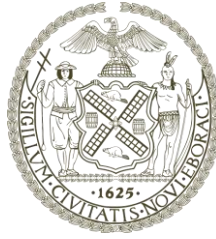


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom

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: Public Realm Improvements Project

Minutes:

Present: Michele Birnbaum, DJ Falkson, Sebastian Hallum Clarke, Craig Lader, Gopi Malathi, John McClement, John Phillips, Todd Stein, Charles Warren.

Absent: Lori Bores, Paul Krikler, Valerie Mason, Judy Schneider.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 30

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

Item 1: Presentation regarding the East 69th Street Public Realm Improvements project presented by the Department of Transportation and Hunter College

NYCDOT's Public Realm Team, joined by student members of the Hunter College Placemakers Club, presented a proposal to create a new public space in the street along the curbside outside the Hunter College North building on East 69th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues. The space would operate under the NYCDOT Street Seats program, which supports permanent pedestrian spaces installed in a parking lane, featuring movable furniture, planters, and safety elements.

The Hunter College Placemakers Club, made up of urban planning students, initiated this project to address the lack of outdoor seating in the area around Hunter College. The proposed location on East 69th Street was chosen over East 68th Street based on quieter conditions, fewer buses, better shade, and being adjacent to the existing plaza in front of Hunter North.

The street seat would occupy 138 feet of parking lane. At 8 feet in width, it would result in approximately 900 square feet of space. The curbside proposed for the street seats is not legal parking for the general public; some spaces are signed "no parking anytime," while others typically have signage saying "authorized vehicles only – school faculty" (this space has been used recently for construction staging); Hunter doesn't authorize any parking for its staff, so the vehicles parked here are illegally parked, often with fake placards.

The design includes epoxy gravel surfacing, movable bistro tables and chairs, planters, granite blocks, and a traffic-calming neck-down. Hunter College will serve as the maintenance partner with year-round staff, deploying furniture daily (except inclement weather) on a year-round basis, including when school isn't in session. The same rules as sidewalks will apply: open to all, no alcohol/smoking/commercial activity. A Hunter official indicated that the furniture would probably be there from 8 or 9 am until 5 pm or so. Hunter will provide contact information for reporting issues and has committed to posting signage about rules. Hunter's public safety patrols 24/7 with NYPD coordination.

Implementation is targeted for fall 2026.

The Hunter College team performed community engagement on 69th Street, which included Hunter Administration emailing flyers to residential contacts, Placemakers members distributed flyers at every building on May 20th, and a community Q&A on May 27th was held and attended by neighbors. They stated that the proposal was received positively.

The response to the proposal was generally supportive. Those who were in favor of the project emphasized that the neighborhood lacks green or outdoor seating options and viewed the street seat as a positive community benefit that would serve both students and residents. They expressed confidence that posted rules (no alcohol, smoking, loud music) would guide appropriate behavior and appreciated non-commercial seating alternatives. Those who expressed opposition focused on the removal of parking spots, concerns that space could undermine a quiet residential street, and questioned whether Hunter's staff availability would ensure 24/7 monitoring and enforcement of rules; potential street vending was also noted.

One member of the Committee suggested extending the project to the intersection of Park Avenue to daylight the intersection to create a safer pedestrian environment adjacent to the street seat area, consistent with the Committee's resolution in support of universal daylighting that was passed by CB8M in December 2023. NYCDOT said they would look into the feasibility of this, as the nearby fire hydrant location would need to be considered and potentially worked around. Although the no parking regulation extends to the intersection, it has often been observed that a vehicle is illegally parked between the fire hydrant and the crosswalk.

WHEREAS, The New York City Department of Transportation Street Seats program provides new pedestrian public spaces and incorporates traffic calming elements that improve safety for all street users; and

WHEREAS, NYCDOT proposes to install a street seat area on East 69th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues outside Hunter College North Building; and

WHEREAS, Hunter College students have identified a lack of outdoor seating as an ongoing concern; and

WHEREAS, the 900 square foot street seat area would occupy 138 feet of curbside with a width of 8 feet, and doesn't remove any legal general parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, Hunter College has committed to serve as the maintenance partner with year-round staff including holidays and weekends, and will be responsible for daily furniture deployment, cleaning, litter removal, and monitoring of the space; and

WHEREAS, Hunter College will provide contact information for community members to report maintenance or activity concerns; and

WHEREAS, Hunter College stakeholders have conducted community outreach including pop-up events and a community meeting; and

WHEREAS, Educational institutions like Hunter College benefit from outdoor congregating spaces, and this street seat aims to facilitate interaction between students, faculty, and neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, extending the proposed street seat area would allow the southeast corner of Park Avenue and 69th Street to be daylighted; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 has previously passed a resolution supporting universal daylighting at street intersection to address safety concerns for pedestrians that may not be visible when cars are parked right up to the intersection, as is the case at this location;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the DOT street seat installation on East 69th Street as presented, and further urges that the street seat be extended westward to the Park Avenue intersection to provide universal daylighting and enhance safety and visibility at that intersection.

Yes (7): Falkson, Hallum Clarke, Lader, Malathi, McClement, Phillips, Warren

No (1) Birnbaum

Abstain (1): Stein

Item 2: NYCDOT Updates

Rafael Escano, NYCDOT Liaison to Community Board 8, didn't have any substantive updates.

Item 3: Old and New Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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