

COMMUNITY BOARD 10
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Report for February 23, 2009

The Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board 10 met at District Headquarters during the evening of February 11, 2009.

KeepNYCFree

Queens-resident Corey Bearak made a presentation for KeepNYCFree. This group views tolls on the East River and Harlem River Bridges as a hardship upon outer borough commuters and small businesses. Such tolls would be a reconfigured Congestion Price Fee that was tabled by the State legislature last year.

KeepNYCFree favors the Regional payroll tax as proposed by the Ratvich Commission, higher tolls on TBTA facilities and increased fees for street closures. The committee did not have a quorum, yet the members present voted to reiterate our opposition to the imposition of tolls on the now-free East River bridges, a key element of the KeepNYCFree agenda.

86th Street-4th Avenue Subway Station

Melissa Farley and David Foeff of MTA New York City Transit [TA] spoke about the upcoming rehabilitation of the 86th Street-4th Avenue Subway Station. State Senator Golden and former US Representative Fossella had secured \$10 million for the proposed work. The scope of work entails:

1. Waterproofing of station walls to prevent leaks.
2. Painting of ceilings and walls.
3. Improved sidewalk gratings and watertight vents.
4. New rubbing board and platform tiles.
5. Ceramic tiles on station walls. Ms Farley showed a rendering of the white tile with a light and dark green decorative mosaic trims similar to the 1916-era designs when the station opened.

The project will be bid and awarded during the Spring and Summer with construction to commence in late Summer or early Autumn. The 24 month construction time frame will require "GO Condition," that is, service shut downs with substitute bus shuttles to 59th or 36th Street stations. Work will usually occur during nights and weekends with possible daytime (10AM-3PM) work. The work at the surface needs six months time. The committee asked the TA to consider maintaining subway service by operating trains on one track as is sometimes implemented with projects on the 4th Avenue line. Ms Farley also acknowledged 86th Street is a "Key Station" for handicapped access. However, the limited budget precludes building elevators.

Representing the 86th Street BID, John Logue requested of the TA:

1. Notification of bid dates.
2. A schedule of surface level work.
3. Input before letting of contract.

4. The scheduling of all construction at night without daytime and especially weekend work.
5. No placement of construction trailers on the street; a trailer for a TA project has remained for years at 95th Street and 4th Avenue.

Mr. Logue also reminded the TA that the NYC-DOT Holiday Embargo will apply to this project.

Michael Sciaraffo, representing Councilmember Gentile, asked the TA to undertake and complete this project in a timely fashion.

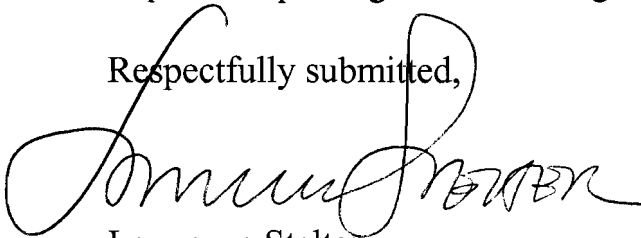
Ms Farley stated the TA will review and respond to comments and to requests for documentation such as contracts, bid dates and RFPs.

Victory Car & Limousine Service

The committee reviewed the application to the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) to renew the For-Hire-Vehicle-Base-License for Victory Car & Limousine Service at 8803 3rd Avenue. Victory Vice President Alaa Edin Elzam attended the meeting. Although CB10 had no specific complaints, the committee informed Mr. Elzam that a frequent complaint about car services is the drivers parking or standing illegally near the base. Mr. Elzam said he has had his cars parked at a garage on 92nd Street and at his home at 229 86th Street. The committee suggested that he post a sign at the base to direct drivers to position their vehicles legally and not to obstruct traffic. The committee voted unanimously to approve the renewal of the TLC base license for Victory Car & Limousine Service.

Mr. Sciaraffo announced the City Council had just approved a regulation that will require the posting of "A Passenger Bill of Rights" in all TLC-licensed vehicles.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence Stelter

Acting Chair, Traffic & Transportation Committee