

Community Board 3, Queens

Traffic & Transportation Committee

Stephen Kulhanek, Co- Chair

Edward Kiernan, Co-Chair

The Traffic & Transportation Committee met on **Monday, March 7, 2022** via videoconference. The following matters were discussed with the Department of Transportation, represented by Jason Banrey, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner:

- 1. Northern Boulevard/Q66 Updates:** The committee reiterated concerns raised by board members and the community regarding the elimination of bus stops on the Q66 bus line along Northern Boulevard, particularly the stops located near the Northridge/Southridge NORC and IS145. DOT advised that there are plans to add a stop on 92nd Street but that they cannot proceed until a sidewalk shed that was erected by the apartment building is removed. DOT insists on waiting to create this new bus stop instead of bringing back the stops that were removed at 91st and 93rd Streets. DOT also advised that the leadership at IS145 did not object to the bus stop removal. Several board members encouraged DOT to contact the IS145 PTA and will be providing contact information to DOT.

Board members raised concerns regarding deteriorating sidewalk and median condition at certain locations, requested further study of a dedicated bus lane, and inquired about any scheduled capital improvements that are scheduled for Northern Boulevard. DOT indicated they will take the concerns into consideration and advised there is no planned capital work.

- 2. 34th Avenue Open Street:** DOT advised that the plans presented to the committee last year are being finalized and will be presented to the board this spring. DOT will be meeting with the schools located on or near the Open Street to understand their needs, and is coordinating with the NYPD and FDNY to ensure emergency access is available. DOT advised that there are no capital expenditures planned for the Open Street and that the only expense funding is for the Horticultural Society of New York to maintain the planters.

DOT advised that walkthroughs were held recently with the new administration, including the Mayor, DOT commissioner and Council Member. In response to inquiries from the board, DOT advised that a traffic study will be conducted in relation to the Open Street, though details were not available, and informed the board that an Environmental Impact Study will not be conducted. DOT does not plan to hold any more organized meetings with the community and stated they believe their outreach was sufficient, despite concerns raised by board members and the community. DOT will be holding a walkthrough of the Open Street with DCWP and the Queens Borough President.

- 3. Astoria Boulevard:** DOT advised DDC is planning capital work on Astoria Blvd at 108th Street and will follow up with additional details