

Community Board 3, Queens Traffic & Transportation Committee

Stephen Kulhanek, Co- Chair
Edward Kiernan, Co-Chair

The Traffic & Transportation Committee met on **Monday, June 1, 2020** at 7:00 PM via video-conference. The following matters were considered:

1. Update on projects, programs, initiatives that have or scheduled to be implemented.

Representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation (Jason Banrey, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner and Zachary Broat) provided the Committee an update on current traffic mitigation and safety improvement measures that are planned for Northern Boulevard.

After a number of traffic fatalities on Northern Boulevard, DOT has targeted the stretch of Northern Boulevard that runs through CB3 for safety improvements. This year, five concrete pedestrian safety islands will be installed at Northern Boulevard and 71st Street, 73rd Street, 75th Street, 97th Street and 112th Street. DOT stated that after the installation of nine concrete pedestrian safety islands along Northern Boulevard in 2015 that total injuries decreased by 14% and pedestrian injuries decreased by 51%.

2. Open Streets Program in CB3

Committee members and DOT representatives discussed the two existing Open Streets Program locations in CB3 and one proposed location.

The Open Streets Program in CB3 currently includes 34th Avenue between 69th Street and Junction Boulevard and 85th Street between 30th and 25th Avenues, adjacent to Gorman Park, which are closed to motor vehicle traffic from 8AM to 8PM. The Open Street Program location on 34th Avenue has proved particularly popular and the Community Board office has received calls requesting the closure become permanent or recur annually. DOT as not looked into these possibilities and there are no plans for any of the current changes to continue beyond the current COVID19 emergency.

DOT reported that the Open Streets Program is supported by local volunteer organizations who are responsible for placing and removing the metal barricades in the morning and evening and that the precinct does not have a formal role in the program.

Committee members discussed the need for bike lanes to be repainted on 34th Avenue west of 77th Street to allow bicyclists and pedestrians to better share the road. DOT committed to addressing this issue.