would be to other community boards. Mrs. Garippa commented that 33 Avenue is not that wide, has tremendous amounts of traffic and is well-known for having a lot of accidents. Mrs. Garippa also does not recommend trying to get the eastern portion of the district included too quickly; let the focus be on one area at a time. Mr. Bravo also pointed out the lack of the eastern portions of the district in this proposal. However, he does feel it is quite important to get the western portion of the district "networked" east to the Cross Island Parkway. Once this portion is completed, we can continue our efforts for the eastern part of CB11.

Mr. Marziliano explained the usual DOT process. He also stated that this proposal does not include Douglaston, Little Neck or Hollis Hills. He also advised that DOT wanted our comments by Thanksgiving; since it took DOT several months to prepare this proposal, we should not rush to comment on it. Mr. Dadras asked what DOT is expecting; a yes or no reply or feedback on all lane proposals. Mr. Marziliano said this is not a capital project, therefore, we do not have a right of refusal. However, we should advise them of comments that will hopefully be taken into consideration. At this point, all they have promised us is street geometry and paint.

Mr. DiBenedetto spoke regarding 26 Avenue between Utopia Parkway and Bell Blvd. He stated there is currently a standard bicycle lane on 26 Avenue to Willets Point Blvd. to the north. This would be a good connection for the portion proposed in CB11. He also suggested Corporal Kennedy Street from 26 Avenue south to 33 Avenue would serve the area by Bayside High School. Class I is a protected bicycle lane, Class II is a standard bicycle lane and Class III is a shared bicycle lane. Mrs. Haider made a comment that several blocks have medians on 188 Street between 48 Avenue and the Long Island Expressway. Mr. Marziliano added that the blocks with these medians are the narrowest in the entire proposal. Mrs. Haider suggested Utopia Parkway rather than 188 Street.

At this point, Mrs. Haider made a motion that this issue be presented to the full Board for a vote at the January 2022 meeting. Mr. Popa seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding obtaining comments from members of the Board. Mr. Marziliano conducted a voice vote. All were in favor. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion passed.

Mr. Dadras suggested the Committee break the proposal into locations the Board feels are good, and locations the Board is not in favor of or has issues with, and alternative ideas.

Mr. Marziliano screen-shared a copy of the CB11 Bicycle Infrastructure Subcommittee recommendations. He began with Cloverdale Blvd. between 53 Avenue and 69 Avenue. This location is conducive to a protected bicycle lane utilizing floating parking. **Mr. Popa made a motion to recommend Cloverdale Blvd. between 53 Avenue and 69 Avenue have protected bicycle lanes. Mr. Dadras seconded the motion.** Mr. Popa inquired about the pedestrian bridge that connects the north side of Horace Harding Expressway to the south side. Mr. Turner said that a cyclist would have to dismount and walk over the bridge. It is not a problem. Mr. Turner added that route connects with those who go to Queensborough Community College. Mr. Kelly said that any added use of the pedestrian bridges would be good as DOT is removing some of these bridges due to low use. Mr. Kelly also suggested extending the proposed lane one block to 73 Avenue. **A friendly amendment to the motion extending the proposal to 73 Avenue was accepted by Mr. Popa and Mr. Dadras.** A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Marziliano reviewed the next proposed location which is 53 Avenue between Oceania Street and 188 Street. This location is also conducive to protected lane utilizing floating parking. There is a 15 mph zone which begins at 197 Street. The malls begin at Hollis Court Blvd. Mr. Euler asked if there was any issue with the part of 53 Avenue near P.S. 162; there are traffic lights there and a fatality occurred several years ago. Mr. Marziliano stated that this is a 2 ½ mile stretch. **Mr. Popa made a motion to recommend 53 Avenue between Oceania Street and 188 Street for a protected bicycle lane. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion.** Mr. DiBenedetto wondered why it was not proposed east to Bell Blvd. But, he did note that this route extended to the Kissena Park Corridor. Mr. Popa responded that 53 Avenue is quite narrow east of Oceania Street. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The next proposal Mr. Marziliano reviewed was 46 Avenue between Oceania Street and Cloverdale Blvd. for a protected bicycle lane with floating parking. As per the Subcommittee's recommendation, the blocks between Oceania Street and Bell Blvd. are too narrow and should not be included. He stated the road widens significantly at Bell Blvd. **Mr. Popa made a motion to recommend 46 Avenue between Bell Blvd. and Cloverdale Blvd. for a protected bicycle lane. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.** Ms. Scherer spoke about the angled parking for 46-21 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, NY 11362 Tel. 718-225-1054 Fax 718-225-4514

Lakeside Towers that must be backed into on 46 Avenue just west of Cloverdale Blvd. 46 Avenue is one-way eastbound here and can be dangerous. Mr. Marziliano remarked that the City no longer installs angled parking. Mr. Kelly added that there are no sidewalks west of this area which is dangerous for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. He would rather see the bicycle lane on 46 Avenue rather than see a western extension of the existing one on Northern Blvd. Mr. Marziliano suggested we ask for a reconfiguration or elimination of the angle parking and implementation of disabled parking. Mrs. Garippa stated that the angled parking was installed due to the tenants of Lakeside Towers needing it. She feels that the angle parking and a bicycle lane can co-exist. Mr. Marziliano added that there is a slight width change on 46 Avenue at 220 Place. Mr. Kelly suggested that some disabled parking be designated on Cloverdale Blvd. Mr. Marziliano said that would essentially be eliminating parking for some. He thinks it would be a good idea to recommend this proposed location to DOT and ask them the best way to do it without a loss of parking. Mr. DiBenedetto proposed amending the motion to include east of 220 Place there be no loss of parking. **Mr. Kelly suggested that we request DOT maximize the parking on 46 Avenue between 220 Place and Cloverdale Blvd. Mr. Popa and Mrs. Miller accepted the amendment to the motion.** A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

There will be another committee meeting in December to finish making the recommendations for the BND proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted 11/24/21