

Community Board 12 - Traffic and Transportation 9/13/2018 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Debby Nabavian (chair), Edgar Roman (Assistant Chair), Mary Anderson, Danielle Jettoo, Bianca Guerrero, Robin Cruz, Jim Berlin

Public: From PA NYNJ: Veronica Smith, Mario Savelli and Ken Sagrestano (?). Lyle Blackwood, DOT, Michael Hano, Debbie Cardona, Sara Townley, Representative from Broadway Wash & Lube.

Absentees: Gerard Dengel

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Introductions

- 2) **Port Authority NYNJ (the “PA”) Update on Restore the George / Safety Fence Design Review.**
 - a. Veronica Smith from the Port Authority opened presentation by saying that the PA wanted to provide an update of the decade long Restore the George Program, including the recently kicked off project phase of replacing the upper level 178th Street exit ramp, as well as provide update on the results of their further study of safety fence designs.
 - b. M. Savelli provided an overview of the \$1.9 billion, 10-year Restore the George program. The bridge is 88 years old and about 300 thousands cars ride over the GWB daily. This monumental project is comprised of 11 component projects, and will maintain the bridge in state of good repair for years to come. Projects include new pedestrian and bike paths, replacing every wire in the hundreds of ropes that support the bridge, work on the Trans Manhattan Expressway (which will require work by DoT as well) and more (see <https://www.panynj.gov/bridges-tunnels/restoring-the-george.html>) Construction hours of operations are designed to minimize disruption to bridge traffic while allowing work to proceed.
 - c. In November 2017, the Traffic and Transportation committee asked the Port Authority to review the Safety Fence Design (to include a review of fencing at Highbridge) and to look for a design that could be faster to construct. The PA, per their March 2018 letter, then (1) conducted an analysis of the current design to find opportunities for revision (2) presented the safety fence design to the PA safety board for input and (3) evaluated all alternatives to draw the best design. Various options were scaled to understand effectiveness as a deterrent.
 - d. PANYNJ concluded that any alternative would add significantly to construction cost and time so they recommended originally proposed design as best option.
 - e. Questions.
 - JB asked about the color of the fence and fence height. A / Originally the fence was 9 feet high, and it has been increased to 11 feet. The temporary fence is 14' high.
 - JB asked about restrictions to bicyclists to north side once both paths complete. Port Authority addressed bicyclist can used both.

3) Speed Hump Request on Haven Avenue from West 172nd street to 177th street

- MA commented speed hump is needed because it is unsafe to walk thru Haven Avenue.
- DN commented that we don't have basis to evaluate the three speed hump requests, because we are missing info with regard to who requested, whether there is community support for it.
- M Hano asked why there was so much interest particularly on Haven Avenue. Asked if this was connected to proposed Interim Plaza at Haven Avenue. DoT answered no.
- DN confirmed with DoT that speed humps typically do not eliminate parking.
- BG and DJ and others commented that it would be helpful to have historic safety data to evaluate the need for traffic calming.
- Committee discussed need to have these elements available for any votes on DoT approved speed humps.
- Motion made to table the three speed hump/reducer requests on the agenda: Haven Avenue between 172nd Street and W 177th Street, Bogardus Place between Ellwood and Hillside, and West 172nd between Amsterdam and Audubon Avenues. Motion to table approved 7-0-0 as follows: DN, ER, MA, RC, DJ, BG, JB

4) Modification of the May 30, 2017 CB12 Resolution for directional changes to West 219th & West 220th

- a. DN explains that DoT has requested a modification to the May 2017 resolution on directional changes to West 219th and 220th Streets so that the resolution more closely matches the DoT work plan. No changes were made to first two bullets of Resolved which converts two streets from two-way streets to one-way). DoT plan also includes:
 - Defer additional traffic calming such as reduced mph and speed humps until traffic review can be made subsequent to street changes.
 - Restripe southbound lanes of Broadway at W 220th to have 3 lanes, including a dedicated left turn lane onto West 220th Street.
 - Close median on Broadway at West 219th Street to prevent left turns from W. 219th Street onto Broadway southbound.
 - Restrict parking on north curb of W 220th directly across from Broadway Wash & Lube from 7AM-7PM, plus restrict single parking spot on south curb at corner with Broadway for similar hours. (Committee added review of these parking restrictions as part of overall traffic monitoring described in the Be it Further Resolved)
- b. Sarah Townley from the school brought up concern about lost parking for a commercial business. D. Cardona read statement by A. LeGrande on further detail of \$ value associated with street parking that in a sense has been given away.
- c. Motion was placed by DN to re-issue May 30, 2017 CB12 Resolution – West 219th & West 220th for voting. Jim Berlin second the motion.
- d. Resolution passed unanimously. Committee voting results were 7-0-0 with the following committee members voting in-favor: DN, ER, MA, RC, DJ, BG, JB

- A public community member asked when this resolution will be implemented. DoT responded, schedule is still being worked, and depending of final votes of CB12 on September 25, 2018.
- DN asked the public members to vote: Five present community members in favor, and two present community members abstain. (5-0-2)

5) Capital Budget Ranking for T&T

Jim Berlin addressed the board by explaining the Capital Budget Ranking

Action assigned to Debby to find out if we have another month to design to add new items to the budget capital

Committee voted to affirm prior year rankings on both Capital and Expense budgets.

Committee voting results were as follows: 7 In-favor: DN, ER, MA, RC, DJ, BG, JB

Motion passes by counting votes (7-0-0).

6) New Business/Old Business

- M. Hano questioned why 4 members changed their vote regarding the Haven Plaza, and asked if this was due to Columbia University lobbying efforts in intervening time?
- M Hano said that there were serious problems with Traffic Study provided as part of the Interim Plaza proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm