

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
May 2nd, 2016

Attendance

Board Members Present: Yahaira Alonzo, Mary Anderson, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Jennifer Chung, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky.

Excused: Wanda Garcia

Absent:

CB12 Members: Richard Lewis, Jonathan Reyes

Community Members: Girl Scouts Troop 3205, Lyle Blackwood from the DOT, Martin Collins, Jacob Morris, etc.

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.

1. Request for a Blinking Red Light & Imprint textured rumble patterns on the street at the intersection of 218th St & Seaman Ave.

Girl Scout Troop 3205: Request for a blinking red light and for rumble patterns to be placed at 218th Street and Seaman Avenue so drivers could slow down at actually STOP at the 4-way stop sign. They presented a petition. 593 people signed it.

- a. Currently there is a 4-way stop sign at this intersection.
- b. Lots of drivers do not respect the stop sign.
- c. Residents have gotten hit at this intersection.
- d. 2 Girl Scouts observed the intersection on 2 separate occasions: Their findings were:
 - i. On a Saturday evening: 53 of 79 vehicles did not stop at the intersection.
 - ii. Another day: 45 of 98 cars did not stop at the intersection.
- e. Residents of this area support this initiative.

Remarks

1. People ignore stop signs; people will ignore blinking red lights.
2. How about installing a regular traffic light? Or a camera?
3. Take these findings to the local precinct and have them place an officer there from time to time.
4. Pursue enforcement.
5. DOT, which was present at the meeting, will take a look at this intersection.
6. Also, Girl Scouts should present at the Public Safety Committee.

DOT Remarks

This intersection has been brought to DOT's attention. Traffic lights have to follow federal guidelines in terms to determine if the intersection is feasible. A traffic light signal request was placed several years ago, and it did not pass. DOT will conduct another study. It takes about 3 months. It must meet federal guidelines.

2. Elizabeth Hutton from the DOT Presentation: Pedestrian Safety at 1) Broadway & 211th Street/Isham; 2) Seaman Avenue and 214th Street.

1. Broadway & 211th Street/Isham.

a. Current situation:

- i. Long crossings on Broadway and also Isham to 211th Street.
- ii. Unpredictable turning by vehicles.
- iii. The sidewalk, which marks a fork between 211th Street and Isham is set back from turning vehicles.
- iv. W. 211th Street traffic flows east towards 10th Ave. W.212th Street also flows east towards 10th Avenue.

b. Proposal:

- i. Build concrete sidewalk extension to the fork on 211th Street & Isham.
- ii. Realign the northern Broadway crossing towards the extended concrete crossing.
- iii. And reverse traffic direction of W.211th Street to head towards Broadway (West direction). This will be in conformity with the east/west grid.

2. Seaman Avenue & 214th Street.

a. Current situation:

- i. No crosswalk connecting Isham Hill Park and Isham Park.
- ii. Pedestrians find gaps in traffic to cross Seaman Avenue.

b. Proposal

- i. Install crosswalk on the north and south sides of Seaman Avenue & 214th Streets.
- ii. Place "No Standing" Zones: 15' after the crosswalk (does not include the crosswalk) on southeast corner; and 50' (includes the crosswalk) on the west side of Seaman Avenue. This will daylight the crossing – it's 1 parking spot.

Remarks:

The day-lighted spot is equivalent to 1 parking spot. This project is not about fixing the timing of the traffic lights nor implement a timing interval, but will look into it as a separate matter.

Committee Vote: 8-0-0

Board Members present: 2-0-0

3. Jacob Morris Presentation: Co-Naming Harry Belafonte corner of 156th Street & Amsterdam Avenue.

1: Jacob Morris, Director of Harlem Historical Society, asked this committee to waive CB12M guideline that the honoree be deceased for at least 2 years prior to consideration.

- 2: Harry Belafonte is an historical figure. He's a civil rights advocate, singer, and actor.
3. Mr. Morris collected over 300 signatures from the community.
- 4: Harry Belafonte, according to his biography, lived in a 4 story walk-up apartment at 501 W. 156th Street.
- 5: The proposal is to co-name the nearest corner to the building. The actual pole would be on the southwest corner.

Remarks from the Committee and Board Members

As per the co-naming guidelines set forth by CB12M members, the committee, nor the Board, has waived the guidelines. Community Boards can make their own guidelines. And community boards can waiver their guidelines. But our community board does not have any guidelines for waiving their guidelines. The committee does not want to engage in making exceptions. The committee suggested alternatives to Mr. Morris, such as, seek to get a plaque placed on the building stating that Mr. Harry Belafonte lived there.

Moreover, concerns board member Richard Lewis shared with us were that 501 W. 156th Street is not a very good block. Major drug trafficking activities. Additionally, there is no evidence of how long Mr. Belafonte resided at the said location. Not the greatest block to dedicate to Mr. Harry Belafonte. Perhaps a better site could be appointed, such as the pathway in the park on W. 156th Street. This pathway is heavily used so the co-naming will get better visibility.