

## **CB12Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting December 4, 2017**

**Committee Members Present – Chair,** Yahaira Alonzo, Asst. Chair, Debby Nabavian, Mary Anderson, James Berlin, Anita Barberis, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel and Yosef Kalinsky.  
**Community Board Members:** Richard Lewis, Eli Bueno, Sara Fisher, Maria Luna, Ayisha Ogilvie, Derek Peralta  
**Public – Residents from CB12M**

- 1) **Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.**
- 2) **Presentation on speed bump in front of 788/790 Riverside Drive by Eugene Bailor**
  - a) Dangerous situation of speeding, etc. between 156<sup>th</sup> and 157<sup>th</sup> on Riverside Drive, speed bump would alleviate pedestrian safety problems.
  - b) JB noted that DoT would have to look at block to see what signage (or lack thereof) situation is, and what speeding conditions exist.
  - c) ML confirmed that the speed bumps would not impede turning buses, and Lyle Blackwood noted that speed bumps can never be placed where buses run.
- 3) **Presentation on school signage and safety measures on West 157<sup>th</sup> and W. 158<sup>th</sup> where Community Health Academy of the Heights (CHAH) school is located. Presentation by Floyd Lee for CLOTH / CHAH families.**
  - a) Mr. Lee presented situation and pictures regarding lack of any school signage and speed bumps as is typical of blocks with schools. For example, most school blocks have a yellow school sign, SCHOOL printed on street surface and in many cases, speed bumps. As this is a long block where school is set back and therefore not so visible, there is speeding.
  - b) School is Grades 6-12. Petition signed by almost 100 families was presented.
  - c) Requests two speed bumps on West 158<sup>th</sup> Street (front of school) and one on West 157<sup>th</sup>.
  - d) JB: Will make request of DoT for all the treatments that schools tend to have.
- 4) **MTA Informational presentation on changes to M4 route.**
  - a) M4 bus can no longer terminate on West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, and therefore MTA will likely terminate instead on West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
  - b) Only 14% of boarding / alighting takes place south of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street on this 10.5 mile route. M4 has seen decrease in ridership, and has a very slow journey. The change should save 40 minutes on the round trip, because of shorter distance and faster bus turnaround time.
  - c) There is a lot of redundancy / transit options between West 52<sup>nd</sup> and W 32<sup>nd</sup>, so while some riders will most definitely be impacted, the vast majority should not be.
  - d) The Committee and CB12 Board members expressed frustration with the longstanding M4 problems including ML and DP (service generally on the M4), AB (bus bunching), not using the available GPS type technology (JB, AO).

- e) Chair YA asked for further detail on how the new terminus location was selected, what criteria used. Asst Chair DN asked what if anything MTA has in works for M4 that would address uptown issues.
- f) MA highlighted issues relating to bus ramps and service for riders who need the accessibility features. MTA and RC underscored import of community reporting when not working, etc ramps.

5) **Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza opposition presentation, Michael Hanow**

- a) There is plenty of green space quite close to CUMC (J Hood Wright, etc.)
- b) There has not been evidence of claimed community support.
- c) Believes that estimates of lost parking will be larger than projected.
- d) DoT should do the traffic study, not an outside engineering group.
- e) JB sets out that if DoT not in position to speak to traffic study, then we can't vote on proposal.
- f) Chair YA asked DoT (Lyle Blackwood) where they are with their review of traffic study (done by Sam Schwartz Engineering). NYC plaza program noted that typically full traffic study isn't done until after approval, and with an interim materials plaza, this is the case. Meaning that with the full traffic study, any adverse effects would have to be dealt with, and CB12 approval would have to be gained for a permanent plaza.
- g) Public comments:
  - ◆ Many community comments oppose the plaza in that location specifically, because of the tightness of the location at the end of a stretch of Haven with safety and congestion problems: bike and e bike speeding and riding against direction of traffic, heavy drop-offs at several Haven buildings, congestion on W 169<sup>th</sup> already even without additional traffic etc.
  - ◆ Many community comments oppose the plaza in that location because the parking problems are so severe, they can't support giving over space in that area to something other than improving vehicular parking and movement.
  - ◆ Several community comments and CB12 Member AO opposed plaza due to community trust issues regarding Columbia University's continued plans to expand their footprint. Chair YA notes that we needed to maintain focus on current proposal, not what may happen in future.
  - ◆ Several community comments concerned availability of alternatives to Haven location, including the park on St Nicholas north of 166<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - ◆ Liberation Coalition comprised of CUMC students expressed solidarity with community in opposition.

6) **Presentation on Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza, Patrick Burke (AVP Capital Projects) and Sandra Harris, CUMC**

- a) This is request for an Interim Materials Plaza. They have gone back another time (after October and November T&T presentations) and presented the current proposal that

included Delivery Optimization, creation of 31 new parking spaces, and new night/weekend Community Parking option.

- b) YK: Are plan components contingent on approval of Plaza? A / Delivery optimization and 31 spots will happen regardless, but not Community parking offer at 167<sup>th</sup> street lot.
- c) AO: Doesn't feel new spots help and feels like W 169<sup>th</sup> st will have far too negative effects.
- d) Public comments:
  - ◆ Community member: build on roof tops.
  - ◆ Community member: make interior garden between 165th and 168th accessible to public during more hours (CUMC responded that tough with privacy issues around patient rooms, etc.)
  - ◆ Community member: we don't want to pay for parking at all.
- b) Vote to table: 3 in favor (JB, GD, AB), 4 against (YA, DKN, YK, RC), 1 abstention (MA)
- c) Motion to approve Interim Materials Plaza if DoT positive on review of traffic study.
  - ◆ In favor: 0
  - ◆ Against: 5 (YA, DN, RC, YK, MA)
  - ◆ Abstentions: 3 (JB, AB, GD)

**7) Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.**