

**CB12 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**November 2nd, 2020, at 7:00 pm**

**Committee Members Present** –Chair, Debby Nabavian; Assistant Chair, Omar Tejada; Richard Allman, Mary Anderson, James Berlin, Gerard Dengel, Mariela Graham, Bruce Robertson, Angel Vasquez.

**CB12:** Sally Fisher, Isidro Medina

**Public:** Natalie Espino MBPO; Dario Quinsac, State Senator Jackson’s office. **DoT:** Nolan Levenson, Kimberly Rancourt, Lyle Blackwood. **MTA:** Howie Levine, Robert Joseph, and Abe Argitay. Jolyse Race (Riders Alliance), Ana, Jerry Culligan, Adam Fran, Phil Bethel, HK Dunston, Paul D., Joy Gramolini, Max Sholl, Dave Thom

**1) Call to order at 7:05 pm**

- 2) **DOT 181 Street busway draft plan** – Presenters: Nolan Levenson, Kimberly Rancourt. [The draft plan is available online at [nyc.gov/betterbuses](http://nyc.gov/betterbuses)]. Projected rollout of pilot installation this year and being reviewed over a year. 5 NYCT routes carry > 42K passengers daily (approx. 19K of whom work in Washington Heights), with > 50 buses/hour. Avg bus speed is 3.7 mph. Leveraged traffic model created for Port Authority and GWB terminal project, also doing their traffic study.
- a) JB: Note the narrow streets and the number of schools in the area. MTA: Is reviewing the traffics patterns for effects.
  - b) OT: Effects of offloading 181st St. traffic to adjacent streets, especially 180th, to access Washington Bridge, e.g., A/DOT will be paying attention to this via the traffic study.
  - c) RC: Should factor in Cross Bronx traffic in which vehicles use 181 when traffic jams on the highway occur. A/DOT: This is using pretty accurate traffic data from 2019. May install cameras to understand where traffic is going.
  - d) AV: Is the cut-through traffic caused by trying to access the Cross Bronx taken into account? A/ DOT: This study is taking it into account.
  - e) GD: Are the traffic patterns being updated for post covid? Will the patterns be continued to be updated? DOT: Yes, they will continue to review.
  - f) IM: glad to see parking is being kept along the corridor but concerned with the effect on traffic building up on 182nd. Especially with schools. It would be good to know the hours of operations of the busway. It also supports the suggestion of making the 180<sup>th</sup> bet— Amsterdam and Audubon two ways.
  - g) Jolyse: Great plan that will help 42k riders and essential workers. MTA: Will keep you posted as we have more information.
  - h) Phil Bethel: Thank you to DOT/MTA, excited as a bus user to reach the Bronx. Urge MTA/DOT to automate enforcement of double parking, and has there been thought to extend this to Fort Washington. DOT/MTA: would like to see automated enforcement, but it’s looked at.
  - i) Ana: Enjoyed the 14th street corridor and would like to know where to bring up backups near Nagle and Broadway. DKN / We can bring this up in old business.

- j) David Thom: Big supporter of this project. Q / Broadway and its recent traffic uptick. I would like to see enforcement at the bus terminal. A / MTA/DOT: will review the effects on traffic and will adjust it.
- k) **MTA Update on station closure of 181<sup>st</sup> IRT for elevator replacement.** Presenting MTA Howard Levine and Abe Argitay: 1 train 181st station will be closed. 12/05/2020 to 12/2021 for elevator rehabilitation. Fifth and final deep station elevator replacement. Ads stop on the elevator at the NB platform. The alternate travel plan is to add additional M3 service between 168<sup>th</sup> and 191<sup>st</sup>, although M3 will skip 181<sup>st</sup>. Also, M101 always an option. Not much room for the job yard, so we will need to take some street. Bx3 and Bx36 stops will be relocated with the other three routes, and that stop will be lengthened.
- l) JB: Glad to see the restoration of elevator service to the NB platform!
- m) RC: Consideration for both merchants and pedestrians to access the sidewalk with construction occurring. MTA: is aware and monitoring the accessibility of the sidewalk.
- n) IM: happy the platform is accessible. What was the purpose of a second bridge on the 181st platform? MTA: does not have the details on its original use.

### **3) Old business**

- a) 157th street Riverside Drive plan - BR: Loading zone access should be monitored. DOT: This would be a request from the board on quality of life update. Paul D: Enough width should be allocated for emergency vehicles. DOT: Sign off on plan was received by FDNY.; Jerry Culligan: Suggesting a change to light timing at 158th and lower roadway RSD, to allow pedestrians more safe time to cross.
- b) Project updates to 178th St GWB traffic flow. DOT: Covid has caused this project to be pushed back.
- c) Riverside park access near 165th? DOT: Pushed back due to covid, but also depended on a separate grant.
- d) Emergency vehicle access on Nagle between Elwood and sickles.
- e) SF: A committee should host a meeting on Open streets viability. DKN: I think that should be Board level decision/discussion, not necessarily T&T, just because DoT is an agency this is under.

### **4) New business** – RA suggests starting a discussion of Bennett as a street name and considering it for change.

Meeting completed: **9:33 pm**