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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolutions to be voted on:

Item 1: Proposed Link5G without Ad Screen at 1150 Madison Avenue (unanimous disapproval)

Item 2: Speed Limit Reduction on 66th Street between First and York Avenues (unanimous approval)

MINUTES:

Present: Bill Angelos, Michele Birnbaum, Sebastian Hallum Clarke, Paul Krikler, Craig Lader, John McClement, Sharon Pope Marshall, Todd Stein, Charles Warren, Stephanie Reckler (public member)

Absent (excused): Lori Bores, Valerie Mason, Rita Popper

Absent (unexcused): John Philips

Number of Attendees from the Public: Approximately 35

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Item 1: Proposed New Location for Link5G without Ad Screen at 1150 Madison Ave. (near southwest corner of intersection of East 86th and Madison) in the Madison Avenue Business Improvement District

CB8M received a formal notice from the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) soliciting feedback on a proposed Link 5G kiosk (without a screen) located near the southwest corner of East 86th Street and Madison Avenue, adjacent to 1150 Madison Avenue. This proposed kiosk site is located within the Madison Avenue Business Improvement District (BID). There were no OTI staff present to discuss the proposal.

Feedback from both members of the public and CB8M members was strongly opposed to the proposal. Representatives from the Madison Avenue BID, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, Carnegie Hill Neighbors, along with nearby residents and visitors highlighted how the proposed kiosk would be inappropriate at this location based on its design being incompatible with the adjacent buildings of architectural significance, its overall visual impacts, its potential impediment to pedestrian activity, its adverse impact on the nearby historic districts, and its proximity to nearby residences. It was suggested that this application should be subject to the Section 106 review process by the FCC and SHPO (NYS Historic Preservation Office), and the immediate area where the 5G signal would be

received is already well-connected. CB8M's January 2023 resolution calling for a moratorium on construction and planning of Link 5G poles and devices in the District was also mentioned.

The following resolution was then put forward by Community Board 8:

WHEREAS; the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation is proposing a new Link 5G kiosk without a screen near the southwest corner of East 86th Street and Madison Avenue in front of 1150 Madison Avenue; and

WHEREAS; NYC OTI did not provide any justification of the need for a Link 5G kiosk at this location, and the area in which the Link 5G would serve is already well-served by existing 5G cellular service; and

WHEREAS; there would be negative impacts to pedestrians at this location if a Link 5G kiosk were to be installed; and

WHEREAS; the proposed Link 5G kiosk location is within the area of potential effect of multiple historic districts, and would alter viewsheds in an adverse manner and thus should be subject to Section 106 reviews; and

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 Manhattan passed still-pertinent a resolution in January 2023 calling for a moratorium on construction and planning of Link 5G poles and devices in the District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan disapproves NYCOTI's Link 5G Kiosk proposed for installation adjacent to 1150 Madison Avenue near the corner of East 86th Street and Madison Avenue.

Yes (9+1): Angelos, Birnbaum, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Pope Marshall, Stein, Warren, Reckler (public member)

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Item 2: Public Discussion: DOT's proposed reduction of the speed limit on East 66th Street between First and York Avenues

CB8M received a letter from NYCDOT in regards to a proposed speed limit reduction on the block of East 66th Street between York Avenue and First Avenue. Colleen Chattergoon, Senior Borough Planner at NYCDOT and Liaison to Community Board 8, explained that this is the first block in Community District 8 proposed for such a reduction following the enacting of "Sammy's Law", which was signed into New York State law in 2024 to allow New York City to reduce speed limits on segments of roadways near schools and other roadway segments to improve pedestrian safety and reduce injuries and deaths.

This location was chosen for a speed limit reduction due to the presence of PS 183 – Robert L. Stevenson, which is situated alongside a portion of the block. Under Sammy's law, blocks where schools are located can have speed limits reduced to 15MPH, which is what Ms. Chattergoon stated was the proposal in this instance. She indicated that there will likely be future speed limit reductions proposed in the district on other blocks where schools are located or where there is a history of vehicular crashes and high rates of speeding. She indicated that there would be signage to warn drivers of the reduced speed limit and that other traffic calming measures at these locations are not out of the question. Crashmapper data was also displayed showing 3 crashes near PS 183 since 2015.

There was strong support for this proposal, with members highlighting the correlation between reduced speed limits and reduced crashes and fatalities, and the frequency in which speeding now occurs. There was interest in enhancing this proposal with other traffic calming measures such as potential speed humps or speed tables, as these features allow lower speed limits to be better adhered to even without the presence of police on a frequent basis.

The following resolution was then put forward by Community Board 8:

WHEREAS; the New York City Department of Transportation is proposing a speed limit reduction from 25 MPH to 15 MPH on East 66th Street between York Avenue and First Avenue; and

WHEREAS; this location is the first speed limit reduction proposed under “Sammy’s Law” in Community District 8, and is intended to improve safety on the block where PS 183 – Robert L. Stevenson is located; and

WHEREAS; speed limits under Sammy’s law by schools can be reduced to as low as 15MPH, as it proposed at this location; and

WHEREAS; there is a history of crashes since 2015 on this block that have resulted in pedestrian injuries; and

WHEREAS; there is a strong correlation between higher vehicular speeds and the severity of injuries and fatalities of pedestrians hit by vehicles; and

WHEREAS; additional traffic calming measures can further enhance safety and promote slower speeds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the NYCDOT proposal to reduce the speed limit as a school street under Sammy’s Law from 25 MPH to 15MPH on East 66th Street between York Avenue and First Avenue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests additional traffic calming measure be implemented along this block to further ensure that vehicles adhere to the proposed 15 MPH speed limit.

Yes (9+1): Angelos, Birnbaum, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Pope Marshall, Stein, Warren, Reckler (public member)

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Item 3: NYCDOT Updates

Ms. Chattergoon, reported the following:

- NYCDOT is now planning to present on the upcoming York Avenue Traffic Study to the CB8M Transportation Committee in March, after it convenes an Advisory Committee that will meet ahead of a presentation being given.
- A letter was sent to CB8M announcing the connection of the CitiBike docking station at East 72nd Street and York Avenue to allow charging of electric CitiBikes. There were questions raised about the

ability of the electrical grid being able to support the charging station, though the size of the batteries suggests that there will be a minimal impact on electrical capacity.

Item 4: Old and New Business

A Committee member raised concerns about 5G poles being added to Bishop Crook lampposts on East 86th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues. It was agreed that this would be looked into and potentially be added as a future agenda item.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

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