

## COMMUNITY BOARD 7 COMMITTEE Report

Transportation Committee  
2023-06-08 6:30pm

### Before meeting:

- Walsh provided an update on Seeley St. Construction. Letter from committee in support of DOT's proposed changes was approved by full board 39-0-0
- DOT's Seeley St. presentation is now available at <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/seeley-st-20-st-may2023.pdf>. Timeline for construction has not yet been announced. *Since the meeting - it has been communicated that it will be the end of August for implementation.*
- DOT will host a 3rd Ave Study virtual meeting in English on July 20 at 630pm. 3rd Ave feedback map and survey remain open at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3rdAvePortalFeedback> and <https://nycdotprojects.info/project-feedback-map/3rd-ave-corridor-safety-study-feedback-map>

### 1. MTA Brooklyn Bus Redesign Discussion

- Nick Roloson from the MTA provided an update on the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign project.
- MTA is currently working on a redesign of bus routes in Brooklyn and Queens aimed at improving bus speed, reliability, and connectivity to other buses and subways.
- The draft of the plan, which features updated route profiles, [interactive route features](#), and [full text of draft plan](#). Plan is also available in Spanish, Chinese, and Russian, with route summaries available in several additional languages. MTA is actively seeking feedback in a variety of venues regarding proposed route changes.
- Board and Community members provided feedback to agency during the meeting:
  - Concerns about removing B63 stop at 5 Ave and 54 St. due to proximity to the United Senior Center.
  - Praise for rerouting B64 to CB7 and request that any new added stops on 3 Ave be located west of Gowanus Expressway.
  - Positive feedback for 3 Ave service on B70, and reroutes of B35 and new service to Kennedy Airport on B55.
  - Concern about the B70 stop proposed for removal at 6 Ave and 39<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Concern about removal of B9 stops at 4th Ave and Senator St and at 9 Ave due to walking distances greater than MTA plan recommends.
  - Concern about increased walking distances related to removal of B37 stops between 65 St and Bay Ridge Avenue.

- Concern that the new map is not accurate in regards to its description of southbound B37 stops at 3 Ave and 58<sup>th</sup> St., 60<sup>th</sup> St., and 61<sup>st</sup> St.
- Concern about removal of B63 stop at 36<sup>th</sup> St reducing transfers to/from the subway.
- Concern about removal of B68 stop at Prospect Park Southwest and Vanderbilt St.
- Concerns about lack of enforcement of blocked bus stops throughout CB7
- Agency urged to add concrete and plastic boarding islands where possible to improve accessibility.
- Ask for the MTA to work with elected officials to achieve increased frequency of buses and train service, such as the proposed 6 minute service plan.
- Request to reinstate service proposed to be removed on B69 because connecting F and G Train stations which replace this service are not accessible.
- Request to make B67 and B69 into 24 hour routes to better serve Methodist Hospital.
- Request to add a single seat ride to connect Sunset Park, Bay Ridge, and Windsor Terrace.
- Express buses on Prospect Expressway – request to reroute this on Prospect Ave to facilitate more access by Windsor Terrace Community
- Concern about stop removal on B67 at 11<sup>th</sup> St. and Prospect Park West near Prospect Park entrance.
- Request that MTA work with DOT to reallocate removed bus stop locations into loading zones to reduce traffic bottleneaking, especially on 5 Ave.
- Request to keep 6 Ave stops on B70.
- Request to keep 36<sup>th</sup> St. stop on B63, but to change its stop placement to improve traffic flow to facilitate subway connectivity and access to nearby school.
- Concern that midday service on B63 is too infrequent, especially at school dismissal time. Buses are frequently too crowded to stop to load/unload passengers.
- Support for the new B35 and B55 plan as current skip-stop limited service does not provide adequate service to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.
- Request to add more frequent afternoon service on B35
- Concern about safety of buses for pedestrians after a recent tragic accident, especially in relation to increased speed that bus redesign aims to achieve.
- Reports of blocked bus stops, especially on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Particular stops mentioned include 55<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 41<sup>st</sup> St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- Accessibility concerns related to bus drivers not pulling over to curbs even when possible due to rampant double parking.
- Concerns about 39<sup>th</sup> St. between 4 Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> being used as unauthorized bus layover areas, resulting in blocked traffic and impeded firehouse access, especially between 8 and 11pm

- Concern that B11 reroute on 56 St. between 2 Ave and 3<sup>rd</sup> will face issues with double parked cars
- Concern that illegal parking from garages/auto shops at 56 and 57<sup>th</sup> St between 1 and 2 Ave and double parking on 55<sup>th</sup> St. could create issues with bus reliability
- Concern about double parking on 8 Ave impeding B70 bus, and ongoing accessibility issues due to blockage of bus stop sidewalks by vendors, especially at 54<sup>th</sup> St. and 8 Ave.
- Concerns about wait times for B9 are approximately 35 minutes after 7pm
- Please see the attached letter submitted by a community member prior to the meeting which also includes comments about the Brooklyn Bus Redesign which should be incorporated into the letter to MTA

## **2. Update on ADA projects and 3. Q&A**

- MTA continues accessibility programs, including installation of tactile striping and elevator construction.
  - The Southbound elevator at 8 Ave N station will open soon.
  - 36 St. Station on N/R/D to receive an elevator as part of current capital plan, along with 95th St. on R line
- Due to CBTC signal upgrades, the F line from Church Ave to Coney Island will shut down on weekends beginning June 16 until the project is complete. Free shuttle buses will be provided during this time.
- OMNY card vending machines will be installed at subway stations beginning this summer.
- Reduced fare customers (including seniors and those with qualifying disabilities) can set up OMNY on phones or credit cards. In addition, the agency will send OMNY cards to customers who currently use reduced fare Metrocards beginning this summer. Please ensure your address on file with the MTA is correct.
- The MTA is continuing the process of reopening bathrooms in stations that have them. The most recently reopened station was Coney Island - Stillwell Ave.
- OMNY Cards are also available for purchase at Walgreens, CVS, local pharmacies, and several other businesses. Cards can also be bought at MTA Customer Service Centers at Atlantic Ave Station in Brooklyn and 3 Stone Street in Manhattan. Questions about OMNY and reduced-fare cards can also be directed to 511 hotline
- New initiative for Station Agents allows them to leave booths to help customers with vending machine issues or other issues at MTA subway stations.

### **1) Names of the committee members present**

- Katie Walsh, John DeLooper, Joan Botti, Roberto A. Martinez, Diana Gonzalez, Jerry Chan

### **2) Corrections and amendments to previous meeting minutes (if any)**

- None

3) Additions to the current agenda

- None

4) Motions taken or rejected (if any)

- None

5) Actions taken or agreed to be taken

- None

6) Next steps

- Feedback on MTA Bus Redesign can be sent to the agency on their website at <https://new.mta.info/project/brooklyn-bus-network-redesign> or sent to Board at [bk07@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk07@cb.nyc.gov) to be passed on to the Agency.

7) Old Business

- None

8) Any new business items

- None

9) Next meeting date and time, if scheduled

- June 14, 2023 Joint Committee Meeting with Sanitation/Environment, Land Use/Landmarks, and Transportation Committee at 6:30 pm

10) Time of adjournment

- **8:19pm**