

**CB12 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting  
June 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM**

**Committee Members** – Chair, Debby Nabavian; Asst. Chair, Leo Jimenez; Mary Anderson; Jim Berlin; Jay Mazur; Bruce Robertson; Robin Cruz. **CB12 Board Members** – Maria Luna; Emily Marte; Jacob Banas; James Bosley; Marshall Vanderpool (public member). **NYCT**, Marcus Book; **MTA**, Daniel Randell; Joe O’Donnell; Mohamed Elwakil; Jane Rossman; Kemar Wynter; Amy Zhou; **DOT**, Lyle Blackwood. **Public**: Dave Thom; Leo Glickman; Allegra LeGrande; Elizabeth; Pratik Kothari; Eileen King; Anna Siegel; Deborah Barrett; Luke DePalma; Alberto Gonzalez; Nicole Mitrovic; Mo Ramadan; Ted Gallagher; Julio Batista; Jennifer Bristol; Elizabeth Starcevic; Mike Erman.

**1. Call to order 7:14 pm.**

- Chair Debby Nabavian introduces herself and the other committee members. She discusses two updates to be discussed in “Old Business”: 1) Greenway closure for bike access on W. 180<sup>th</sup> St; 2) MTA has reached out to Parks & Rec Committee for a presentation related to ADA Accessibility at the 168<sup>th</sup> St Subway Station because the project will have impact on Mitchell Square Park; and 3) Citi Bike Station on W 212<sup>th</sup> St & 10<sup>th</sup> Ave will be relocated during construction of a homeless shelter in this area.

**2. Updates on ADA Accessibility Upgrade & Station Improvements at the 181<sup>st</sup> St A Train Station:**

- Marcus Book clarifies that MTA will present to Parks Committee Meeting on June 14 regarding the alienation of Mitchell Square Park and provide more details on the Accessibility Project.
- Joe O’Donnell also verifies that MTA will present on the 168<sup>th</sup> St Train Station ADA Accessibility Project later to T&T. This Project is currently in the Pre-Construction Phase. Two different projects happening simultaneously on 181<sup>st</sup> St A Train Station. Escalator Replacement Project at the south end of the station from the upper to lower mezzanine & refurbishing the stairway to be ADA compliant; while this work is completed, the elevators at W 184<sup>th</sup> St will remain operational.
  - 181<sup>st</sup> St Station A Line is part of a larger ADA accessibility project throughout NYC, which includes structural rehabilitation and system upgrades. Start date on Jan 26, 2022; completion period in September 2024. Entrance on W 184<sup>th</sup> St & Ft Washington Ave will be open throughout construction.
  - ADA Upgrades includes new elevators to mezzanine platforms, new ADA boarding areas, Platform replacements, ADA upgrade ramp to overlook terrace, and reconstruction of two platform staircases.
  - Temporary impacts: Temporary enclosed street staging area along Ft Washington Ave to be erected early 6/22. Coordinating with property owner adjacent to Overlook Terrace entrance for staging. 7 parking spots occupied for entire construction.
  - Service impacts: A train service will not be available at 181<sup>st</sup> St station during select weekends & weeknights; alternate service includes bus shuttles.
    - JM: there were 3 exit and entrance doors at Overlook terrace, now only two (MTA: will address this issue with Shipo; doors will be

changed to become ADA compliant). Passenger safety concerns, particularly during rush hour, during construction (MTA: close stairs and mezzanine with full barricades). Bus shuttles on Fort Washington & Broadway (DN: shuttle bus for both routes during weekend & weeknight closures).

- MA: ADA Compliant Stairs (MTA: reconfiguring stairs near escalators on 181<sup>st</sup> St as well as mezzanine level to be fully ADA compliant)
- JB: Three escalators on Ft Washington & 181<sup>st</sup> St – 2 wide and 1 narrow. Platform boarding area. (MTA: two of the outside escalators getting widened 24” to 32” limited due to space. Platform boarding area is sloped which will make it easier for train riders to board train, which is also visible to train conductors for visibility).
- DN: Ramp on Overlook Terrace entrance should be opened throughout construction. (MTA: clarifies that the ramp work will commence 2023 until after escalator work but working under presumption that it will be closed throughout the entirety of the ADA upgrade.) Understanding that the accessibility to get from Overlook Terrace to Fort Washington won’t close. (MTA: will continue providing progress and updates as project and design goes on to CB12).
- DT: Concern of overlapping projects and coordination with each project to limit transportation impact on riders and pedestrians. (MTA: Operations Division works to ensure that they minimize impact while coordinating with other agencies and projects).
- JB: Reiterates DN point of the closure on Overlook Terrace in consideration with Senior Citizens & Families who use the entrance to get to Fort Washington. JB suggests that construction closes half the ramp providing access to patrons (MTA: Ramp entrance would be shut down for 6 months in 2023 and will revisit the option as design and construction commences.
- DN: ADA Accessibility on Dyckman St 1 Train Station. (MTA: the project is well underway, moving quicker because it’s one elevator on the southside. MTA will return to T&T later to provide update).

