

## **Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting June 5, 2017**

**Committee Members Present – Chair,** Yahaira Alonzo, Asst. Chair, Debby Nabavian, James Berlin, Anita Barberis, Mary Anderson and Yosef Kalinsky.

**Excused –** Robin Cruz and Gerard Dengel

**Community Board Members:** Richard Lewis

**Public –** Residents from CB12M

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:20PM.**
2. **Ely Buena, Small Business Association with WaHi Chamber of Commerce, WH BID: concerns about W. 181<sup>st</sup> St between FWA and Audubon, particular from St Nicholas Ave east.**
  - a. Serious issues of bus line ups and congestion on W. 181<sup>st</sup> Street, which were described in a 2014 study have yet to be addressed. Group has presentation they would like to make which details issues facing businesses on that corridor.
  - b. Traffic & Transportation Committee support would be helpful to the businesses' effort to get the congestion issues addressed. Committee Chair suggests that they try to get on agenda of Executive Committee, such that resolution could be written and voted upon in June General Meeting.
3. **Follow up presentation on Broadway (W 155<sup>th</sup> to W 170<sup>th</sup> St) Proposed Corridor Safety Improvements.** Presented by Alicia Posner, DoT.
  - a. Broadway is a "Priority Corridor" w/ 5 Vision Zero Priority Intersections. Serious problems of vehicles not yielding to pedestrians, resulting in serious injuries (40 persons) and fatalities (3 since 2010). [Most of which occurred in intersections, crossing with the signal.] Problems include conflicting left turns, lack of medians and mismatch of pedestrian patterns w/ x-walks, long crossing distances, double parking and truck loading.
  - b. DoT has been looking at this for 3 years, including a 3 year Washington Heights Neighborhood Transportation Study, merchant surveys (70+ merchants), DoT Street Ambassadors.
  - c. Proposals include reduction in travel lanes from 3 to 2 except where traffic volume requires 3 lanes, median widening, better markings, additional pedestrian islands, signal timing improvements, additional left turn signals, stop bars.
  - d. West 157<sup>th</sup> and W 158<sup>th</sup>, Edward Morgan would get special treatments, including lengthening left turn bay and more time to turn at W157th, new crosswalk
  - e. W. 165<sup>th</sup> and W 168<sup>th</sup> (including various safety measures where St Nicholas and Broadway converge) also would get special treatment. Create Pedestrian Island for W 169<sup>th</sup> St. where there is none.
  - f. Richard Lewis comments / DoT response:
    - Signal timing needs to be addressed and fixed where not working properly (DoT response: yes, part of proposed changes)

- The area below W158th shouldn't go to 2 lanes (DoT: 2 lanes are above W157<sup>th</sup> NB and above W159<sup>th</sup> SB
  - Businesses should be consulted (DoT, over 70+ businesses were spoken to and/or participated in the survey)
- g. Committee comment: 1) this area will definitely need extra monitoring after any changes made, 2) any signals not operating properly should be addressed along with other signal timing improvements and 3) loading zones should be monitored so that changes don't exacerbate issues. Lyle B. DoT notes that citywide plan for loading zones is in the works and there will be workshops on freight issues in the future). DoT notes that Freight Team would look to implement enhancements to loading zones regulations with these changes.
  - h. Committee vote: **No:** YA, MA, AB. **Yes:** DKN, JB, YK
  - i. RL voted against.
  - j. DoT seeks direction on what additional info on next steps, and their eagerness to move forward before the street gets re-painted with existing patterns. YA suggests walk through.
- 4. Dyckman Street follow-up presentation.** Kimberly R. for DoT
- a. DoT continued to consider double parking as it relates to bike lanes west of Nagle. New proposal contemplates turning lanes at Broadway, Nagle (where there is a hard right and a "soft" right) and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. where there are high turn volumes. Idea is to give pedestrians a head start, and create more "daylight" for cars making turns i.e. not turning directly into cross walk.
  - b. Innovative approach to the double parking problem is a 12' parking lane, where two cars could just fit double parked (although not a car and truck).
  - c. New loading zone regulations.
  - d. All T&T committee members present voted for resolution as did CB12 member Richard Lewis. Community, 1 in favor 2 against.
- 5. Rafael Estevez co-naming W 183<sup>rd</sup> Street at Wadsworth.**
- a. Youngest daughter returned to committee to present accomplishments of her father, a long-time community leader and co-founder of Dominican Day Parade.
  - b. Unanimous vote in favor by the T&T committee (6), as well as CB12 member (1) and the public (8).
- 6. W165th Street Station Plaza Project, Ricardo Medina.**
- a. Pedestrian bridge over W. 165<sup>th</sup> St to Hudson River, new Amtrak and/or Metro North stop, ferry stop and new Cultural Plaza to improve access in the area.
  - b. Chair: Uptown Ferry is feasible and we need a vision for Uptown. The area has been neglected from standpoint of transportation infrastructure.
  - c. Resolution to request that elected to look at transportation options uptown, to include ferry transport. Committee: In favor: 5(YA, MA, AB, JB, YK). Abstaining: DKN, CB12: 1 in favor.

**7. Mr. Elvin Soto presentation regarding conditions on St. Nicholas.**

- a. The streets from 173<sup>th</sup> Street to 192 Street and St. Nicolas Avenue are in very bad condition and vehicles need constant repair.
- b. Terrible on 178<sup>th</sup> & 179<sup>th</sup> Streets and St. Nicolas Avenue. Even when the streets are fixed, it is done poorly so the streets go back to the same condition or worse fairly quickly.
- c. People who make a living using their vehicle are suffering because the vehicles need constant repair due to the condition of the streets.
- d. Fixing the streets is complicated on 178<sup>th</sup> & 179<sup>th</sup> Streets because it is a bridge over the highway. It needs to be a coordinated effort between Port Authority and DOT. Even the equipment used needs to be of a certain weight, etc.
- e. For the past 3 years Ebenezer has brought awareness of this problem at the Cabinet Meetings.
- f. DOT: It is a matter of getting the right equipment that the bridge can bear. DOT has been reaching out to the Port Authority.
- g. The streets around Isabella Center are also in terrible condition. This is unsafe for pedestrians, too.

**8. 219<sup>th</sup> & 220<sup>th</sup> Streets & Broadway Carwash.**

- a. The representative was surprised over the reso that passed in May. The representative hired a Traffic Engineer, Steven Schneider. And there are a few issues:
  - Some things that were missed: Switching to 1 Way Street will cause the lane of traffic going into the carwash spill over onto Broadway, causing more traffic. One way is not going to work. There will be a backup onto Broadway, and this will block the exit of the carwash.
  - Recommendation is to get rid of parking on 220<sup>th</sup> street.
- b. The reso is consistent with what Car Wash stated at the May meeting and also with what the parents and school representative believe would work.
- c. Car Wash Broadway Lube wants to be put on the September agenda.

**9. September Agenda: Traffic Controls on Riverside Drive between 155<sup>th</sup> and 158<sup>th</sup> Streets.** No lights, no stop signs. Speeding is a problem.

**10. Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.**