

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting – December 1st 2014

Attendance: Present – Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Wanda Garcia, Yahaira Alonzo, Anita Barberis, Mary Anderson (Public Member). Excused – James Berlin, Terriel Peters

1. Revisit resolution related to 155th Street and Edgecombe Avenue. Board passed resolution in October 14' in favor of overall project but against banning right turn from Edgecombe Avenue onto 155th Street. Subsequent to that meeting, DOT requested that the committee revisit the discussion and consider banning the turn. Public discussion was that there are a lot of pedestrians and traffic in that area making it unsafe to cross to the park and to reach the purple playground on Edgecombe Avenue. Nina Heyman from DOT expressed to the committee that by banning the right turn we can extend the curb and thereby shorten the crossing distance. There would be no change to the bus route. The proposed plan by DOT would create a conflict-free pedestrian crossing area.

Vote: 4-0-1

2. Proposal for speed hump on 162nd Street between Amsterdam and Edgecombe. Josh O. – Amsterdam Ave and St. Nicholas area comes together at 162nd street, requests for speed bumps submitted annually by local residents. It's a residential block. A lot of people end up on 162nd by accident and they get anxious and speed.

Vote: 3-1-1

3. Hanging sneakers on utility wires. Ebenezer went around the community and took pictures and documented where they can be found. Josh O. – they are all over the city; they are not specifically a hazard, their removal not prioritized. If they are causing a hazard, or signalling some activity, then it will be looked at. No resolution. Yosef will forward Ebenezer's email to Josh. We will see the email also and discuss it next month.

4. APS- audible pedestrian signals – 25 a year being implemented by DOT throughout the city - where they are needed. A bill passed to increase it to 75 per year but the bill is not signed yet. There exist 1 location in community board 12- on Edgecombe and 164th street near a Correctional facility and a school. There are 2 more coming to CB12 area: 155th Street and Edgecombe, and Broadway and 175th Street. To make a request, anybody can write to the Borough Commissioner why it's important - if it's an organization even better. It doesn't need to come to Community Board. DOT will get more information on the process so we can announce in general meeting and involve the community in the process.

5. Crosswalk proposal for 190th Street and Broadway by exit from A Train Subway Station. When exiting station, if you want to go north, there's no sidewalk, so you have to cross the street but no crosswalk, no lights. Cars are moving fast. Is there a way to put a crosswalk in the middle of block? Virginia Annabella – lives on Bennett, most impatient drivers go through Bennett when there's a lot of traffic on Broadway – she supports a crosswalk. Giovanni – Borough President Gale Brewer has written a letter asking DOT to look at area and supports the recommendation. Josh O. - acknowledges it is hard to cross, even dangerous. DOT studied it a bunch of times – it did not meet the criteria but the proposed Hudson Heights slow zone should hopefully help to slow down traffic in entire area. Most recent study did not meet the threshold but there is a new criteria. Threshold – number of pedestrians, cars, accidents. Plan is the committee will write a resolution in support of

this, due to traffic, and high volume we will support a crosswalk and a yield to pedestrian sign. Include in resolution a “whereas” including the Brewer letter.

Vote: 5-0-0

6. Lowery street co-naming amendment: Letter from Trudy Erwin – daughter of Robert Lowery. Amended location is the northeast corner of 155th Street and Riverside Drive. As members of this board, we take into consideration all the residents' opinions. We hope that this amendment will appeal to a broader range of constituents in the community.

Vote: 5-0-0

7. Request regarding bike paths on GWB: Neil Weissman, President of the New York Cycle Club presented a request for bike paths on GWB to be built out to 14ft wide – which is the national guidelines. The GWB is the only connector between NY and NJ for cyclists. 1300 people signed the petition - 500 users per hour. There is also a potential to boost regional economy and reduce green house emissions. Estimated cost is \$90 million dollars to cantilever out a bike path running parallel to the vehicular traffic. This is a once in 100 year opportunity to make changes to a bridge. GWB is outside of CB12, but definitely affects our community. Speaker of council said a resolution from the board will help support the request. Suggestion was raised to pass resolution to support the concept of this initiative.

Vote: 5-0-0

8. New Business:

Virginia Annabelle, mother of child in Washinton Heights Expedition school –M348 (corner of Audubon Avenue and 182nd Street), discussed an issue in front of elementary school on Audubon, It is not safe for bus to drop off and pick up children. Cars are parked in that lane. Request to remove parking and have area designated for bus drop off and pick up. DOT will look into that. Also, need a crossing guard on 181st Street and Audubon Avenue. This request should go through the Police Department. Yosef will pass along contact information for Det. Haydee Pabey who is the community affairs advisor at 34th precinct.

Community resident, Eleanor Johnson, expressed concern about 155th Street co-naming – will ask Trudy about where exactly northeast is and will it conflict with other possible plans. Ms. Johnson also said that a petition will be presented to request a co- naming for David Dinkins in the near future.

Josh O. – Riverside Drive – east southbound roadway – 158th to 165th – speed bump – for next month agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm