

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee**
Wednesday October 13, 2021, 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom

Minutes

Present: Rit Aggarwala, Lowell Barton, Michele Birnbaum, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Craig Lader, Rebecca Lamorte, Valerie Mason, John Phillips, Rita Popper, Barry Schneider, Cos Spagnoletti, Charles Warren

Absent (Excused): Lori Bores, Tricia Shimamura, Peter Borock (public member)

Resolutions for Approval: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM. The co-chairs noted the passing of Barbara Chocky, the longest tenured member of Community Board 8.

Item 1: Updates from New York City Transit

Marcus Book, New York City Transit Assistant Director - Government and Community Relations, provided updates and answered questions on a variety of topics:

68th Street Subway Station Accessibility Upgrades – Construction is expected to begin during the 2nd Quarter of 2022; street work is expected to be completed at the end of 2024. The contract is expected to be awarded in December 2021; as the project is design/build, the final design is still being worked on, and will be submitted for review upon being awarded. Work hours are anticipated to be 7AM to 6PM on weekdays and 9AM to 5PM on weekends.

Congestion Pricing – the MTA began its initial public outreach and held a series of meetings in September/October.

Elevate Transit/Zoning for Accessibility – The proposed zoning actions that incentivize the designs of buildings to obtain easements and provide zoning bonuses to help incorporate or enhance accessibility at transit stations obtained final approval from the City Council; the passage followed a process in which Community Boards collectively had expressed concerns regarding certain aspects about the program and a range of support for the initiative. In response to questions posed regarding how the program will operate in terms of public outreach, board members were assured that when a developer is on board for a proposed project, and NYCT determines an applicable easement is in place, there will absolutely be community outreach.

NYC Transit Covid Recovery – Subway ridership is now at 50% of pre-pandemic levels. Subways and buses are operating full schedules, though there are bus driver and subway operator shortages that have resulted in trips that have been cancelled. The lifting of the MTA's hiring freeze is expected to help address this issue. The MTA lost about 179 employees to Covid-19 since March 2020.

M15 Select Bus Service at 72nd Street – In response to comments supporting past efforts to add a set of M15 Select Bus Service stops at 72nd Street, Mr. Book indicated that there are no plans to do so at this point. He noted

that the Manhattan Bus Redesign project is upcoming, and will provide an opportunity for the community to comment and request these bus stops.

72nd Street Station Conditions – A member noted that there has been a frequent presence of homeless people sleeping in the entranceway, and that the overall appearance and level cleanliness needs attention. It was suggested that the station manager be contacted and advised of the issues.

Item 2: Updates from New York City Department of Transportation

Colleen Chattergoon, NYCDOT Senior Planner and Liaison to CB8, solicited feedback, provided updates and answered questions on the a variety of topics:

Milling & Paving – In response to questions as to why some roads are milled but not immediately paved, Ms. Chattergoon explained that the period between milling and paving is a time when utility work under streets is able to be performed.

Offset Crossings – CB8 passed a resolution in January 2020 supporting the installation of upgraded bike turning zones and conversions to offset crossings along 1st and 2nd Avenues, which NYCDOT typically performs in conjunction with street repaving; Ms. Chattergoon will check on the schedule for repaving and opportunities to upgrade bike safety either through offset crossings or any subsequent design that may now be considered a best practice.

Bike Safety Issues – there were numerous speakers who noted the difficulty of crossing bike lanes and attempting to hail taxis along bike lanes and especially for seniors and persons with disabilities and even for drivers in buffer zones. The role of the 19th Precinct's Traffic Enforcement Unit was noted, and their efforts to address cyclists who don't follow laws to the extent that they have one of the highest levels of ticketing of any police precinct. A speaker brought up the prevalence of bikes that don't have working front and back lights, which are required by law.

Illegal Parking Placards – There were complaints about the prevalence of vehicles using parking placards, many of which may be illegal, at various locations; the block along 90th Street near Ruppert Towers was specifically noted. Ms. Chattergoon noted that any reports of illegal use of parking placards should be reported to 311.

