

## CB12 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting

March 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM

**Committee Members** – Chair, Debby Nabavian; Assistant Chair, Leo Jimenez; Jim Berlin; Robin Cruz; Bruce Robertson; Jay Mazur; Mary Anderson; **Board Members** – Isidro Medina; Ayisha Oglivie; Liz Ritter

**Agencies** – DOT: Lyle Blackwood; Joannene Kidder, Dennis Biegel (Director, Movable Bridges), Eric Kelly (Contractor), Huascar Robles, Yanna Almonte. **Public** –CUIMC / NYP - Sandra Harris, Julio Batista, Ross Frommer. D. Quinsac, Sen. Jackson office; Adam Fran, Emily Marte, Allegra Legrande; Alex Sramek; “Elizabeth”; Nina, Nick Hughes, Loretta H., Karen Ozuna, Brandan Tesh, Marshall Vanderpool, Paul Schwartz.

### 1. Call to order 7:05 pm

2. **DOT Bridges Presentation / Update on Broadway Bridge Rehab:** 3 span Bridge, one of which opens up. Bridge carries 1 train + passes above Metro North track. Several Bx bus lines utilize, 17.7 k daily SB, slightly less go NB. Project will address deficiencies in the open grid deck, potholes, substructure repairs, etc. North abutment is waiting on Metro North coordination. At request of NYSDEC + NYC DEP, there is a falcon refuge at the very top.
- o Gearboxes to control moveable spans are being fabricated. Also fabricating new electrical equipment, and preparing areas with new conduits, concrete. Six buildings on bridge being renovated, gatekeepers room, control house machinery house, etc.
  - o Need separate electrical service on each side of Harlem River. Tried to use existing cable ducts that run under water, but couldn't get old cables out, so will have to use some aerial cabling, which they'd wanted to avoid.
  - o Pinned down plates over open grid deck, to make it safer for cyclists, but this only works while the bridge can't open or close. Final bike lane design will have a fiberglass surface.
  - o Original completion date was Sep 2021, but no new completion date at this time.
    - JM: Q / How many people will be employed at Bridge once completed? A / No one dedicated to just that bridge. Doesn't open frequently.
    - JB: Aerial cabling is not really about aesthetics, it's about vulnerability, be it to a saboteur or an accident. Could have digitally synchronized, sending control signals over fiber optic. Take serious issue with the decision to go back to aerial cabling, particularly after raising this years ago when project was first discussed. A/ (E. Kelly) There are things that require the aerial cables; while they are using digital technology, the redundancy needs here in case of computer failures (particularly with presence of NYCT) are such that it can't all be done via this approach. Noted that the number of generators was in part a response to vulnerability concerns, and that discussions were had with count-terrorism entity.
    - BR: Why does the bridge's movability need to be preserved at all, to such great cost? A/ US Coast Guard has complete ownership of bridge opening decisions. Going back to 18th C law, marine traffic has precedence, and to attempt to convert to fixed bridge involves process that could be well over a decade long.
    - Allegra Legrande Q / Why can't pedestrian and bike access be done first, given dangerous conditions? A / Decking itself being replaced.

- E. Marte Q / Have environmental impacts been looked at, pollution etc. Q2 / Will this invite bigger boats and more marine traffic? A / No impacts to pollution from this repair project, and should change anything about the boat traffic, which is fairly sparse.
3. DOT update by Lyle Blackwood on post Haven Plaza traffic study. measured impacts of street closure and also lane reversal on W 169th. Also looked at loading zones. Studied area / intersections bounded by 171st to 168th, Haven to FWA. Tried to normalize for pandemic period. ad made minor signal adjustments on FWA at 168th St., added 4 seconds green time. Extended loading zone times. Traffic impacts were minimal.
- o Sandra Harris spoke to campus wide effort to redistribute deliveries to dock on Riverside at Rosenfeld, but also towards off hours. Can't get towing, but have requested double parking enforcement.
  - o A. Oglivie: appreciates trying to move more truck deliveries to off peak hours, and reduction of idling, but serious concerns about emergency vehicles ability to pass.
4. Old business.
- o BR raised continued issues at 168th & Broadway, JM noted additionally, that not clear work ever started that necessitated scaffolding.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.