

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Joint Economic Development and Small Business/Transportation Committee Report

February 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Names of the committee members present:

- **Transportation:** Katie Walsh, John DeLooper, George Cardona, Jerry Chan, Matthew Florkiewicz, Jamie Fried, Gabino Morales, Maria Roca, Fay Walker. **Quorum Achieved.**
- **Economic Development/Small Business:** Damaris Santiago, Karen Rolnick, George Cardona, Jeremy Kaplan

Agenda

Presentation from NYC Planning on the NYC Industrial Plan

- Jukie Tsai and Andrew Jones from the Department of City Planning (DCP) presented about NYC's Industrial Plan.
- Local Law 172 of 2023 requires DCP to prepare an industrial development strategic plan, which DCP completed and released in December 2025. This plan was created after an extensive research and engagement process, which included five town halls, outreach to industrial stakeholders, discussion with 12+ city agencies, walking tours of industrial areas, and a two-year long survey which gathered 600 responses.
- The Industrial Plan is important because 15% of NYC's workforce has industrial jobs (approximately 550,000 jobs). Though the city has lost a lot of manufacturing jobs, certain industries are growing. NYC industrial buildings are typically small, single-story warehouses, 70% of which were built before 1960 and are not well suited for newer business types due to inadequate loading capacity, power, or water.
- DCP has developed an Industrial Data Explorer tool, which can be utilized to see insights about industry across the city. For instance, CB7 has about 10,000 industrial jobs, which account for about 16% of all jobs in the area, meaning our district is about as industrial (maybe slightly more) than the city as a whole. Key

clusters of industrial jobs can be found at Industry City, Brooklyn Army Terminal, 65th St Rail Yard, and 54th St.

- The Industrial Plan is intended to help develop strategies to allow the city's industrial businesses to evolve and grow, and provide recommendations for how the city can support industry, especially in areas like decarbonization, cutting red tape, and installing climate infrastructure to support green transitions. It **is not a set of zoning changes** – just recommendations that could inform future zoning or land use policy. Local Law 172 does not include any details on implementation or enforcement.
- Board members asked questions and provided feedback regarding issues such as truck routes, what role the 197-A plan played in creating this plan, the role of local planning in relation to the Industrial Plan, land use conflicts such as the development of homeless shelters in the industrial zone, enforcement of graffiti/dumping, and preservation of existing housing within the industrial zone.
- Board members also discussed additional issues with the DCP representatives including movement of industry between boroughs and out of the region, federal policies related to industrial support, and relationships between industry and transportation including highway systems, micromobility/cargo bikes, blue highways/shipping ports, and the IBX.
- Additional questions/comments were shared regarding regulation of outdoor industrial spaces, updates to the City's street design manual to support industry and reduce flooding, and data sources for computing job figures.

Presentation from UPROSE on GRID 2.0 and the Special Purpose District

- Ahmed Perez from UPROSE presented about the GRID 2.0 plan, which includes a proposed special purpose district for CB7's industrial area.
- The GRID 2.0 plan arose out of twelve years of community engagement, and seeks to decarbonize Sunset Park and support locals, not outside developers.
- Special use districts exist in other areas of NYC, such as Bay Ridge. This proposal seeks to create a similar setup for CB7 intended to preserve the working waterfront and support a climate-forward future.

- Board members asked questions about what a special purpose district is, what effects it could have on the waterfront and existing industries, and whether a special purpose district would require analysis of existing businesses.
- Additional questions and feedback were shared regarding the impact of peaker power plants, how this proposal was developed, how GRID 2.0 differs from UPROSE's original GRID plan, what it means for a proposal to be community led, and how to honor the leadership and knowledge of neighbors.
- Following the meeting, Ahmad sent a powerpoint presentation to share as part of the minutes recap - this was not presented at the meeting.

Announcements:

- K. Walsh provided a recap of the Committee's Fall Third Avenue Business engagement walk, and discussed plans for additional walks in the Spring. M. Florkiewicz put together a recap of data gained from the survey, which will be shared with the committee. Members should contact the Board office if they are interested in participating in the next engagement walk.
- The Board also sent a letter to the DOT Commissioner asking for updates regarding the Third Avenue Street Improvement Plan. This letter will be shared with Board members.
- Planning for a 3 Ave Greenway celebration is in progress, and will likely take place in May. All are invited. A virtual meeting with community based organizations and electeds offices is being held in a few weeks to collect ideas to plan an event.
- D. Santiago stated that the Economic Development/Small Business Committee is planning more meetings in Spring 2026.

Public comments:

- John Santore stated that it is important for the Economic Development Committee to continue to meet regularly, and to weigh in on decisions being made in the neighborhood. Projects are being developed in CB7 which use a massive amount of taxpayer dollars and public land, and the community is not

being consulted. Santore asked for data about the number of people who work at Brooklyn Army Terminal and what types of jobs they are employed in, and whether the Board has received this data. He also asked if data can be shared about EDC's surveys and methodology. Santore said that the Made in New York Campus was renamed without Board or community Input, and that information about the Steiner Sequel Studio is not being shared, even as the project is behind schedule.

Time of adjournment

- 8:08 p.m.

Next meeting:

- Transportation Committee, March 11, 2026

Appendix: Resources related to Meeting

- YouTube recording of Committee Meeting:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/tzbXPw8gqn4?si=N2eILAf6U7DK-C5I>
- NYC Industrial Plan Website::
<https://www.nyc.gov/content/planning/pages/our-work/plans/citywide/nyc-industrial-plan>
- NYC Industrial Plan (PDF):
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/downloads/pdf/our-work/plans/citywide/nyc-industrial-plan/nyc-industrial-plan-final.pdf>
- Industrial Data Explorer Tool:
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9510e1c3050047d88a10f5f5bc6c2480/page/View-All-Data>