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Public Safety and Transportation Committee Minutes
December 7, 2010, 6:00pm
LaGuardia House
307 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10035

- Present:** Jose Altamirano, Olga Ambert, Brodie Enoch, Judith Febbraro, Martin Garcia, Diane Green, Frances Mastrotta, Peggy Morales, Cora Shelton, Derrick Taitt and Theresa Richardson (public member).
- Excused:** None
- Absent:** Aime Kiros-Pettrucci, Jonathan Carrillo
- Guests:** Tom Lunke, George Rivera, Nina Saxon, Aja Hazelhoff, Millie Gonzalez, Ron Remsen, Linda Rainey, Jean Davis, Monique Holloway, Margot Edman

6:00 pm - meeting called to order by Chair Peggy Morales

I: Discussions and Presentation:

1. Captain Nilda Hofmann – Commanding Officer 25th Pct

Captain Hofmann was unavailable at this meeting, committee then moved to the next item on the agenda.

2. Harlem River Park Gateway

- a. Judith Febbraro asked if having voted down this proposal at the general membership meeting would create a double indemnity situation. Brodie Enoch the proposal has many components of which most have been approved. The only remaining part of the proposal that is still being discussed is the intersection of 135th Street.
- b. At the beginning of the presentation ground rules were established to allow the presentation to be given free of questions and/or interruptions. Board

members and guests were asked to note their questions which would be addressed toward the end.

- c. Intersection of 135th Street and Madison Avenue – DOT Dalila Hall and Josh Orzeck were both present to make this presentation that included an elaborate Power Point visual along with high visibility color coded mapping to show the impact of traffic and the current challenges that are faced by the community at large. Ms. Hall made available to the board members letters from the Office of Emergency Management and supporting documentation from the Executive Office of the New York City Fire Department supporting the changes that are being proposed. Additionally Ms. Hall produced precinct accident reports to support the argument that speaks to the need for significant change to this particular area. Ms. Davis has a concern stemming from the fact that while the Office of Emergency Management states that the change in traffic direction poses not concern and they are well with it the evacuation plan for Little Riverton specifically states that in order to evacuate during an emergency the plan is to go west to higher ground. Ms. Diane Green asked if the specific fire houses sent a letter of support to DOT

Ms. Hall explained how the extended pedestrian islands will shorten the width of the crossing allowing pedestrians the ability to stop at the islands whether on foot, in a wheelchair or with a stroller safely and efficiently without risk.

Extending the pedestrian islands will make it necessary for ALL vehicles to slow down as they will not have the same amount of space available to them to speed through. Changes will include altering the timing of the lights across the Bronx bound bridge to ensure easier flow of traffic from Manhattan.

The change in direction proposed along the NE side of Riverton Houses would not impede the ability for emergency vehicles to gain access in an emergency and would eliminate traffic conflicts at corner.

Ms. Hall presented the proposal in phases that required additional explanation. The term “phases” as used for the purposes of this presentation is representative of 120 second cycle that it takes for all of the signals and traffic to move within this specific intersection.

The contract that would allow for countdown signals for this 135th Street area for 2011 has already been let and cannot be altered. DOT has flagged this corridor for the 2012 budget and will ensure countdown lighting for this intersection then.

The presentation and discussion and question and answer session took up most of the committee meeting time allowing only a few minutes at the end of the session for other agenda items.

Tenants of Riverton Houses voiced their ongoing concern about the change of traffic direction on the NE side of Little Riverton. The tenants present also agree that perhaps the solution is to install the countdown lights and the problem will be resolved significantly. Additionally Ms. Rainey addressed the concern of having to fight bicycle riders as well as motor vehicles when crossing at the corner of most concern. Ms. Rainey also spoke about the extra large coach buses that cross the intersection without regard for pedestrians, her concern is that these larger vehicles will turn and tip over and strike anyone standing on the build out island.

Derrick Tate suggested that we take into consideration the fact that this plan must also give visibility and access to the Gateway Park. Separately Mr. Tate asked how an ambulance that in the past would make a u-turn to get someone to the hospital move if the traffic pattern were to change.

Traffic coming into Manhattan from the Bronx will move from two lanes into one. Traffic patterns there suggest that two lanes are not required.

- d. DOT was unable to provide an update on the meeting or presentation to the Riverton Houses Tenants Association as this meeting did not take place.

3. Transportation Alternatives

- a. A representative from TA was available to inform the committee that they are interested in advocating for additional bicycling lanes structures in East Harlem and are willing to work with CB11 to ensure that this matter gets the required attention and advocacy. DOT would need to conduct an assessment of our existing cycling lanes, their locations and the need for additional ones.

4. Phillip Reed Way

- a. The request to rename 111th Street between 1st and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive has been tabled until the committee's January 2011 meeting.

5. George Rivera

- a. Mr. Rivera owns a business whose entrance is consistently blocked by motor vehicles at his 173 East 120th Street location. He is requesting the committee's assistance in getting a NO PARKING sign placed on the sidewalk adjacent to his gate. DOT agreed to have this matter looked into and to have the sign placed next to his establishment. **Frances Mastrota made a motion to provide a letter of support to add a NO PARKING sign**

added in front of Mr. Rivera's curb cut as well as the Kingdom Hall next door. The motion was seconded by Olga Ambert and passed unanimously. DOT through Josh Orzeck made a commitment to have an engineer come out and look at the street in question as long as the committee is willing to pass a motion in support of the signage.

6. Announcements

- a. Committee meetings to begin at 5:30pm moving forward. Diane Green would be able to join us no earlier than 6:00pm. Committee members were all in agreement to begin earlier.

7. Adjournment

- a. **Motion to adjourn made by Frances Mastrota and seconded by Olga Ambert. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.**

DRAFT