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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Transportation Committee
Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 6:30 PM
New York Blood Center, 310 East 67th Street, Auditorium

Minutes

Present: Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, A. Scott Falk, Craig Lader, David Menegon, Rita Popper, Charles Warren; Jordan Wouk (public member)
Excused: Sharon Pope, Tricia Shimamura
Unexcused: Daniel Dornbaum

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Item 1. Continued discussion of a request to add a "No Standing" sign at the intersection of East End Ave & 82nd Street.

Lila Heilbrunn, a resident at 60 East End Avenue, returned for further discussion of her request for a No Standing sign in front of the building's circular driveway and for the adjacent curbside, to help solve an ongoing issue of illegally and improperly parked cars that block the driveway exit. The Committee passed the following resolution by a unanimous vote:

> WHEREAS illegally and improperly parked cars often block the exit driveway in front of 60 East End Avenue, or extend into the crosswalk at the southwest corner of East 82nd Street & East End Avenue; and
>
> WHEREAS establishing a No Standing zone in front of the building's exit driveway and continuing south to the corner of East 82nd Street should help alleviate this problem;
>
> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M asks NYC Dept. of Transportation to change the parking regulations to "No Standing Any Time" along the western curb of East End Avenue between 82nd & 83rd Street, extending from the northern edge of the southern driveway in front of 60 East End Avenue to the southwest corner of East 82nd Street & East End Avenue.
>
> *Approved, 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, plus 1 Public Member Yes.*
> *Yes (6+1): Birnbaum, Falk, Lader, Menegon, Popper, Warren; Wouk (Public Member)*

Item 2. Continued discussion of a request to install a temporary bus stop on the SE corner of 83rd Street and East End Avenue. *(Requested by the Brearley School).*

Representatives of the Brearley School returned for further discussion of the school's request for (A) a temporary No Standing zone from 75 East End Avenue to the corner of East 83rd Street, in order to accommodate Brearley school buses and to prevent double parking, and (B) temporary curb extensions at the northeast and southeast corners of East 83rd Street & East End Avenue, to reduce crossing distances.

These two requests were based on recommendations from the traffic consulting firm Sam Schwartz Engineering in order to improve the safety of the students who use the buses and of students and pedestrians crossing East End Avenue, and would be in place beginning in August 2017 and lasting for the two years of remaining construction of their new second school building (which should be finished in fall 2019).

The original No Standing hours requested had been from 7 AM to 5 PM, but in response to comments from the prior Transportation Committee meeting, Brearley has scaled back their request to cover only the hours of 7 - 9 AM and 2 - 4 PM, on school days only. Jo David, the school's Director of Communications, indicated that the Board at 75 East End Avenue supported the request. A representative from 75 East End Avenue confirmed that they support the request as long as it is only temporary and only during the school year.

Noel Lamberty, the school's Director of Security & Safety, explained that the city allows special parking regulations at a school's main entrance, but school buses cannot fit on the cul de sac where Brearley is located, so they don't have bus loading in front of this school, which causes double parking and a blocked lane on East End Avenue. (The school does hope to have loading regulations in front of the school for their new building in future.) The temporary loading regulations in front of 75 EEA will help ease congestion and improve traffic flow and safety (safer unloading at the curb and helping with blocked view due to double parked buses).

The temporary curb extensions on the northeast and southeast corners of East 83rd Street & East End Avenue will extend only into the parking lane on East End Avenue, to shorten the crossing distance on East End Avenue, but they cannot and will not reduce the width of the East 83rd Street cul de sac. School representatives noted that there have been multiple serious collisions at this intersection involving students and family members.

Doris Cullman, Brearley's Director of Construction, explained that the construction crane will be only on East End Avenue and/or East 83rd Street. A resident said she was told it can't be on 83rd because then it would block the whole road; Ms. Cullman said that the crane company is looking at the possible footprints now, and are analyzing the options to trying to minimize impact and keep lanes open as much as possible. Brearley will communicate on a regular basis and share info when available. The school has set up a dedicated construction web page on its website and a dedicated hotline number:

- **http://www.brearley.org/construction** is the construction updates page on the school website.
- **917-284-9416** is the construction hotline.

There was discussion in the Committee about the wording of the sign for the buses and a question as to whether the curb extension was needed. The Committee generally felt the regular signage would be adequate and that the curb extensions would improve safety during the construction period.

A Committee member asked whether Sam Schwartz Engineering had examined whether EEA is too wide for the existing levels of traffic; they had not.

