

CB12 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting
November 1, 2021, at 7:00 PM

Committee Members – Chair, Debby Nabavian; Assistant Chair, Leo Jimenez; Jim Berlin; Bruce Robertson; Omar Tejada; Jay Mazur; Robin Cruz.

CB12 Board Members – Maria Luna; **DOT:** Kimberly Rancourt; Lyle Blackwood; **Public:** Joseph Lott, Allegra LeGrande, Bernard Grubman, Eileen Leonard, Ira Gershenhorn, Jody Hirson, Marshal Vanderpool, Michael Reinheimer

1. Call to order 7:04 pm

- a. After introductions, Debby explains that DOT was going to have a formal presentation on initial data on the 181st Busway as it is a pilot program, but it has been delayed for a future meeting.
- b. JB: Suggests adding a point, highlighting the increase of traffic agents on W 178th St & W 179th St btwn Ft Washington Ave & Broadway to the agenda to discuss and potentially do a resolution to have them permanently stationed to help alleviate congestion in this area.

2. DOT's initial update on 181st Busway. K. Rancourt / DOT had planned to present update on the busway, but in the process of collecting data, they wanted to ensure that traffic patterns had normalized in this area, including school year patterns. Due to other existing projects, and the pandemic, they are still working on collecting the data.

- a. W. 181st St Busway launched in April 2021, 60-Day warning period for camera enforcement ended in July 2021. DOT plans on adding Gantry signs overhead to make driving signs clearer to drivers. DOT's "Signals Team" also adjusted signal time to help alleviate traffic backup on Broadway, addressing concerns from the Board and neighborhood patrons. DOT noted that this issue is directly connected with double parking which needs to be addressed with enforcement and vehicle regulation changes.
- b. At the request of CB12M and Council Member Rodriguez, DOT consolidated bus stops on the east and west side of the intersection on W 181st St and St. Nicholas Ave to one stop on the east side of the intersection. DOT also added a bench and a leaning bar.
- c. Based on limited data, DOT presents comparisons pre-pandemic (2019) and currently, observed a range of 15-30% increase in bus speeds in the busway. They also assessed preliminary samples of the streets nearby (Amsterdam Ave, Audubon Ave, St Nicholas Ave, Wadsworth Ave from W 176th St to W 185th St), and there were no noticeable changes in speeds. W 185th St had better speeds, and W 179th St had some slight slowdown (about 1mph). Hopefully present a full data set at the January 2021 Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting.
- d. DN: Note that ConEdison has announced work on Audubon Ave for the next couple of months, and how it will impact traffic patterns and congestion. Also, considering that the 1-Train W 181st St Subway Station has been closed, and this is a hub for transfers from the subway to the bus for transportation from Washington Heights to the Bronx, it can also potentially impact the data.
- e. JB: Traffic Enforcement Agents assisting with directing traffic on Ft. Washington Ave has a positive impact on traffic congestion and potentially the busway on W 181st St.

- f. J. Lott: Inquired about how DOT is measuring the data of cars diverted to the side streets, and how they are considering volume in correlation with the data collected.
3. **DOT invited CB12M board members to participate in a walk-through on Amsterdam Ave** btwn W 188th St and Ft George Ave where they are working with a student team from GW Campus and DOT's Safety Division to design solutions addressing pedestrian safety issues. DOT will present this project to the committee in December 2021 meeting.
4. A. Legrande raised issues related to unsafe conditions created around new school, with the mix of one way and two way streets on Park Terrace East, PTW, and W 215th.
5. J. Hirson, Shared info on walkthrough of W. 158th St to W. 165th St on Upper Roadway of RSD, along with community stakeholders and local representatives. Addressed many issues in the area, including road repair, lighting, stop signs. Lighting is particularly an issue from Riverside to Ft Washington on W 160th St. M. luna underscored the seriousness of the issues identified during the walk through need to be addressed.
6. **New Business:** Traffic Agents on Fort Washington Ave/Broadway & W. 179th St: JB: Proposes drafting a resolution requesting permanent traffic agents at these locations to mitigate traffic buildup and a potential hazard to pedestrians and vehicles. DKN suggests proposing the resolution at the Public Safety Committee, as it also involves NYPD and Traffic Enforcement Division.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM.