

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Virtual Meeting called to order at 7:30PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum, Chair; Susan Cleary; Maria DeInnocentis; Jatnna Reyes, CB#8; Andrew Arcese, Queens, NYCDOT.

**I. DOT PRESENTATION**

A. Proposed Safety Improvements for Homelawn St. and Grand Central Pkwy Service Rd.

1. Left turn signal installed northbound on Homelawn St. to turn onto westbound Grand Central Service Road has improved north bound traffic flow but has not improved pedestrian safety.
2. Southbound Traffic Signal on Homelawn St. to turn onto eastbound Grand Central Service Road has been adjusted to permit more time for motorists to turn left.
3. Change in traffic signal timing has not improved southbound pedestrian safety in crossing the service road.
4. Northbound motorists making right turns from Homelawn St. onto GCP East have resulted in pedestrian accidents and many near misses.
5. During rush hours as many as 240 cars make this turn endangering pedestrians.
6. DOT suggests extending pedestrian refuge island and installing a green street on the northeast and southeast corners to allow more time for crossing the street by reducing the crossing distance from 50 ft. to 30 ft. Changing the turn angle will force motorists to make wider turns thus slowing the vehicles and shortening the time pedestrians are in the crosswalk.
7. DOT reviewed installing a traffic signal at the corner of Charlecote Ridge and Homelawn St. there is less than 100 feet from this corner to GCP east bound. As a result of this short distance, DOT cannot install a traffic signal. In addition, road painting “STOP HERE ON RED SIGNAL” has been denied.
8. Adjusting the timing on the right turn signal at the GCP east should improve traffic flow.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. DOT – developing an on-street bicycle network part of which will be in CB8. The project proposes standard and shared bicycle lanes to close gaps in the existing bicycle network. Key connections in Bayside, Oakland Gardens, Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Clearview, and Fresh Meadows.

1. Area destinations: Ft Totten, Little Bay Pk., Crocherson Pk., Alley Pond Pk., Cunningham Pk., Vanderbilt Motor Pkwy., and Kissena Pk.; Auburndale and Bayside LIRR and bus routes; Queensboro Community Coll.; as well as Throgs Neck, Whitestone, and Little Neck Bridges.
2. Shared lanes on 188<sup>th</sup> St. between HHE and 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

B. DOT – bike riding on sidewalks is illegal. Offenders may face a \$100 fine.

1. Children 12 years old or younger ARE permitted to ride on sidewalks.

- C. DOT – Sleep Act – (Stop Loud and Excessive Exhaust Pollution) – this act bans the sale of devices that make vehicles louder and increases the fine against motorists and repair shops that make modifications.
- D. DOT – Senator John Liu introduced the bill to combat reckless driving in parking lots.
- E. Assemblyman David Weprin sent a letter in support for the Bukharian Jewish Congregation of Hillcrest, 81-04 166 St., to approve the application for variance to permit construction of a 3-story synagogue.
- F. MTA – announces first ADA improvements under Zoning for Accessibility coming to the 57<sup>th</sup> St “F” train station.
- G. MTA – announces restoration of subway lines as of Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, that were temporarily suspended due to crew unavailability and Omicron surge. Lines include A, B, C, D, J, Z, 6, and 7 trains. “W” line remains suspended for now.
- H. NYS DOT – announced completion of \$1.7million project to enhance safety on exit ramps in NYC as part of citywide initiative to prevent wrong way driving on exit ramps. Exits in CB8 that were improved include GCP, Van Wyck Expwy., Jackie Robinson, Clearview Expwy., and LIE.
- I. NYC Automated Speed Enforcement Program – Report of 2014-2020 is available in CB8 office.
- J. DOT – West Cunningham & Fresh Meadows Civic Assocs. requested to co-name two blocks of 192<sup>nd</sup> St. from 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. to Union Tpk. in memory of CB8 Board member Bob Harris. Letter of endorsement received from Creedmore Civic Assoc.
  - 1. A letter from the family of Bob Harris stated that they are in opposition to the re-naming. The request has been “tabled” in deference to family’s wishes and will only be reconsidered upon their initiation.

