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

Transportation Committee
Monday, April 1, 2019 | 7:00 PM
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry) | Room 210

Meeting Minutes

Present: Gene Santoro (Vice Chair), Claire Brennan, Molly Hollister, Matthew Roberts, Lawrence Scheyer, Ann Seligman, Brian Van Nieuwenhoven, Ronnie White, Bob Cohen, Philip Napolitano, James Wilson

Absent: Sandra McKee (Chair), Beatrice Disman, Andrew Gross, Kathleen Kelly, Joe Parrish, Raymond Knowles

Guests: Debra Berger, NYU Langone; Christina DiStefano, NYU Langone; Stephen Grayson, NYU Langone; Kerry Mackey, NYU Langone; Robert Thompson, MTA-New York City Transit (MTA-NYCT); Colleen Chattergoon, NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT); Kimberly Rancourt, NYC DOT; Ikbal Hossain, Newsstand Applicant; Brian Lafferty, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office; Shamsul Arfin, Newsstand Applicant; Sara Newman, Council Member Keith Powers' office; Robert Pigott, Applicant for Street Co-Naming; Marcus Book, MTA-NYCT; Susan Steinberg, CB6 Member; Aaron Saigura, NYC DOT; Claire Wilson, Resident

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

Vice Chair Gene Santoro called the meeting to order at 7:01.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made, seconded, and passed.

A motion to adopt the minutes from the March 4th, 2019 meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Newsstand application for location in front of 550 First Avenue, the southeast corner of First Avenue and East 33rd Street

The newsstand application was discussed by the Transportation Committee. NYU Langone and Alliance for Kips Bay wrote letters of opposition. Kerry Mackey, NYU Director of Emergency Services, spoke out against the newsstand. He mentioned two

concerns: first, patient safety, noting that the newsstand location is close to an emergency entrance that has an average of 33 arrivals per hour between 10 AM and 7 PM; and second, that the newsstand would also obstruct that main entrance. After taking community opposition into account, the committee had a vote in favor of objecting to the application.

VOTE: 10 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #2: Newsstand Application for location in front of 424 East 34th Street, the southeast corner of First Avenue and East 34th Street.

The applicants were present. The committee confirmed that the convenience store across the street has been renovated, so this potential newsstand site would violate CB6's newsstand location guidelines on the grounds that there "shall be no new newsstand within 500 feet of any preexisting business whose primary merchandise is the same as that which would be sold by the proposed newsstand."

Debra Berger, who works in Real Estate at NYU, noted NYU's opposition to this newsstand, pointing out that it would block the entryways to the Kimmel Building. She also noted the importance of a clear line-of-sight in order to facilitate entrance by patients, ambulances, pedestrians and taxis. Committee members added that the newsstand would also block the view of the entry sculpture, which violates CB6's newsstand location guidelines on the grounds that a preexisting structure deemed to have architectural significance would have its view obstructed by the placement of a newsstand.

The held a vote in favor of objecting the application, and the vote passed.

VOTE: 10 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #3: A presentation by the MTA regarding the implementation of Select Bus Service on 14th Street

Marcus Book from MTA-New York City Transit (MTA-NYCT) explained that the group of people at the meeting was going to discuss a proposal for M14 Select Bus Service (SBS). He noted that when the earlier plans for the L train were changed, MTA and DOT promised they would provide SBS in late 2019, but that they want to speed up SBS implementation so it coincides with current shut down plans.

Rob Thompson, who works in operations planning at MTA-NYCT, noted that the M14 is the 2nd slowest route in NYC, averaging somewhere between four and five miles per hour for most of its route. As they move away from earlier plans for a 14th Street Busway during the total L shutdown, they are looking at a more permanent plan. The goal is to have SBS up and running by sometime this June. He then recapped what SBS means: camera-enforced bus lanes, off-board fare collection, longer stop spacing, bus boarding curb extensions with real-time info or greenery or shelters, changes to

parking/loading regulations, and signal timing adjustments. Currently, SBS service on 18 routes has shown a travel time savings of 10-30% with 10% ridership gains. He presented the M14 SBS proposal, which is on the CB6 website.

Aaron Saigura from NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) acknowledged that 14th Street has seven intersections that are a high priority for Mayor Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative. Although the L train shutdown plans have changed, a lot of things that they were planning for the initial shutdown remain true. They installed markings last fall with the anticipation that they would finish for tunnel shutdown in April. However, since signage, not markings, puts bus lanes into effect, they are not in effect at present. DOT is onboard with NYC Transit's interest to get this matter addressed, but need to wait until the weather is warmer and less unpredictable.

The 14th Street corridor is a priority for the Vision Zero initiative, so DOT proposed several turn restrictions, most critically at 2nd and 3rd Avenues. Those turn restrictions were proposed because left hand turns lead to more pedestrian crashes and safety improves when left hand turns are limited. Mr. Saigura acknowledged that the DOT is still uncertain exactly how to proceed with the plans for the M14 SBS—the original Busway plans were designed for much higher bus and pedestrian traffic volumes than what is now expected with the current plans for the L train project, so DOT must recalculate the options. At this juncture, they are proposing temporary curb extensions at bus stops. They propose having two lanes in one direction and three in the other direction with a curbside bus lane, which he acknowledged is not a perfect tool. However, but it will be camera-enforced. Committee members asked about enforcement, keeping local stops in the East Village and the method used for relevant data collection on that, bus stop locations on 14th Street, the hours of the bus lane, and if and how current long delays on M14 will be mitigated by SBS installation. One committee member suggested creating a new bus route for A and D routes to serve those commuters while making M14 a true crosstown SBS bus route. DOT will continue public outreach. NYC Transit has started the electrical work, but DOT wanted more public feedback before making final planning decisions. Both agencies will return to this committee in May to report on their updated plans.

The presentation is available on the MTA and CB6 websites.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion of Proposal for Honorary Street Co-naming of William Evarts Way on 2nd Avenue between East 14th and East 15th Streets

Robert Pigott presented on the street co-naming proposal for William M. Evarts. William M. Evarts lived on 14th Street and 2nd Avenue, and he was most prominent lawyer of his day. He defended famed preacher Henry Ward Beecher, a noted abolitionist, in a scandalous lawsuit, as well as representing President Andrew Johnson during his impeachment and Rutherford B. Hayes during the 1876 election standoff. Evarts was also a notable New Yorker who participated in the groundbreaking for Cleopatra's Needle and raised funds for the Statue of Liberty pedestal. He also successfully litigated

the Lemmon Slave Case in New York, which countered the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision by establishing that a slave on New York territory can become free.

Responding to questions, Vice Chair Santoro explained to the committee that the process for co-naming is now that community boards get the proposal first, then councilmembers approve it.

The committee had a motion on a resolution of support, and the resolution was passed.

VOTE: 10 In favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Chair's Report

Vice Chair Santoro waived his report.

Old/New Business

Public Member Bob Cohen says that he does not like the new bike rack at Scandinavia House (on the west side of Park Avenue, between 37th and 38th Streets), wondered why Murray Hill would want a bike rack, and asked why it can't be on the side of 50 Park Avenue. Members pointed out this neighborhood is a Citibike desert. Vice Chair Santoro will visit the site with Mr. Cohen.

Committee Member Larry Scheyer wondered about the lack of added signage for the ferry at Stuyvesant Cove at 20th Street and 1st Avenue. Colleen Chattergoon from DOT will look into it.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed. Vice Chair Santoro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Claire Brennan