

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting

June 6th, 2016

Committee Members Present - Chair, Yahaira Alonzo, Asst. Chair, Wanda Garcia, Mary Anderson, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Debby Nabavian, and Yosef Kalinsky.

Excused – Jennifer Chung

Community Board Members: Maria Luna and Richard Lewis.

Public – A lot of residents from CB12M

Meeting Began at 7:10 with quorum.

1. MTA BX6 Bus

1. **Luis Sanchez:** Acting **Manhattan Borough** Commissioner of DOT. Not prepared to present on the Select Bus Service because MTA is the primary lead on this addition
2. DOT will assist MTA in terms of regulation of curb side and routing, signal timing in order to improve the service.
3. Implementation Spring of 2017.

Concerns of the Board and residents

1. Presentation given to the Bronx; does not acknowledge that changes will also affect our area. Little regard to the Manhattan side.
2. Huge increase of ridership from W. 155th street to Yankee Stadium.
3. Too many buses go by with no service.
4. Amsterdam Avenue & W.155th Street was eliminated.
5. Many senior citizens rely on this bus; eliminating a stop or reducing service or bypassing any station will have a major impact on senior citizens in our community.
6. Long waiting periods?
7. The DOT and MTA has to meet with the Committee to discuss changes in our district.
8. Ridership numbers have increased by more than 1million riders in the last 5 years. Changing this route is unacceptable.
9. Any and all meetings regarding changes to this bus route HAS TO include community board 12.

Remarks by DOT

1. No elimination of buses/stops.
2. However, the MTA is best to answer whether there will be elimination or reduction in service.
3. Using the summer to do research.
4. DOT will adjust traffic signals; parking regulations are consistent; infrastructure fixes.
5. Existing stops will not be eliminated.

2. DOT presenting on Dyckman Street Improvements by Preston Johnston.

Dyckman: Broadway down to Nagel and then Nagel to 10th Avenue

- a. 2 Different designs to Dyckman Street: 1) Broadway down to Nagel; 2) Nagel to 10th Avenue.
- b. Shorten crossing distances; extension to bicycle network, connecting greenway, traffic calming, and enhance pedestrian safety along this corridor.

- c. There is moderate to low traffic volume on this corridor.
- d. A lot of double-parking which creates a visibility problem for motorists and also for cyclists who prefer to ride on the outside of the street.
- e. There is a lack of dedicated bike lanes along this corridor.
- f. There is chaos on Dyckman and there was a request for a bike lane on Dyckman. This proposal addresses those issues.

Proposals

- g. Shorten distances of the 65 ft. wide street by providing pedestrian safety islands on Dyckman by Post and Vermilyea Streets because there will be left turn lanes turning east but on the other side of the street there could be an island.
- h. Buffered bike lanes already exists from Nagel to 10th Avenue. Traffic volumes are higher. Create a protected bike lane here. Creates a continuous bike lane flow from Ft. George Hill to East River Greenway.
- i. Organize roadway by creating 1 lane dedicated to moving traffic, another for turning traffic, and adding a striped bicycle lane with the extra-space.
- j. Commercial residential corridor (Dyckman & Broadway to Dyckman and Nagel) regular bike lanes.

Concerns

- a. Bike lanes continuation from Dyckman and Riverside to Dyckman and Nagel because Dyckman and Broadway lanes cannot line up with the rest of the lane.
- b. Bike lanes not continuous from Ft. George Hill & Nagel to Dyckman and Broadway. Putting safety of cyclists at risk. It creates more chaos.
- c. No enforcement of situation that causes difficulty now, how can we be confident that if the changes take place there will be enforcement? No penalties now for double parking, why will there be penalties for double parking when there is just 1 lane of moving traffic?
- d. We need a package with loading zones and enforcement, etc. Right now, we don't have all 3 legs on the stool.
- e. Giving lanes to cyclists and taking lanes away from drivers. Also taking parking away. Allowing just one lane for traffic is not making traffic FLOW.
- f. Whatever you paint on the ground will fail unless there is cooperation from the community and/or commitment for enforcement.
- g. Traffic lights will also remain the same. Why not add turning traffic lights?
- h. Parking lanes moving right into moving lanes not safe.

Conclusion

Resolution asking for more time and information before implementation. Traffic and transportation is not in favor of the proposal as was presented. Something needs to be done to the Dyckman street corridor but it needs more input from the community. And whatever is done needs enforcement. The proposal presented should be used as a base for a Dyckman Street workshop in the fall.

