

Brooklyn Community Board 10
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Report of November 19, 2007

The Traffic and Transportation Committee met at district headquarters during the evening of November 5, 2007.

Gowanus Expressway 6th Avenue Interchange

The reconfiguration of the Gowanus Expressway interchange at 6th Avenue and 65th Street has been a long time objective of the board. Earlier this year the NYS-DOT had presented a proposal for improvements to the interchange that included relocating the entrance ramp from 6th Avenue and 65th Street to 7th Avenue and 66th Street as well as redesign of the exit ramp at 6th Avenue. The committee had requested NYS-DOT to reconsider their design and Mr. Harold Fink of NYS-DOT returned with a new design.

Mr. Fink explained the 6th Avenue alterations are small part of a \$400 million project that will commence in Summer 2009. The 7th Avenue entrance ramp has been deleted from the proposal. The 6th Avenue exit ramp will be widened to two (2) lanes: the left lane will be for left turn only and the right lane will be for left, straight and right turns. "Signal optimalization" timing will permit the through "S-curve" movement eastbound on 65th Street. On the 65th Street service road, 23 parking spaces will be eliminated while on the main road of 65th Street there will be 20 new parking spaces. Mr. Fink will include the committee suggestion for pedestrian signs under the expressway structure and will attempt to schedule work earlier than the 2011 target. He will also analyze the accident reduction projection for the design and report back to the committee.

Express Bus Service

Committee member Jean Ryan described the many riders waiting for the X28 on 86th Street and remarked that the Dyker Heights area is underserved by Express buses. Ms Ryan also noted that many bus operators do not know how to use the wheelchair lift.

The committee moved to send a letter to NYC Transit requesting a new route survey and another letter that will require regular, mandatory hands-on training for bus operators of lifts.

Pavement Markings

Committee members discussed their on-going survey of pavement markings. Some markings had faded on 3rd and 5th Avenues while others were gone altogether. At some construction sites, the contractor apparently restores the markings such as at 4th Avenue and Bay Ridge Parkway.

Pedestrian-activated Traffic Signals

Committee member Brian Kassenbrock suggested the installation of a pedestrian-activated traffic signal at the mid-block crossing on 86th Street. [The District office subsequently informed the committee that the Board had made this suggestion in November 2006 and it had been rejected by NYC-DOT.]

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Stelzer

