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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 E. 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Manhattan Community Board Six
Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2019, 7:00 pm
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Sandra McKee (Chair), Gene Santoro (Vice Chair), Claire Brennan, Andrew Gross, Molly Hollister, Kathleen Kelly, Matthew Roberts, Lawrence Scheyer, Brian Van Nieuwenhoven, Bob Cohen, Raymond Knowles, Philip Napolitano, James Wilson

Absent: Beatrice Disman, Joe Parrish, Ann Seligman, Ronnie White

Guests: See table at the end of this document

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes

Chair McKee called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted.

A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Presentation by the MTA on changes in plans for L train repairs

Kaitlin McCready, Matt Bess, and Glenn Londen from MTA New York City Transit had a presentation on changes in plans for L train repairs, including a review of train scheduling. The content of this presentation is included on the Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) website, through [this link](#).

Members of the Transportation Committee asked the following questions (with answers to those questions highlighted in **bold**):

The 14th Street Bus is planned to ramp up frequency, but what percentage of current bus service is running on time? **The MTA said that they will get back to us.**

Crowd control includes closing stations. What's the status of that plan with crowd control? **The MTA is doing analysis to look at projected loads and the hours when they expect loads to be too much. They may choose to work with the NYPD on solutions.**

What are they doing about Uber/Lyft? **They are looking to get bus lanes on 14th Street. However, these bus lanes may not be available at start of the L project. The MTA suggests that the congestion on the bridge will be a deterrent.**

Will there be a vetting of the new format of the tunnel reconstruction by a third-party engineering firm? **A firm has been hired by the MTA Board, and the firm will have its kickoff meeting tomorrow. They will be working ahead of the construction.**

As a board, we've asked to keep all the mitigations. We'd like all these options on the table. **On weekends currently, when they shut the L completely, the alternate service can carry everybody. The bus shuttles and ferries were requested for the 24/7 closure for peak weekday times (and the 24/7 closure won't happen under this plan), but the subway can handle weekend loads.**

There needs to be confirmation about the plans, including the loads on weekends and how they would be handled. **The MTA said that during rush hour, loads are three times peak loads on weekends. 20-minute service is what they can provide. They intend to put bus lanes down and will get Select Bus Service (SBS) on 14th Street later in the year. However, they can't speak to the role Uber and Lyft will have in all of this.**

In responding to this question, the MTA also noted that currently, overnight trains are running every 20 minutes (however, it was noted by committee members that ridership is very high in the evenings).

What is being done for the 53rd Street E train riders? There has been overcrowding while L train was shutdown. **The MTA is encouraging people to ride the 7 train, adding service after signal upgrades.**

The message this evening is that the first option is the L, but the messaging should be "use any alternates first, then use the L as a last resort". It would be a massive waste of NYPD resources to have to dispel crowds at the L train stops. **The MTA is planning on coming back with information to help people plan to make the best decisions in traveling.**

The committee questioned if it has been computed how much money will be saved? **The MTA anticipates that this plan will save money.**

Advisors were shown on the platform informing people how to use the system. It was suggested that it would be better to put them at street level. **The previous plan had “digital urban panels” at street level and an alternate will be investigated.**

If the First Avenue L station is closed, what’s the alternative? **The MTA is developing trip planning tools to help riders choose the best route.**

It was noted that the MTA does not have information on the street improvements at 20th Street and that the DOT would be presenting later in the agenda.

Public Comments:

Residents felt that an exit only option at the First Avenue station was not a viable option for them and there would definitely need to be more buses on First Avenue.

It was also noted that 14th Street buses do not run every 5 minutes as stated. This is a problem now that will get worse with the closure. **The MTA will be increasing service to every 3 minutes. They will review concerns with bus operation team and have them look at current service.**

Concerns were expressed about the timing of buses. The concern is that, while they are to run every 3 minutes, they will be on different routes (M14A and M14D). **What this means is that there will be headways of 6 minutes (approximately) for the individual bus routes.**

There was support for bike lanes on the side streets as another transportation option. Parents take their kids to school on bicycles, as it’s safe on the 12 and 13th Street lanes.

It was noted that the 12th and 13th Street bike lanes have been wonderful, and DOT noted that they will be coming back in future months for outreach on these lanes.

A request was made to immediately begin an SBS system on 14th Street. The MTA noted that this street will probably not have the SBS service in place at the beginning of the shut down the end of April.

Other public meetings regarding the modified L train plans are being held.

Agenda Item #2: Presentation by the NYC Department of Transportation on protected bicycle lane proposals for 52nd and 55th Streets

Acacia Dupierre presented for the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) on protected bicycle lane proposals for 52nd and 55th Streets. The content of this presentation is included on the CB6 website, through [this link](#).

The presentation also gave an update on the bike lanes that were installed on 26th and 29th Streets, as well as the lessons learned from those bicycle lanes.

The committee asked about the number of parking spaces that will be lost due to full lane implementation. DOT says that approximately 200 lanes will be lost. It was also noted that 55th Street currently has bike lanes and that revisions to parking there would be minor.

Attention was called to bad pavement east of First Avenue on 55th Street, and a request was made to repave prior to marking the lanes.