This item was divided into two parts, and the Committee passed the following two resolutions:

> **PART 2-A, No Standing Zone for Buses:**
> WHEREAS the Brearley School requests to change the parking regulations to "No Standing – Buses Only" along the eastern curb of East End Avenue between 82nd & 83rd Street, extending from 75 East End Avenue to the southeast corner of East 83nd Street & East End Avenue, from 7-9 AM & 2-4 PM on school days only, from August 2017 until September 2019, when construction of the new school is completed; and

WHEREAS the traffic situation in the area is very difficult because of buses and construction; and

WHEREAS there is a concern for the safety of the children loading and unloading from the buses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves the Brearley School's request to change the parking regulations to "No Standing – Buses Only" along the eastern curb of East End Avenue between 82nd & 83rd Street, extending from 75 East End Avenue to the southeast corner of East 83nd Street & East End Avenue, from 7-9 AM & 2-4 PM on school days only, from August 2017 until September 2019, when construction of the new Brearley School building is completed.

Approved, 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, plus 1 Public Member Yes.
Yes (7+1): Birnbaum, Bores, Falk, Lader, Menegon, Popper, Warren; Wouk (Public Member)

PART 2-B, Temporary Curb Extensions:
WHEREAS the Brearley School requests to install temporary painted pedestrian neckdown curb extensions at the northeast and southeast corners of East 83rd Street & East End Avenue; and

WHEREAS there is a concern for the safety of the students and other who cross the street at the northeast and southeast corners of East 83rd Street & East End Avenue; and

WHEREAS Brearley School hired Sam Schwartz Engineering to make recommendations to improve pedestrian safety at those corners; and

WHEREAS a major recommendation was to install temporary curb extensions to help students and others cross the street in a safe manner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves the Brearley School's request to install temporary painted pedestrian neckdown curb extensions at the northeast and southeast corners of East 83rd Street & East End Avenue until September 2019, when construction of their new school building is completed.

Approved, 6 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain, plus 1 Public Member Yes.
Yes (6+1): Bores, Falk, Lader, Menegon, Popper, Warren; Wouk (Public Member)
No: Birnbaum

Item 3. Discussion of "No Standing 7AM to 4PM School Days Teacher Parking" in front of the Kennedy Public School on the south side of East 88th Street between Lexington Avenue and Park Avenue.

Principal Susan Finn of P.S. M169, Robert F. Kennedy School at 110 East 88 Street, came to the meeting at the Committee's invitation to discuss some complaints about school buses and questions about the parking regulations in front of the school. Also in attendance was the Dept. of Education's pupil transportation liaison for District 75.

The Kennedy School is a District 75 public school serving special needs students. 165 students ride 21 buses, which they generally manage to unload in 30 minutes in the morning, and 30 to 45 minutes in the afternoons (2 PM to 2:30 or 2:45 at the latest). The morning loading can sometimes be delayed due to trash pickup on the block. The liaison noted that the Kennedy School is the best and most efficient at bus loading of all the schools in the district.

There is a no standing zone in front of the school entrance that can fit two mini school buses; next there is an extended faculty parking zone, for which the school has four placards (although other cars bearing non-DOE placards also use these spaces). If faculty parking was removed, they could fit maybe 2 large buses.

Principal Finn mentioned that there was some parking lost for a CitiBike station installed over the summer. In addition, trucks do sometimes park illegally and just "take the ticket" as a cost of doing business.

The Committee discussed the possibility of requesting relocation of the CitiBike station to an alternate nearby location. One Committee member suggested that the school should fund raise to pay for garage spaces to replace the parking placards for those teachers currently enjoying this benefit. The Committee discussed having the Board office contact the Sanitation Department to see if garbage pickup could be changed to help deal with the situation. An effort will be made to coordinate with the School to see if solutions could be worked out to deal with the bus situation.

Principal Finn also asked that the Board forward any complaints we receive to her, so that the school can try to address these. The Committee will follow up on this item at its next meeting.

Item 4. Old Business.
Rita Popper asked whether we sent the resolution requesting low-floor buses on the M66 & M72 bus routes to NYCT, and if they replied. The co-chairs confirmed that the resolution was sent, but not responded to, and that they will follow up to request a reply.

Multiple Committee members noted that the new City Light streetlights on Second Avenue do not seem to be provided adequate lighting, and that the lighting arm appears to be lighting only the roadbed and not the sidewalk. Can we have DOT come talk to us about the lighting levels, and to confirm whether they have installed (and restored power to) all of the light poles?

Item 5. New Business.
Several people discussed the problems resulting from the lack of efficient and adequate snow removal after a winter storm, and concern that they don't want the issue to be forgotten with the warmer weather. One member of the public reported that his friend is a wheelchair user who couldn't go to work for a few days because snow piles made curb cuts unnavigable for his wheelchair. Several people noted difficulty accessing buses due to snow issues. Mike Van Itallie from Senator Liz Krueger's office reported that the senator has sent a letter to DSNY, DOT, and NYCT asking for a response and a plan for dealing with snow removal in future. The Committee seemed to be in agreement that this item should be addressed at a joint meeting with the Environment & Sanitation Committee.

Craig Lader suggested that the Committee should examine options for traffic calming on East End Avenue, and two other Committee members strongly objected to this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,
A. Scott Falk & Charles Warren, Co-Chairs