

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Transportation Committee Report

September 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Names of the committee members present:

- Katie Walsh, John DeLooper, George Cardona, Jerry Chan, Danny Debare, Matthew Florkiewicz, Jamie Fried, Sam Sierra. **Quorum Achieved.**

Agenda

Co-naming for Joe Longobardi -- Prospect Park West between Windsor Place and 16th Street

- Gina LoBello provided details about Joseph Longobardi's life and accomplishments. She discussed his long service on the community board, and his life story as an immigrant who achieved the American dream, then worked to give back to his community through sponsorship of local sports teams, and support to family members in need, and many others throughout the community.
- Sam Sierra and Mary Bruccoloi also spoke in support of the co-naming application.
- Katie Walsh moved to support the Co-naming of Prospect Park West between Windsor Place and 16th St. The motion was seconded by Sam Sierra and passed via unanimous consent.

Review Community Feedback received on DOT's School Open Streets on 54th Street between 5th and 6th Avenue for LEEP Charter School

- Walsh provided background and context about Brooklyn LEEP charter school, and its DOT Open Streets application/permit. She also noted feedback that the Board has received about street access, including questions and concerns.
- Bernard Washington from LEEP provided background on LEEP's application process, timeline, and meetings with DOT. LEEP generated notices to the surrounding community on August 25th and on November 10th.
- The open street closure is year-round, but not all day. Street is closed to vehicular traffic only during recess and dismissal, on school days only.
 - LEEP has not closed the street for recess since 11/9 due to inclement, only closing it for dismissal.
- Following community feedback, LEEP adjusted their signage to clarify access for emergency vehicles, resident access, and contact numbers for the school.
- Parents of LEEP students and a student spoke about their experiences with the open street. They talked about how emergency access works and how students

have been trained to move aside for emergency vehicles, and noted the positive experiences of students playing outside on the open streets. They also urged continued operation of the open street

- Washington responded to questions about the parking lot behind the school and whether this could be used for recess activities. Washington stated that the parking lot behind LEEP is shared with a local pharmacy, which means vehicles are going in and out constantly, so that cannot be dedicated for parking.
- Walsh noted in the discussions that there was not a vote that needed to be taken but the goal was to hear more from the community about their experiences.

3. Discussion on requests to DOT on Priority Intersections and Corridors especially around Sensitive Locations (Parks, Schools, Day Care, Food Banks, Senior Centers etc.)

Walsh outlined that with a new administration, there is an opportunity to reset and refocus the Administration and DOT on the needs of the community. Small groups broke out into discussion. If you have any additional intersections or corridors to highlight please email the board so this can be compiled together in a letter for the new year. Will note there was a lack of Windsor Terrace representation in the meeting.

Board members and attendees broke into small groups and noted problem intersections and corridors, as well as ideas for safety improvements including:

- Dangerous conditions at 41st St/7th Ave
- Harden painted islands at 65th St and 3rd Ave. New paint is actually making more cars park illegally and having them block pedestrian ramps.
- 2nd Ave – 55th to 56th St has busy/chaotic conditions and ambulances blocking the bus stop
- 60th St/ 3rd Ave intersection as a whole
- 60th St/3rd Ave infrastructure is wearing out. Tactile pedestrian ramps are loose, and some have fallen off. One bollard is gone. One crosswalk signal keeps getting knocked out and there aren't enough crossing guards. Many of the lights under the highway in this area are also burnt out.
- 52nd and 53rd St/3rd Ave – various safety issues
- 35th St/4th Ave – various safety issues
- Need to harden daylighting on 4th Ave
- 58th St between 2nd and 3rd Ave has speeding vehicles and public safety/drug issues
- Suggestion for a bike lane to enhance safety for McDonald Ave

- 3rd Ave Corridor and the need to finish the Street Improvement Plan
- 60th St corridor from 3rd to 8th Ave
- Suggestion to change 7th and 8th Avenues to one-way
- Issues with crossing streets at steep slopes, especially on streets between 6th and 4th Aves
- 4th Ave/38th St- needs traffic calming
- Desire for a 2-way protected bike lane circumnavigating Green-Wood Cemetery
- 3rd Ave abutting Industry City needs more pedestrian protection
- 5th Ave from 37th to 60th St (Commercial Corridor) needs the same design/safety treatment that 5th Ave in Park Slope has proposed
- 64th St and 5th Ave needs daylighting/improved visibility
- 59th St/3rd Ave has daylighting in wrong direction (pedestrians/drivers can't see oncoming traffic)
- 10th Ave/16th St has only a partial stop sign with no crosswalk
- 61st St/8th Ave has bad visibility due to elevation. Perhaps this intersection could be set up with a pedestrian scramble type crossing?
- 42nd St and 7th Ave has no crosswalk and no lights
- Issues with car wash at 41st St at 4th Ave by IS136 Charles Dewey Middle School parking cars on sidewalk and blocking students
- Repair shop at 59th St/2nd Ave parks wrecks on sidewalks, forcing school children into street
- 21st St/6th Ave – are revisions to this plan complete?
- Infrastructure changes near BUGS – any updates on that project and how changes have worked out?
- Need for signage at 5th St/3rd Ave
- 39th St/3rd Ave – new pedestrian area has become an illegal parking lot instead of a plaza as EDC/DOT intended
- 56th St/3rd Ave has no pedestrian curb ramp
- 63rd St has no crosswalk across 5th Ave

4. Report back from Community Board Members Greenway Tour and Planning for a Celebration

- Walsh provided an update on the recent greenway tour on 3rd Ave, led by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). Walsh noted issues the tour attendees observed including areas where the lane was unmarked, lack of lighting, the need for better/additional signage, and lack of markings creating conflicts with bus stops. She noted that these issues were shared with DOT, and the Board got a

commitment from DOT representatives that they will try to address lack of color/paint/bus stop markings in the near future.

- Brooklyn Greenway Initiative and UPROSE also sent representatives to attend the tour.
- Walsh encouraged the use of 311 to report issues like illegal dumping, abandoned bicycles, and dirty sidewalks. 311 service request numbers can also be sent to the Board for additional follow-up.
- Walsh also discussed the potential for a ribbon-cutting celebration in the Spring and encouraged anyone interested to send ideas/feedback to bk07@cb.nyc.gov.

5. Report back from Third Avenue Street Safety Improvement Business Engagement and Next Steps

- Walsh and Cardona provided a recap of the recent business engagement walk along Third Avenue.
- The attendees of the walk asked businesses about their use of Third Ave, and listened to their thoughts on the corridor and on the Street Improvement Plan.
- They also gave out a survey. Matthew Florkewicz and Jamie Fried volunteered to compile results and will track these over time as more surveys are submitted.
- Cardona encouraged the group to do more events like this in order to spread awareness about the role of the community board and projects like the Third Avenue Street Improvement plan.
- More walking tours are being planned for Spring.

Time of adjournment

- 7:45 p.m.

Appendix A: Resources related to Meeting

- YouTube recording of Committee Meeting:
https://www.youtube.com/live/HbBjZ7fA_Wc?si=AucHAXV2d7tnMs0E