VOTE: 13 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not Entitled

Agenda Item #3: Resolution regarding New York City Council legislation on placard abuse

It was noted that addressing the issue of placards is very timely as the New York City Council has legislation on the issue. The committee agreed to support this legislative package through a resolution.

VOTE: 13 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not Entitled

Chair's Report

Chair McKee said that our elected officials are organizing a walkthrough with DOT/CB6 of the sites where serious pedestrian incidents have occurred in the vicinity of the Queens Midtown Tunnel.

Chair McKee also asked the DOT representative about 2 fatalities that occurred in CB6. Colleen Chattergoon from DOT mentioned that they send a team to evaluate intersections/sites when incidents happen. She had no further information. She will relay more to CB6 at a later date. It was also noted that there was a third incident where a pedestrian was struck and reportedly gravely injured at East 23rd Street and Second Avenue on Wednesday, February 20th.

Old/New Business

Chair McKee said that people are emailing the office with concerns about congestion pricing.

Updates about DOT projects were provided by Ted Wright (Bike Projects) from NYC DOT.

He confirmed that implementing the bike lane at the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge on Second Avenue has been delayed due to logistics, but they're still pushing forward on this work. It requires additional infrastructure work and they plan to have it installed this year.

Mr. Wright said that Second Avenue from 42nd to 34th Streets is delayed by the water main project, but they're moving as fast as they can. The committee encouraged DOT to continue planning.

The Greenway East River/FDR upgrades are also being developed and the DOT plans to implement them this spring.

Mr. Wright received several questions, with his answers in **bold**:

- Would there be a review of 20th Street bicycle lane (earlier, public attendees had noted concerns with stopped vehicles doing pickups/dropoffs in traffic lanes)? A resident from East 20th Street noted that the street configuration works well, but recommended that metered parking could be swapped for "No Standing Zones" for pickup/dropoffs to address traffic stopping. **Mr. Wright noted that the new layout made pedestrian crossing at 1st Avenue and 20th Street much easier than before; however, this area is being reviewed.**
- A request was made for adding more protections to protected bike lanes above plastic delineators. **Mr. Wright noted that needs for emergency vehicles & other engineering issues that prevent concrete abutments.**
- There was a request for statistics of cars parking in the bike lane and causing issues. **Mr. Wright said that statistics are not immediately available.**

Chair McKee said that the CB6 office has been tracking blocking of the bus lanes; there is a tracker spreadsheet with about 30 reports/entries.

There was a discussion of the First Avenue SBS "Mitchell Place" stop. The committee agreed that it would be clearer to name the stop 50th Street instead of Mitchell Place, as the bus doesn't actually stop at Mitchell Place. The committee can take this up as an issue with the MTA.

The committee would like to push the MTA to start 14th Street enhanced bus service immediately. Ben Jacobs from Council Member Powers' office noted that CM Powers submitted a letter to ask for, among other things, immediate SBS implementation.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Chair McKee declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Brian van Nieuwenhoven.

Name	Affiliation
Lucas	Boy Scouts Troop 414
Kevin Zhu	Boy Scouts Troop 414
Beatrix	Boy Scouts Troop 414
Maria-Teresa	Resident of Community District 6
Izzy	Boy Scouts Troop 414
Angela Zhu	Resident of Community District 6
Declan O'Brien	Resident of Community District 6
Axl Pinto Greenberg	Resident of Community District 6
George Manuel	Resident of Community District 6
Magdalena Benitez-Ridley	Resident of Community District 6
Tina	Resident of Community District 6
Ryan Gravener	Resident of Community District 6
Maureen Mamarella	Resident of Community District 6
Caroline McKew	Resident of Community District 6
Maria Rocha-Buschel	Town & Village
Andrew Rosenthal	Work in Community District 6
Rich Mintz	Member of Community Board Six (not on this committee)
Ryan Smith	Resident of Community District 6
Ben McIlwain	Resident of Community District 6
Ben Jacobs	Council Member Keith Powers' Office
Ellen McDermott	Resident of Community District 6
Sara Newman	Council Member Keith Powers' Office
Paul Goebel	Manhattan Borough President's Office
Choresch Wald	City resident
Melodie Bryant	Families for Safe Streets member
Jason Gers	Resident of Community District 6; Transportation Alternatives
Mary Garvey	Resident of Community District 6
Brandon Chamberlin	Work in Community District 6
Brian Lafferty	Manhattan Borough President's Office
Kate Birmingham	Resident of Community District 6
Caroline Wekselbaum	Senator Brad Hoylman's Office
Yue Yuan	Resident of Community District 6
Sam Bleiberg	Work nearby
Elisabeth Dyssegaard	Resident of Community District 6
Acacia Dupierre	NYC Department of Transportation
Barak Friedman	Resident of Community District 6
Eileen Botti	NYC Department of Transportation Bikes
Neil Cooper	Resident of Community District 6

Deborah Baldwin	Resident of Community District 6
Devin Gould	Resident
Irwin Arieff	Resident of Community District 6
Jake Schmidt	Resident of Community District 6
Anton Mallner	Resident of Community District 6
Colleen Chattergoon	NYC Department of Transportation
Buckley Yung	MTA New York City Transit
Glenn Londen	MTA New York City Transit
Marcus Book	MTA New York City Transit
Matt Bess	MTA New York City Transit
Kaitlin McCready	MTA New York City Transit