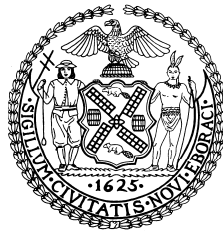


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**The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Transportation Committee**

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

New York Blood Center
310 East 67th Street (Conf. Room 1 & 2)
New York, NY

6:30pm

Minutes

Present: Elizabeth Ashby, A. Scott Falk, Larry Hockert, Rita Popper, & Charles Warren

Excused: Michele Birnbaum, Jonathan Horn, Helene Simon, David Menegon (Public Member)

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Co-Chairs Charles Warren & A. Scott Falk.

1. Discussion of the Central Park Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements (*joint item with the Parks and Landmarks Committee*)

At the committee's October meeting, there was some discussion of changes to the traffic lane allocation on the Central Park Drives, which reassigned one traffic lane throughout most of the Park Drives to bicycles, and changed what had previously been a shared bike/pedestrian path into a dedicated two-way pedestrian path.

Josh Orzeck from NYC DOT was unable to attend this meeting, but notified the committee that DOT has been in discussion with the NYPD Central Park Precinct to issue violations to vehicles in the bike lane, and that DOT will be installing new "Lane Assignment" signs.

The committee discussed the potential safety improvements that the changes may bring to the Park Drives, but there was also concern about enforcement of the traffic rules. The committee passed the following unanimous resolution:

WHEREAS the Central Park loop drive is shared by multiple users;

WHEREAS bicycles have recently been given a dedicated lane of traffic for their exclusive use;

WHEREAS dedicated bicycle signal-heads on traffic lights may help to notify bicyclists that such traffic signals specifically apply to the bicycle lane; and

WHEREAS pedestrian safety and traffic enforcement for all road users are priorities for Community Board 8M;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Department of Transportation install dedicated bicycle signal-heads on traffic lights throughout the loop drive.

Approved: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Yes: Ashby, Falk, Hockert, Popper, Warren

2. A request for a Speed Bump at 7 East 85th Street (*Requested by Ms. Soja, Midboro Mgmt.*)

Christine Soja appeared on behalf of the tenants of 7 East 85th Street to request the installation of a speed bump on East 85th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues. Recently the city installed speed bumps on the two adjacent blocks of E. 85th Street to the east of this block, and the residents of 7 E. 85th St. believe that drivers frustrated by those bumps are now speeding down this block as a result. In addition, residents spoke about their safety concerns at this location, and reported the recent removal of no-honking signs and a playground street sign depicting a seesaw.

Members of the committee noted that this street is particularly wide. Josh Orzeck of DOT had notified the committee chairs in advance of the meeting that DOT would submit this location for a speed study if requested by the community board.

The committee passed the following unanimous resolution:

WHEREAS East 85th Street is a wide street that serves as the westbound approach to the 86th Street Central Park Transverse;

WHEREAS East 85th Street has two speed bumps between Lexington and Madison Avenues, near the Ramaz School and Regis High School;

WHEREAS there are no speed bumps located west of Madison Avenue along East 85th Street, allowing drivers to increase their speed in this final block before reaching the Park;

WHEREAS residents of 7 East 85th Street report the recent removal of street signs that alerted drivers to the presence of a nearby playground and warned against honking; and

WHEREAS members of the community and in particular the residents of 7 East 85th Street have expressed their desire for a speed bump at this location;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Department of Transportation do a speed study for East 85th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues, and study the feasibility of installing a speed bump at this location; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M asks DOT to replace the playground and no-honking street signs that were removed from this block.

*Approved: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions
Yes: Ashby, Falk, Hockert, Popper, Warren*

Before the committee moved on to the next agenda item, there was some discussion of an additional location that had a history of incidents involving pedestrian injuries near the Hunter School, and for which a speed bump might be appropriate. The community member planned to contact the board office about this issue.

3. A request for a new Revocable Consent for a communications conduit from 1 East 78th Street to 14 East 78th Street.

Leonard LaSala from KME Engineering appeared on behalf of New York University to present a request for a communications conduit to run between two NYU properties at 1 East 78th Street and 14 East 78th Street (east of Fifth Avenue). Construction is planned to take place between late spring and late summer of 2013. The north sidewalk would not be affected, while affected portions of the south sidewalk would be restored after the construction.

WHEREAS New York University has requested a revocable consent to install a communications conduit between their properties located at 1 East 87th Street and 14 East 87th Street;

WHEREAS this is a standard utility conduit installation; and

WHEREAS the applicant has promised to restore the street and sidewalk to its original condition as promptly as possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves this application for a revocable consent; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this installation be completed with the least disruption to traffic and the community.

*Approved: 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions, 1 Not Voting for Cause
Yes: Ashby, Falk, Hockert, Popper
Not Voting for Cause: Warren*

4. A request for a new Revocable Consent for a fenced in area at 237 East 72nd Street.

Architect Richard Ayotte presented a request to install a 3' 4" fence in front of 237 East 72nd Street to align with the neighboring properties. This fence would be located 5' 5" from the front of the building and would not have a gate. There would still be 17 feet of sidewalk remaining in front of the property.

All of the residents of this brownstone attended the meeting to support the application.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8M approves the request for a revocable consent covering a fenced-in area located at 237 East 72nd Street as presented.

Approved: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Yes: Ashby, Falk, Hockert, Popper, Warren

5. Continuing discussion re: locations for audible pedestrian crossing signals.

The committee continued discussion regarding locations for audible pedestrian crossing signals. At the October transportation committee meeting, the committee had been discussing possible locations to request pedestrian countdown timers and audible crossing signals; DOT had indicated at that time that expanded installation of pedestrian countdown timers are planned on all the major avenues in Manhattan in 2013.

In addition, DOT has indicated that Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) tend to be installed near facilities for the visually handicapped, and DOT provided the committee with a list of current and planned locations of APS in Manhattan. The only such locations within Community District 8M are at three intersections along East 59th Street near Lighthouse International.

Meanwhile, the committee received a letter from the board of 155 East 72nd Street requesting a pedestrian crossing signal at the corner of 72nd Street and Third Avenue that would incorporate both a countdown timer and an audible alert.

The committee discussed the feasibility of adding APS at intersections along the two-way cross-streets within our district (72nd, 79th, 86th, and 96th Streets). There was some discussion of the potential impacts of this plan, and it was agreed that such a discussion would require extensive posting along all of those streets. This item was held over for the January committee meeting and notice of the meeting will be posted widely.

6. Old Business

There was discussion of complaints that the timing of the lights and pedestrian crossing time at certain locations may have decreased; these locations include 96th & Madison and at 72nd & Third. The board office will reach out to DOT to ask them to investigate whether the signal timing has changed at these locations.

A committee member mentioned that she has noticed some commercial cyclists riding bright yellow bicycles, which were much more visible after dark. This led to a brief discussion of recently enacted city legislation concerning commercial bicyclists and businesses that employ them.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren, Co-Chairs