



March 2, 2018

Ms. Rosemary Ginty
Chairperson
Bronx Community Board 8
5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100
Bronx, New York 10471

Dear Chairperson Ginty:

I am writing in response to Community Board No. 8's resolution dated June 12, 2017, regarding the New York City Department of Transportation's (NYCDOT) proposed safety improvements along Broadway from West 242nd Street to the Bronx/Westchester County Line. After full consideration of your resolution, feedback received through our outreach process, and our engineering analysis, we have determined that the proposed safety improvement project is the best way to address all the safety issues along the corridor. Therefore, DOT will begin implementation of the safety improvement plan this April, 2018.

The NYCDOT's Traffic Planning and Bicycle Group developed this proposal over the course of nearly two years, in direct response to concerns raised by NYC Council Member Andrew Cohen and other community stakeholders. During the development process, DOT sought input from a workshop held in November of 2015, on-street public outreach along Broadway, two public presentations of design concepts to the Board's Traffic and Transportation Committee in April and May of 2017, and additional site visits with key community stakeholders. This proposal has received support from many community members, Council Member Cohen, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, and the North Riverdale Merchants' Association.

The proposed redesign of the Broadway corridor includes safety improvements that will benefit all roadway users in several ways. The narrowing of Broadway, will discourage speeding by motorists, promote safer cycling by adding a two-way parking-protected bike lane, and will significantly decrease the distance and time for pedestrians who wish to cross Broadway and access Van Cortlandt Park. Additionally, we plan to construct new bus boarding islands along Broadway that will improve bus operations and accessibility for transit riders. We can accomplish all of these objectives without the removal of any travel lanes and with no net loss of parking throughout the corridor.

As for our response to the points made in the resolution from June 12, 2017:

- NYC DOT has determined that the proposed two-way protected bike lane is the street design that will provide the greatest safety and mobility benefits for all road users. Protected bike lanes on Broadway



have the advantage of providing a direct cycling route that is accessible even when the park is closed, while also improving pedestrian and cyclist access to park entrances from the adjacent neighborhood.

- NYC DOT and New York City Transit agree that the proposed bus boarding island on the west side of Broadway between Manhattan College Parkway and W 242nd St is in the optimal location for transit users and overall street safety. The position of the bus island will reduce opportunities for double parking, which will also reduce congestion at the transit stop. The project design includes additional parking immediately north of the bus island, which will provide convenient space for pick-ups and drop-offs.
- NYC DOT will work with NYPD to address enforcement of double parking on Broadway, and is willing to coordinate with NYPD, NYC Parks & Recreation, and other organizations to resolve the issue of school buses double parking adjacent to Van Cortlandt Park.
- NYC DOT will restripe the intersection at Broadway and Mosholu Avenue and install the additional parking spaces as proposed; however, installation of angled parking is not being considered as it would significantly reduce the vehicular capacity of the roadway.
- NYC DOT is willing to discuss additional safety and mobility issues along the Broadway corridor that would require further study and coordination, such as improvements at the Henry Hudson Parkway ramps or in the area south of Manhattan College Parkway.
- NYC DOT will evaluate the effects of the new traffic signals at W 246th St and at the Tortoise and the Hare park entrance, and is willing to consider studying additional signal changes along the corridor in the future.

We look forward to bringing positive changes to this major roadway that serves as a vital link between the neighborhood and Van Cortlandt Park. As always, we will monitor the project following installation, and encourage community feedback as part of our post-implementation evaluation. If you wish to discuss any additional questions or concerns you may have, feel free to contact me at (212) 748-6680.

Sincerely,

Nivardo Lopez
Borough Commissioner

Cc: Mr. Dan Padernacht, Chair of Traffic & Transportation Committee, Bx CB 8
Hon. Ruben Diaz, Jr. Bronx Borough President
Hon. Elliot Engel, Member of Congress, 17th District
Hon. Andrew Cohen, City Council Member, 11th District
Hon. Jeffrey Klein, State Senator, 34th District.
Hon. Jeffery Dinowitz, Assembly Member, 81st District