### **III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS**

- A. DOT request – to repair ponding condition in front 81-40 165<sup>th</sup> St. DOT will undertake a Raygo Machine treatment that will dissipate and channel water to nearest drainage when resources become available. (2/5/21) **NOT DONE**
- B. DOT request – for pedestrian countdown signal has been APPROVED for 188<sup>th</sup> St. & Palo Alto Ave. **DONE**
- C. DOT request – for speed humps on 141<sup>st</sup> St. between 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. & 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace. A speed hump has been APPROVED only on 141<sup>st</sup> St. between 72<sup>nd</sup> Crescent & 72<sup>nd</sup> Drive when funds are available.
- D. DOT request - speed humps at Thomas Edison H.S. on 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. have been APPROVED when funds become available.
  - 1. 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 164<sup>th</sup> St. & 164<sup>th</sup> Pl. **NOT DONE**
  - 2. 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 164<sup>th</sup> Pl. & 168<sup>th</sup> St. **NOT DONE**
- E. DOT request - “NO HONKING” sign on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. between 179<sup>th</sup> St. & 185<sup>th</sup> St. DENIED as DOT no longer installs this signage.
- F. DOT request -traffic signal or 4-way stop signs at 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace and Park Drive E. by Mauro Pk. Has been assigned case #DOT-342362-D0J4. DOT will conduct study during warm weather months. Now that speed humps exist on Park Drive East, there may be opportunity to install Enhanced Capitol Crossing (crosswalk with high visibility paint but no stop sign). “But the All-Way Stop Study will inform our units as to the best treatment here.”
- G. DOT request – for a comprehensive street direction grid in Kew Gardens Hills has been DENIED as the result of inadequate resources. It can only be undertaken if grant funding becomes

available from other agencies like the Metropolitan Planning Org (MPO) or NY Metropolitan Transp. Council (NYMTC). DOT will consider a study to change-of-direction of specific streets.

H. DOT request – blinking light at Goethals Ave. & 168<sup>th</sup> St. Has been DENIED as DOT no longer installs blinking lights.

I. DOT request – for resurfacing of Main St. (11/26/21) between GCP & Van Wyck Expwy. Has been APPROVED and tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2022.

J. MTA request – to move 25/34 bus stop in front of 82-35 Parsons Blvd. as it blocks active driveway. Has been DENIED as there have been no complaints for more than a decade and since it serves the medical center directly across the street. There is concern that moving the stop would create a hardship for passengers needing access to medical services. **LETTER SHOULD BE DRAFTED ON CB8 LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THAT THERE ARE ISSUES WITH THIS RESPONSE AS THIS LOCATION IS NO LONGER OPERATING AS A HOSPITAL. IN ADDITION, THE REQUEST IS TO ALTER THE NW BUS STOP FROM BEING THE END AND MOVING IT TO THE FRONT. MINIMAL PARKING SPACES WOULD BE LOST AS THERE IS A FIRE HYDRANT WITHIN THE PROPOSED BUS ZONE. THIS WILL PROVIDE RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS WHO CANNOT EXIT THE COMMUNAL DRIVEWAY WHEN BUSES ARE PARKED ACROSS IT.**

K. DOT request – for additional street lighting at 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. & Main St. Has been APPROVED. **NOT DONE**

L. DOT request –stop sign corner 67<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 174<sup>th</sup> St. near PS 173. Has been APPROVED.

M. DOT request –stop sign corner 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 162<sup>nd</sup> St near PS 164. Has been APPROVED.

N. DOT request –stop sign corner Goethals Ave. & 161<sup>st</sup> St. near Gateway to Health Sciences H.S. has been APPROVED. **NOT DONE**

#### IV. **REQUESTS MADE BY MARIE ADAM-OVIDE, CB8 ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS**

A. Request update from DOT in regard to improving traction on Foothill Ave., which is an inclined hill with yellow pavers (near Cloverhill Rd.).

B. Request update on speed humps for Gothic Dr. and 85<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 164<sup>th</sup> St. & 168<sup>th</sup> St.

C. DOT request – update on daylighting (3<sup>rd</sup> request) –N.W. and S.W. corners 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 170<sup>th</sup> St. (Approved by Trans. Comm. on 7/16/18).

#### V. **NEW REQUESTS**

A. DOT request – repaving N.B. left lane on Main St., between 68<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 68<sup>th</sup> Dr. (Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY (REQUEST SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE 69<sup>TH</sup> AVE).**

B. DOT request - resurfacing Utopia Pkwy from Union Tpk. to 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (Previous District Manager)

C. DOT request – for 4 STOP signs and 8 speed humps in Briarwood (Individual)

1. One stop sign (corner Coolidge & Daniels); and Two speed humps on Coolidge Ave. between Smedley St. and Daniels St.

2. One stop sign (corner Hoover & Daniels); and Three speed humps on Hoover Ave. between Smedley St. & Lander St.

3. Two stop signs (corner 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Daniels, 84 Rd. & Daniels); and three speed humps on Daniels St. between Hoover Ave. & Pershing Crescent

