

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 COMMITTEE Report

Transportation Committee
2023-5-15, 6:30pm

1. Discussion on street-renaming for 47th Street between 4th & 5th Avenues

- Members of the Varela family, community members, and Board members presented in support of co-naming 47th Street between 4th & 5th Avenue in honor of Andy Varela.
- Questions were raised by attendees about the renaming process and procedures.
- Diana Gonzalez made a motion *to approve the conaming of 47th Street between 4th & 5th Avenues in honor of Andy Varela*. The motion was seconded by John DeLooper and passed by unanimous consent.

2. Seeley Street Study

- Bhavin Patel from NYC Department of Transportation's Traffic Planning Division presented on the results of a Seeley St. and 20th St. Study and proposed street safety improvements
- Emily Riquelme Beaufort from DOT noted that the agency would need a letter of support from CB7 in order to enact the proposed changes.
- Board and community members raised questions about the outreach process, data collection process, and the timeline for approval and construction.
- Attendees shared feedback including questions about the decision to use paint instead of concrete for bump outs, the decision-making process for the one-way conversion, current and planned signage, DOT and police enforcement of speeding and truck routes, speed camera deployment, and estimated traffic impacts on surrounding streets.
- Other feedback included access and accessibility concerns, difficulties traveling in the corridor, safety concerns for bicyclists and for pedestrians related to e-bikes and mopeds, truck weight sensors, emergency vehicle access, overall safety of this corridor, speed bump and speed hump placement.
- John DeLooper made a motion *to draft a letter of support to the New York City Department of Transportation to approve the Seeley St. changes, and present the letter at the June 8 Transportation Committee Meeting, incorporating in our letter of support the feedback we receive from the Board through the next meeting*. The motion was seconded by Jerry Chan.
- Cynthia VandenBosch introduced a friendly amendment to present the request for a letter of support to the full Board meeting on May 17, while incorporating the feedback received through the drafting of the support letter.
- DeLooper and Chan agreed to the friendly amendment, and the *motion to draft a letter of support to the New York City Department of Transportation to approve*

the Seeley St. changes as proposed, while also incorporating in our letter of support the feedback we receive from Board tonight and through the drafting of the letter passed 8-0-0.

- Walsh encouraged attendees and CB7 constituents to send additional feedback to CB7 office at bk07@cb.nyc.gov or 718-854-0003 and to Emily Riquelme Beaufort at emilyriquelmebeaufort@dot.nyc.gov or 646-892-1363.

3. Discussion on Neighborhood Loading Zones

- Katherine Walsh presented on the Department of Transportation's Neighborhood Loading Zone (NLZ) project, and noted DOT states that they do not currently have resources available to present on NLZ installations in CB7
- The DOT has installed NLZs at 41st St between 6 and 7th Ave and on 44th St between 6 and 7th Ave and is seeking feedback related to the placement of loading zones in CB7.
- Board and community members shared feedback and questions related to neighborhood loading zones. Discussion included the design of signage, lack of enforcement to ensure that zones are used for their intended purpose, the use of loading zones for other commercial activities, use of loading zones as prep areas for delivery trucks, and the impacts on residents who drive related to parking space availability.
- Attendees also shared feedback about the loading zone education and outreach process, and suggestions that proposed zones be located on especially narrow streets and on longer streets. Other design and accessibility concerns were raised, especially regarding a slide that indicates zones can be placed in front of curb cuts and at street corners.
- Feedback was shared regarding equitable distribution of loading zones across community boards, inequitable impacts of current NYPD parking enforcement, and the need for the Board to follow up to assess whether this program is successful over time.
- Walsh noted that DOT has a website to send feedback on loading zones at <https://nycdotprojects.info/project-feedback-map/loading-zone-comment-map>. Feedback about loading zones can also be sent to the Board.

1) Names of the committee members present

- Katie Walsh, John DeLooper, Jerry Chan, Diana Gonzalez, Gabino Morales, Roberto A. Martinez, Julio Peña III, Cynthia VandenBosch

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)

- Diana Gonzalez made a motion *To approve the conaming of 47th Street between 4th & 5th Avenues in honor of Andy Varela*. The motion was seconded by John DeLooper and passed via unanimous consent.

- John DeLooper made a motion *To draft a letter of support to the New York City Department of Transportation to approve the Seeley St. changes as proposed, while also incorporating in our letter of support the feedback we receive from Board tonight and through the drafting of the letter.* The motion was seconded by Jerry Chan and passed 8-0-0.

5) Actions taken or agreed to be taken

- NYC DOT agreed to post the Seeley St. presentation on their website and send a copy to the Board.

6) Next steps

- Approved motions will be presented to full Board on 5/17/2023.
- Seeley St. feedback can be sent to the CB7 office at bk07@cb.nyc.gov or 718-854-0003 and to Emily Riquelme Beaufort at emilyriquelmebeaufort@dot.nyc.gov or 646-892-1363.
- Committee will collect feedback about CB7 loading zones to send to DOT.

7) Old Business

- None

8) Any new business items

- None

9) Next meeting date and time, if scheduled

- June 8, 2023

10) Time of adjournment

- 8:50 pm

Appendix

Third Avenue Traffic Study

DOT continues to accept feedback for the Third Avenue Traffic Safety Study.

Map-based feedback and surveys are available at:

<https://nycdotprojects.info/project/3rd-avenue-corridor-safety-study>

BQE Revisioning

BQE53 Symposium

The Institute for Public Architecture (IPA) is hosting a full-day symposium, free and open to the public related to the future of the BQE.

Details and registration:

<https://bqe2053.org/Symposium>

Atlantic Ave Interchange Public Workshop

The NYC DOT will host a workshop focused on the southernmost section of BQE Central where participants can learn more about efforts to reimagine the Atlantic Ave. Interchange.

Registration:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdeCopz4jE9cGDRFHpA1rEIOf9cmwSgJR>