



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN**

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

**UST COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 5th, 2025
6:30 P.M. (In-Person & Virtual)**

I. Attendance

- Sign-in sheet maintained by CB9 staff (H. Ellison)

II. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to attention at 6:35 PM by S. Prophete
- The meeting was called to order at 7:28 PM by S. Prophete once quorum was achieved and MTA presentation completed.

III. Adopt Agenda

- The motion to adopt the agenda was made by F. Castillo. Seconded by V. Caughman. The agenda was adopted by the members present.

IV. Adopt Minutes (from 05/01/2025 meeting):

- The motion to adopt the minutes from the 05/01/2025 committee meeting was made by F. Castillo and seconded by C. Johnson. Minutes adopted by members present.

V. Presentations/Updates:

- **116th Street Bus & Pedestrian Priority Project (DOT/MTA Update)**

1. Introduction & Background

- The project targets improving bus transit and pedestrian safety along a key corridor connecting **Harlem and the Upper West Side**, roughly spanning **Manhattan Avenue (110th–113th St)** and **Morningside Avenue (113th–114th St)** within CB9's jurisdiction.
- This corridor serves **over 40,000 daily bus passengers** via routes including M3, M7, and M116, offering vital crosstown access to destinations like Columbia University, Morningside Park, and St. John the Divine.

2. Existing Conditions

- **Bus Speeds & Reliability:** Buses travel below **4 mph** on some segments due to congestion and double-parking, leading to significant delays.
- **Safety Concerns (2020–2024):**
 - Total injuries: **37**
 - Severe injuries: **4**
 - Fatalities: **1**
 - Breakdown: Pedestrians (10), Bicyclists (10), Motor Vehicle occupants (16)
- **Demographics & Health:**
 - ~10,400 residents within ¼ mile; **76% car-free** households; 86% rely on public transit, walking, or biking.
 - Local asthma, diabetes, and heart disease rates are elevated due to pollution.

3. Public Outreach & Feedback

Participants expressed support and concerns regarding:

- Pedestrianizing the **Morningside Avenue slip lane**
- Installing **concrete pedestrian refuge islands** and **daylighting**
- Addressing double parking during weekend farmers' markets
- Shorter crossings at Morningside Ave & 116th St with **hardened pedestrian space** and bike racks
- Enhanced **enforcement** using DOT stationary cameras and MTA ACE bus cameras in coordination with NYPD

4. Proposed Design Elements

A. Pedestrian Space Enhancements

- **Slip lane conversion** into pedestrian plaza for potential programming
- **Concrete pedestrian refuge islands** (e.g., bolstered with bollards, trees)

- **Painted curb extension** at Morningside Ave & 116th St reducing crosswalk length by up to 39%

B. Bus Priority Measures

- **Curbside bus lanes** over ~3 blocks on Manhattan Ave, operational **Monday–Friday, 7 am–7 pm**, reverting to parking at other times [New York City Government](#)

C. Bus Stop Consolidation

- Removal of a closely spaced bus stop at Manhattan Ave/112th St (under 750 ft spacing), enhancing bus speed and yielding **≈5 new parking spaces** overnight/weekends

5. Curb Regulation & Streetscape Modifications

- Repurposing ~25 parking spaces during weekday daytime for bus lanes; five parking spaces added at the removed bus stop site
- Slip lane converted entirely for pedestrian use on Morningside Avenue
- At Morningside & 116th, ~3 parking spaces replaced with **daylighted curb extension** featuring bike corral provisions

6. Pedestrian Benefits

- Creation of **8,600+ ft²** painted pedestrian space and **880+ ft²** of concrete pedestrian realm
- One new plaza (former slip lane)
- Two new tree pits enhance streetscape
- **Signal simplification** yields faster traffic flow: Manhattan Avenue NB/SB cycle green time improved by **22 seconds** per 90-second cycle

7. Project Summary & Impact

- **Bus lanes added:** 0.15 miles
- **Painted pedestrian space:** 9,800+ ft²
- **Concrete pedestrian space:** 880+ ft²
- **New pedestrian plaza:** 1 (slip lane)

- **New tree pits:** 2+
- **Estimated parking reconfiguration**, signal efficiency improvement; overall enhancing safety and transit efficiency.