(T&T: 8-0-1); Board (2-0-0); Residents (unanimous)

3. Review parking regulation in front of 5030 Broadway, W. 213 and W. 214 between Broadway and 10th Ave.

- 1. Complaint: Nov. 2015 – Big issue with idling buses that bring and wait for clients visiting United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) in front of 5030 Broadway.
- 2. Currently, there is a bus stop there and the rest of the street is No-Standing.

3. No-Standing was granted by Traffic & Transportation a while back for UCP to be able to drop off and pick up clients.
4. Traffic safety issue because buses were taking parking from the MTA and also dedicated buses like Access-A-Ride.
5. Request for UCP buses be relocated to W. 214th Btw. Broadway and 10th Avenue. Rejected by Access-A-Ride (AAR) because the street did not meet requirement for people with disabilities. The street is on a hill and the slope is more than 5%. It was recommended that UCP buses not be relocated.
6. The emissions and idling has been reduced, but the problem is still there.
7. There is another proposal with approval from Margaret Forgione, DOT Manhattan Commissioner, to eliminate the parking meters in front of 5030 Broadway, maintain the bus stop that is there, install no-standing Monday thru Friday from 7am to 7pm on Broadway between W.213th Street & W. 214th Street, and install meter parking on Broadway & 213th Street & Broadway & 214th Street (4 spots on each corner).
8. Parking meters are proposed because 5030 is a commercial building. And there is no parking meters currently in front of the building.
9. Parking meters will open some spots. After 7pm parking meters regulations will be suspended, thus opening the spots to residents.

Concerns:

- **No more parking meters.** No parking meters in front of residential buildings.
- **Pollution is a serious problem.**
- **Noise pollution is also a serious problem.**
- **Buses arrive before 7:30am and stay there until past 4pm.**

Possible Alternative Solutions:

- Move the buses elsewhere.
 - Change the buses to more modern buses that do not have diesel emissions.
 - Drop off the clients and then relocate.
 - No-Idling Sign from DOT
1. UCP buses relocate while clients are being served.
 - Allen Pavilion parking lot on 218th Street and Broadway is always empty. Mr. Batista may be able to help CB12,M with this.
 - Area between 9th Avenue and Harlem River – Sanitation and MTA property. No vehicles ever there.

Solution

- Look into alternative parking locations before issuing a resolution
- Send request to DEP for a No-Idling sign while alternative parking locations is being worked-out.

4. Jeanlee Poggi and Hank Sutter from the W. 181 St Beautification Project

1. They have created the 181st Beautification Project Neighborhood Group 30years have created and maintained the steps.
2. Emergency Situation with the DOT steps. On the side there are terraces. The timbers are holding the terraces together and they are coming apart.
3. Deteriorating badly and collapsing.
4. The Group was not able to do For It's My Park's Day for the first time in 30 years.
5. Children cannot volunteer For It's My Park's Day.

Problems:

1. Timbers collapsing
2. Rats have infested the space.
3. Tunneling from the rats are undermining the timbers and scaring the people.
4. Soil is starting to wash down.
5. Danger to volunteers and public.

Remedies.

1. Terraces need to be repaired and restored.
2. Skilled labor needed.
3. Thorough assessment by landscape professional about what needs to be done.
4. Short term and long term plan.
5. Exterminate the rats.
6. This should be placed as a priority Capital Item for 2018. Get it on the record.

Margaret Forgione, Ebenezer Smith, and Giovanni Puello visited the area. The situation is that it the location is DOT property, but the garden is under Parks Department supervision because it falls under Landscape. Funding is an issue. 1 solution is to ask elected officials to allocate funds to DOT that could be directed to Parks Department so they could fix this. This is a capital work that takes years. This is an emergency. We would need to repair the emergency.

Resolution: Emergency action to be taken by DOT and in conjunction with Parks to exterminate the rats and emergency stabilization.

T&T(8-0-0) Board(2-0-0) Public (7-0-0)

5. New Business:

1. Laverne Collins, Director of Safety and Security for Isabella.
Isabella is a medical facility. Ambulances, fire trucks, etc., come there regularly.
 - i. A problem with parking. Big No-Parking signs were placed in front of Isabella and around the circular, but people still park there.
 - ii. Reached out to the 34th Precinct, but to no avail.
 - iii. Vehicles would put police, DOT and MTA signs. Would park vehicles on the circular driveway. Issue for Access-A-Ride, UPS, Fed Ex, Ambulances, etc.
 - iv. No enforcement of No-Standing Signs.
2. Spend the Day with CB12,M
 - i. Starting at 8am. Various locations throughout the district.
 1. Locations and times mentioned.
 2. Handouts and emails will follow.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:25pm.