

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7  
COMMITTEE Report**

**Transportation Committee  
2023-02-01, 6:30pm**

**1. Presentation from NYC Office of Technology & Innovation and CityBridge regarding the installation of LinkNYC kiosks in CB7**

- Stacy Gardener and Brett Sikoff from the Office of Technology and Innovation and Rob Sokota and Margaux Knee from CityBridge presented plans to add new LinkNYC 5G kiosks at 117 42nd St, 10 43rd St, and 111 58th St.
- Questions were raised by committee members and members of the public regarding the number and location of LinkNYC kiosks within CB7, the lack of kiosks in Windsor Terrace, using 911 service from kiosks, signal range and data caps for each kiosk's free wifi, and a non-functional kiosk that was previously located at 58th St. location.
- Questions were also raised about battery backup/device functionality during adverse weather events, health concerns about 5G and other wireless equipment, sidewalk accessibility, accessibility for Telecommunications Relay Services, and safeguards against illegal activity on LinkNYC kiosks.
- Sokota clarified that these additional Link NYC kiosks do have battery backup for adverse weather events, and will not have the advertising screens found on other LinkNYC kiosks in the district. Each of these new kiosks will, however, have a tablet on them that provides access to maps, 311, transit schedules, free wifi, and long distance calling through built-in apps.
- Gardner noted that each kiosk complies with FCC safety regulations related to radio frequency (R/F) emissions, and broadcasts at lower power than other cell towers. LinkNYC kiosks also reduce saturation of towers in neighborhoods because they include towers for all networks. The kiosks are currently being sited only in areas with poor cell phone signal coverage, support Talkback/Relay service for accessibility, and are wired with city owned fiber optic cable that can be utilized by other City departments/agencies.

**2. Discussion on Neighborhood Loading Zones in CB7**

- Walsh shared information about a December 9, 2022 notice from NYC Department of Transportation sent to the Board about Neighborhood Loading Zones (NLZ) at
  - *635 41st St. (2 spaces)*
  - *600 44th St. (3 spaces)*
- These zones would add a "no parking" restriction in each spot they are placed Mon -Fri from 7am-7pm
- The aim of the NLZ program is to facilitate package deliveries by commercial vehicles, taxi and car service pick-up and drop-off, and loading and unloading of personal vehicles.
- The DOT has indicated to CB7 that although other Boards have received presentations about NLZ spaces in the past, the agency does not currently have

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the personnel available to present about new loading zone spaces to individual Boards. The agency plans to present details of this program to the Borough Board instead.

- Community Board7 pushed back on this several times but was refused the opportunity to have a presentation from NYCDOT about Neighborhood Loading Zone location and was asked to send questions by email. Those questions and the exchange are copied in red below. The email remains unanswered as of Feb 13th 2023.
- Walsh invited attendees to raise questions about the NLZ program that CB7 can bring back to DOT.
- Questions were raised regarding the process and methodology used for selecting NLZ spaces, why NLZ spaces were sited on residential streets instead of avenues, whether individuals could request spaces on their streets, relevant local laws that mandate adding NLZ spaces, and about why NYC differentiates between loading zones in commercial areas and in residential areas.
- Questions were also raised regarding whether DOT has conducted studies about the effectiveness of loading zones, how loading zones are currently being used, whether zones are generally placed in front of smaller houses, larger apartment buildings, or at geographic midpoints of blocks, and what happens when loading zone spaces are blocked. Community members also asked whether cars/taxi services will be penalized for conducting pickups outside of NLZ areas, and whether DOT also plans to add more loading zones for trucks on commercial corridors like 5th Ave.

### 1) Names of the committee members present

- Katherine Walsh, Sandra Alfonso, Joan Botti, Jerry Chan, John DeLooper, Zachary Jasie, Julio Peña, Roberto Martinez, Sam Sierra

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

- No corrections or amendments were made

### 3) Additions to the current agenda

- None

### 4) Motions taken or rejected (if any)

- None

### 5) Actions taken or agreed to be taken

- OTI agreed to share data/studies related to safety/health of 5G and environmental impacts of R/F emissions with the Board and to send a list of current LinkNYC locations in CB7

### 6) Old Business

- None

### 7) Any new business items

- None

### 8) Public comment

- None

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9) Next meeting date and time, if scheduled

- February 22

10) Time of adjournment

- 7:43pm