### 3. Old Business

- Greenway Closure from Dyckman St to W 180<sup>th</sup> St Issue:
  - DN: DOT proposed bike riders use Broadway during closure. Pushback from the community bike riders because of safety issues on Broadway. Options include, using Fort Tryon Park or ride on the sidewalk which causes issues for pedestrians. No viable answer/options due to safety concerns.
  - JB: Additional hazards of bikers traveling along the Amtrak Property.
  - Elizabeth: Heavy vehicular Traffic on W 179<sup>th</sup> St from Broadway to Fort Washington for GWB commuters. Hazardous conditions for pedestrians and

drivers because there are no traffic police alleviating this issue. Food distributors on unlicensed motor vehicles and mopeds driving in the opposite direction of traffic and sidewalks. (DN: Traffic issues extend to W 181<sup>st</sup> St, although not a DOT issue, but an NYPD/Public Safety issue. Issue was previously brought up through Congressman Espaillat's Office. NYPD Traffic Enforcement had placed traffic cops in the area for support, but DN will relay the message to Public Safety Committee. It's an enforcement issue).

- ML: Street riding etiquette and education needs to be a priority due to concerns from both riders and pedestrians.
- DT: Re-proposes idea to State/NYC DOT to use Henry Hudson Parkway for riders since Greenway closure, using barricades. It won't have much impact on drivers closing one lane and prevents riders from accessing sidewalks for safety concerns. Four-month closure for the duration of the project isn't realistic. (LB: Parks & Rec project but can inquire with DOT regarding this suggestion. Parks did not give DOT ample time to review Parks plan so this current option is the only available option).
- AL: Proposed solution for Jersey barriers is simplest to implement. Reference 4/2021 Resolution wherein CB12 sends to Parks & DOT to consider the Greenway link and keep intact due to the nature of cycling as a relative mode of transportation. Hopes to see a resolution from T&T that investigates the use of The Greenway, and includes, in reference to a rule from a councilwoman that requires the contractor and construction to provide a safe alternative when removing bike lanes. (DN: This issue should be discussed at Parks Committee Meeting since it is a Park's project).
- DB: Raises issues of drag racing, crime, and speeding on Amsterdam Ave. (DN: Public safety issue, and ongoing DOT Safety Project on Amsterdam Ave); (LB: construction plan to work north from Ft George Hill & W. 188<sup>th</sup> St to W. 181<sup>st</sup> St, as construction progresses northbound DOT plans on more outreach with neighboring schools and organizations in those areas – construction starts during the summer, and DOT will provide updates in the Fall); (DN: reminds LB & DOT to ensure that outreach includes non-schools and non-organizations, other stakeholders & residents when requesting feedback and input).
- EK: Echoes issues of drag racing, crime, and speeding on W. 188<sup>th</sup> St & St. Nicholas Ave, and enforcement issues. (LB: details construction plans for The Safety Project on Amsterdam Ave. Any issues, relating to enforcement or public safety issues, are forwarded to the NYPD); (DN: Reiterates that it is a public safety issue, and CB12 cannot compel any agency to act).
- AS: Reiterates issues raised by previous participants regarding speeding and racing on Amsterdam Ave near Highbridge Park. Requests that this information is spread to other community patrons & communication with NYPD for enforcement. (LB: All information is available on DOT's website, and DOT relays all complaint to the NYPD and work with local precincts to let them know what's going on and any impact that construction can have on enforcement).

- **Outdoor Dining Program:**

- DN: Large amount of restaurant outdoor infrastructure taking parking. City Council hasn't acted yet. Downtown CB has worked on this extensively and has proposed resolutions. Looking forward to discussing this in September's Committee Meeting, and examine the trade-offs (street parking, bike lanes, loading zones, city bike stations) put to the sides for the Outdoor dining program.
- DN: Sally Fisher brought up the use of Quisqueya Plaza, and clarification/updates on the use of the public space by all community entities.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:28PM.**