**ALL REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS ARE APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY WHILE SPEED HUMPS HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY DOT FROM TRANS. COMM CONSIDERATION.**

D. DOT request – 168<sup>th</sup> St. be turned to a N.B. one-way operation from 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. to HHE. Accompanied by petition with 20 signatures. (Individual) **REQUEST DENIED. NYPD**

**ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TO PREVENT DOUBLE PARKED CARS NEXT TO BUSES. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT BUSES LINE UP ON 73<sup>RD</sup> AVE RATHER THAN 168<sup>TH</sup> ST WHEN NOT PICKING UP OR DROPPING OFF STUDENTS.**

E. DOT request – extension of left turn signal on N.B. and S.B. Francis Lewis Blvd. & turning left on to Union Tpk. (Individual. Member Trans Comm). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

F. DOT request – proposal to co-name 164<sup>th</sup> Pl. at the corner of Goethals Ave. after the late NYPD Officer Raymond Abear (died of COVID). **APPROVED FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**

1. Requested by wife with support letters from Sisters of St Joseph, NYPD, Acting Queens D.A., FDNY, accompanied by a petition with 400 typewritten names.

G. DOT request – resurfacing 181<sup>st</sup> St from 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Union Tpk. (Member Trans Comm) **APPROVED.**

H. DOT request – resurfacing 179<sup>th</sup> St. from 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. to Union Tpk. (Member Trans Comm) **APPROVED.**

I. DOT request – a green turning light signal at 188<sup>th</sup> St. & 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. Circle for N.B. traffic coming into the circle to make right turn on to 64<sup>th</sup> Ave E.B. (Member Trans Comm.) **DENIED AS THIS WILL FURTHER CONGEST THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE.**

J. DOT request – a larger crossing signal for pedestrians on either side of the lamppost (188<sup>th</sup> St. & 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. traffic circle). (Member Trans Comm) **DENIED, NUMEROUS COUNTDOWN TIMERS EXIST, AND THEY ARE A STANDARD SIZE.**

K. DOT request – on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. between 199<sup>th</sup> St. and Francis Lewis Blvd. (under the Vanderbilt Motor Pkwy) turn the green painted bike lane, or widen it, into a shared bike/car lane to allow motorists to make right turns. Corner 199<sup>th</sup> & 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. get backed up as there are only two lanes on 73<sup>rd</sup>, left turn or straight, and the right lane is very narrow shared bike lane. This will improve traffic flow. (Individual) (See item V-P). **DOT HAS INFORMED US THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO MARK A NARROW GREEN BIKE LANE ON THE SIDEWALK FOR A SHORT DISTANCE. THIS WOULD IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR DOT STUDY.**

L. DOT request – Three-way stop sign at 82<sup>nd</sup> Rd. & 168<sup>th</sup> St. (Member Trans. Comm) **APPROVED.**

M. DOT request – Three-way stop sign at 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. & 170<sup>th</sup> St. DENIED on 6/15/15. Should be reconsidered as dangerous intersection for people entering 170<sup>th</sup> St when coming out of 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. (Member Trans Comm) **APPROVED.**

N. DOT request – repainting cross markings at Goethals Ave. and 168<sup>th</sup> St. (Member Trans Comm) **APPROVED.**

O. DOT request - NEW cross markings at curb cuts on 170<sup>th</sup> St. crossing East and West at 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. (Member Trans Comm) **APPROVED.**

P. DOT request delayed green light at 73 Ave. and 199<sup>th</sup> St. to permit motorist traveling southbound on 199<sup>th</sup> St. to make left turn eastbound onto 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Short block between 199<sup>th</sup> St. and Francis Lewis Blvd. holds only 3 cars with no space for vehicles turning eastbound from 199<sup>th</sup> Street (individual) (see item V-K). **A TIMING CHANGE WITH AN EXTENDED RED TURN SIGNAL ON 73<sup>RD</sup> AVE. AND A “WAIT FOR GREEN LIGHT” SIGN ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH CORNERS OF 199<sup>TH</sup> ST. AND 73<sup>RD</sup> AVE. HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY. THIS WOULD PERMIT CARS UNDER THE VANDERBILT MOTOR PARKWAY TO CLEAR THIS SHORT DISTANCE FROM 199<sup>TH</sup> ST. TO FRANCIS LEWIS BLVD., AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR CARS TO TURN.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.