East 72nd Street Issues:

- **Pedestrian Safety** – A recent pedestrian death occurred at the corner of 72nd Street and 3rd Avenue. It was noted that the signal timing at that intersection is confusing and could have contributed to the high number of incidents that have occurred at that intersection; Ms. Chattergoon said she would look into the safety of the intersection and whether leading pedestrian intervals are utilized, including a potential site visit.
- **Speed Cameras** – It was reported that there is a new camera in front of 325 East 72nd Street that has a flashing red light that is disruptive to neighbors. Ms. Chattergoon said she would look into whether this was a NYCDOT speed camera.

Open Restaurants – There continue to be concerns raised regarding restaurants who are not following NYCDOT guidelines, resulting in problematic conditions such as narrow passageways on sidewalks and accumulation of trash. Ms. Chattergoon said she would report back on the number of violations or warnings issued and the locations where they occurred; the data is publicly available. NYCDOT is working on the development of the permanent Open Restaurants Program, and will be returning to CB8 to provide a future presentation and to further obtain input and feedback on its guidelines, possibly in early 2022.

Truck Parking/Deliveries – There are continued complaints about the presence of trucks illegally parking and the need to improve the process of truck deliveries to businesses. Ms. Chattergoon noted that there are certain programs that are meant to address delivery challenges, such as neighborhood loading zones, and that she would

work to have the NYCDOT Office of Freight and Mobility provide a presentation to CB8 at an upcoming meeting, while CB8 attempts to bring in representatives from some of the major e-commerce companies such as Amazon and Fresh Direct.

Traffic Camera Data – Ms. Chattergoon will work to provide data at future meetings r pertaining to traffic camera infractions within Community District 8.

East 61st/62nd Street Bike Lanes – Ms. Chattergoon advised that although delayed, the project is now complete.

East 91st St./James Cagney Place – Ms. Chattergoon stated that there has been some progress to address ongoing maintenance issues, and that ConEd will be able to make a site visit.

Resiliency – In response to a question regarding NYCDOT initiatives in light of recent extreme rain and flooding events, Ms. Chattergoon noted that NYCDOT works with partner agencies such as DEP and DDC to mitigate issues.

Item 3: Updates from Fairway Market 86th/Village Supermarket, Inc.

Dan McCarthy – General Counsel and Tom Santacroce – Director of New York Operations provided updates on their efforts to efficiently unload and remove inventory, pallets and machinery from the sidewalk and curbside in front of Fairway Market 86th Street. Since the previous update in September, the number of pallet jacks has been reduced, and plantings have been performed in the flower beds. Staff has also been directed to address any trash issues that arise. In response to a question regarding whether folded cardboard cartons, Mr. Santacroce stated they are placed against the building rather than along the curbside, as doing so promotes more efficient pedestrian flow along the sidewalk. Several Committee noted how much better things look in front of the store and complimented Fairway management on its efforts.

Item 4: Old Business

Co-Chair Craig Lader, who also serves as the Co-Chair of CB8’s Congestion Pricing Task Force, stated that the Task Force met on 10/7 and intends to address two issues at upcoming meetings that may result in recommendations or resolutions - 1. Credits/Discounts/Exemptions; 2. Potential policies needed to address concerns specific to the area just north of the 60th Street toll zone boundary. In regard to the toll zone boundary area, it was noted that the Task Force may be discussing whether residential parking permits are a potential tool, and that such a discussion may be appropriate to be joint with the Transportation Committee.

Item 5: New Business

In the hours before the meeting, CB8 received notice from the NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT) to solicit feedback on the design of Link5G, the replacement for the LinkNYC network. The design will be presented to the Public Design Commissioner in a public meeting to be held on October 18th; there will be information sessions for community boards on October 19th and October 28th; feedback can also be submitted via nyc.gov/Link5G through November 10th. The design for the new structures is proposed to be 32 feet in height, which is partially due to height requirements for 5g service.

A member of the public described parking issues in front of the Chick-fil-A on 3rd Avenue just north of 86th street, including the occurrence of triple parking.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41PM.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Warren & Craig Lader, Co-Chairs