

## Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting

10.6.14

**Attendance: Committee – Yosef Kalinsky, Yahaira Alonzo, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Terriel Peters, Edith Prentiss, Mary Anderson (public member). Absent – Ellen Kackman**

**Public – Josh Orzeck, Erin Ratner, Lintra Andre, Diedre Parker, Yvone Marshall Andre, Gloria McCray, Janet Csimi, Kim Johnson, Keith Planit, Lesteiel Kelly, Barbara Franier, April Hathcock, Derek Braithwaite, Laura Jardieana, Heliana Higbie**

1) Traffic safety improvements at W. 155<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Nicholas Place, Edgecomb Avenue and Harlem River Drive

- Background – request asked more than two years ago by CM Jackson ,NYPD 30<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Precincts of DOT to study the intersection
- Safety Issues – long cross walks, cars making turns into pedestrian traffic
- This is the 8<sup>th</sup> presentation done by DOT in the adjacent communities (the intersections hit three community boards)
  - 23% of pedestrian accidents happened with left turns with pedestrian right of way
  - Multiple turns happening simultaneously
- Proposed Solutions
  - DOT spent many hours looking into the option of “signal timing” – but concluded that it is not feasible based upon the number of vehicles and pedestrians involved in each traffic light phase
  - 7 new curb extensions (two more than the June proposal presented to CB12 located on St. Nicholas Avenue and 155<sup>th</sup> St. eastern corners)
  - Based on community feedback DOT is not closing the slip turn from Edgecombe onto towards Macombs Dam Bridge/155<sup>th</sup>
  - Ban right turn from Edgecombe onto 155<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Ban left turn from St. Nicholas Pl. onto 155<sup>th</sup> St. or Edgecombe
  - Ban left turn from Macombs Dam Bridge/155<sup>th</sup> St. onto St. Nicholas Pl.
- NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Comments – in general is supportive of this plan, especially the islands on St. Nicholas Place and shorter crosswalks
  - Does not support banning the right hand turn from Edgecomb onto 155<sup>th</sup> St. traveling west
  - Road surface needs improvements in general on these streets and should be addressed by DOT

- Suggests turning St. Nicholas Place into a one-way street going South – but that would be a major change and not necessarily feasible in the near future
- Community Comments
  - RL – This is a great improvement, but a few suggestions: Include curb bump outs on the East side of St. Nicholas and 155<sup>th</sup>; People are making a left turn from the right lane onto the HRD (Harlem River Drive) from 155<sup>th</sup> facing West; If we ban the left turn from St. Nicholas Place onto 155<sup>th</sup> St. vehicles will turn into the gas station and find a way around it to make that left.
  - Need better signage when turning onto HRD from Macombs Dam Bridge (from right turn)
  - Assemblyman Farrel – Agree to 90% of this, but not concept of banning the left turn from St. Nicholas Place, because that diverts the traffic to St. Nicholas where there are two schools. Also, need traffic lights/stop signs on St. Nicholas Place to slow down cars. Also, what if we only ban the turns at certain hours during the day when there is high volume – but not 24/7?
  - Edgcomb from 155<sup>th</sup> to 160<sup>th</sup> – need stop signs or speed humps to slow down cars
    - DOT – it is a bus route so can't install speed humps
  - Resident of St. Nicholas Place – not supportive of banning left turn onto 155<sup>th</sup> St., also not wise to divert traffic to St. Nicholas Street – that is where the schools and playgrounds are at
  - Osi – can we lengthen parking on 155<sup>th</sup> to block entrance to gas station?
  - DOT - No, we can't remove the driveway – that is a long process

Vote: 7-0-0; 2-0-1; 8-2-0

## 2) 207<sup>th</sup> Street Yard Flood Mitigation/Resiliency

- Project Location – MTA Yard between 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 207<sup>th</sup> to 215<sup>th</sup> Street
- Purpose of project – protect NYCT facility in the future in case of severe storms (category 2 and worse). Looking to install:
  - Flood walls – Reface current walls with concrete on south side, 11 ft. wall on the water side (east), on north side install 12-18 ft walls
    - Some sidewalk closures during the project – should take 9-12 months
    - Will make every effort to keep noise down during construction
  - Cut-off walls

- Driveway gates
- Public Comments
  - This project is ugly and makes the Street Yard look like a jail- what can we do to make it more attractive? Color?
- Vote – 5-2-0, 1-1-1, 2-0-0

### 3) Street Reversal Hillside Avenue (presented by Keith Planit)

- Motor vehicles use Hillside Avenue to cut through the area to get to the Henry Hudson Parkway. There are many schools, home for the elderly, the Inwood Y etc. on this block.
- Post Office blocks the street with its vehicles and then proceed to make illegal left turns
- Local residents of 99 Hillside, Bogardus Street Association – support the proposal
- Josh Orzeck – generally DOT defers to the community board for street reversals, but in this case please keep in mind two things:
  - This will create issues with the traffic light, need to add another cycle to the street light
  - CB12 passed a resolution last year for that intersection (a capital project – so may be some time until implemented) adding a stop sign before the right turn from Broadway onto Hillside, which would be in conflict with this resolution
  - Also – there are two speed hump studies pending , the one that is worn down can be refurbished
  - The street does not meet measures for stopping measures
- Jim Berlin – maybe a better solution is to ask to implement a slow zone in your area to slow down cars.
  - A 99 Hillside resident put in proposal for the slow zone last year – but rejected because missing documentation. She will resubmit again this year.
- Committee not ready to move forward with the street reversal proposal, would rather wait to see results of capital project first and see if that improves the traffic moving onto Hillside Avenue. Committee also recommended that the residents re-submit the slow zone application.

### 4) New Business/Issues:

- Email floating around and was sent to CM Ydanis’ office with questions about the GWB signage only in Spanish. Apparently it has been changed. George will be notified.
- Port Authority officers park by the bus stop, and buses having a hard time getting around. It is getting ridiculous.
- GWB temporary bus office’s door opens in the wrong direction. It swings opens out and there is a possibility of falling back and down the stairs. Needs attention.

- 169th Street from Broadway to Fort Washington Avenue (from Coogans to the Armory) prohibiting parking. There is a permit there to prepare for a water leak.
- No lights in the little park square that is in front of McDonald's on St. Nicholas and 170<sup>th</sup> Street. It has become blight of the community. Full of men who choose to live there.
- Enforcement issue: 178th Street south side between Fort Washington Avenue and Broadway is full of jersey bus vans. The vans are not pulling into the GWB depot. Causing much traffic.
- Suggestion to have additional signage of a one-way street up by 218th street intersection of Broadway & 10th Ave. 10th Ave. is two-waystreet up until about 217th street, then it converges to a north-bound one way street. People coming out of the Port-Authority parking lot or not familiar with the area do not know that and they head south bound on the north-bound street. There is no signage informing them otherwise.

#### 5) Budget Discussion:

Reaffirm the proposals on the expense agenda of 2015. (6-0-0)

#### On the capital budget:

1. Fix the stairs on 157th street leading to Edgecomb Ave. The Bushman's step street. Vote: 6-0-0.
2. Problems with capital priority: last year's response was that some of them are already in the works. For example: a. 312200710C rehabilitate 157 IRT: the request is too big. Need to be more specific.
3. Edith will reach out to Dierdre from MTA to find out the specifics from transit.
4. Separate the 157th & 163rd.
5. Delete the left turn on the Henry Hudson Parkway.
6. Edith will also reach out to someone in Gail's office.

Edith: An announcement to caucus before the general meeting will be made. Make a list and vote on it in the general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.