8. Implementation Timeline

- **2021:** Corridor identified under NYC Streets Plan
- **Feb–Mar 2025:** Existing conditions discussions with CB9, CB10, and CB11
- **May 2025:** Draft proposals presented to CB10 & CB11
- **June 2025:** DOT's draft presented to CB9
- **Summer 2025 (Tentative):** Begin engineering review, approval, and implementation

Summary

This project aims to vastly improve **transit efficiency** and **pedestrian safety** through infrastructure interventions, disciplined regulation, and streetscape enhancements — all intended to transform 116th Street into a safer, more reliable, and community-friendly corridor.

- NYPD 26th Precinct (P.O. Cardenas)
 - Unable to join today's meeting
- NYPD 30th Precinct (P.O. Stumer / Capt. Lopez)
 - Capt. Lopez attended on behalf of Commanding Officer Capt. Rose
 - Summer months historically show an increase in crime
 - In May 2025 alone - 14 arrests, 22 summons issued
 - Increase in foot patrols all around the district
 - Stay vigilant - call 911 for emergencies, call 311 for quality of life issues
 - 4th of July is very intense in the district
 - Manhattan North supervised by Borough Chief was CO of the 30th and knows the type of resources needed
 - Working with other City Agencies (Parks, DOT, MTA) to address issues at Montefiore Park (137th Broadway)
 - increase space between benches and subway entrance
 - increase lighting
 - ensure the space is cleaned
 - Issues brought up by community attendees
 - Scaffolding
 - Attracting people to loiter underneath
 - Playing of loud music - cannot sleep through the night

- Fireworks
- Illegal Vans/trucks selling Marijuana
 - Sheriff's dept. Issuing fines and towing vehicles
 - Violators are paying the fines and get back onto the street
- Illegally parked cars and people loitering in the street - playing loud music, smoking and drinking alcohol
 - We need to see more enforcement
 - Limited access to tow trucks
- Roving packs of motor bikes
- Open Drug sales on 144th Street between Broadway & Amsterdam
- NCOs are working with Sanitation to address the issues
- Issues with Bless Bar and Restaurant
- May 14th - Billiards location was issued 4 violations/summons
 - No 311 calls since the operation
- 30th Precinct Community Council occurs the last Thursday of the month
- NYPD PSA6 Housing Division (P.O. Ettienne & Detective Wilbourn)
 - Community Council Meeting - 2nd Thursday of the Month meets at PSA6
 - Fellowship breakfast at the Polo Grounds tomorrow
 - 1 robbery at Grant Houses
 - 2 felony assaults (Grant/Manhattanville)
 - 2 burglaries at Manhattanville
 - 1 grand larceny at Grant Houses
 - No increase in quads or bikes reported in the area
- NYC DOT (Lyle Blackwood)
 - Milling and Resurfacing taking place in the district and Northern Manhattan will be back in mid-July. Will notify District Office
 - Summer Streets will take place in August
 - Capital improvement project at 155th Street - new expected completed date in Spring 2026
 - Juan and Felipe brought up large potholes and deteriorating concrete pad at former bus stop on Convent Avenue on 144th and 145th Street
 - Crosswalk from Hamilton Terrace to Hamilton Grange
 - No update, Lyle will follow up
 - Lighting issues are on their radar
 - Contact information for Lyle Blackwood, DOT Northern Manhattan Borough Planner, Phone#: (212) 839-6218, E-mail: lblackwood@dot.nyc.gov

VI. Action Items

Dining Out Applications

- 1. Sapps UWS - 2888 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
- 2. Dinosaur Bar-B-Que - (2276 12th Avenue, New York, NY 10027
- 3. Harlem Public - 3612 Broadway, New York, NY 10031
- 4. Fumo - 1600 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10031

- 5. Ban Ban Shop - 2911 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
- 6. At the Wallace - 3612 Broadway, New York, NY 10031
- The UST Committee discussed the Dining Out Applications submitted
- The establishments in question all have existing sidewalk cafes
- We believe that we need more guidance to evaluate these applicants
- We will inquire with DOT and District Office to get more information and formulate a questionnaire for review

SLA Applications (Renewal)

- 1. Manhattanville Market - 3229 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
- 2. Cordial - 3448 Broadway, New York, NY 10031
- The committee discussed the renewal liquor license applications. No SLA violations were found by the committee. Renewals were reviewed with the NYPD 30th Precinct.
- All members agreed to advance the aforementioned applications (items 1-2) to the June 2025 executive board meeting.

Street Renaming Applications

- 1. West 148th Street & St. Nicholas Avenue (in honor of Rose Morgan)
- 2. West 145th Street & Broadway (in honor of Dr. Marilu Galvan / Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano)
- 3. Walking path between West 123rd Street and La Salle Street (in honor of Orsby Butch Wroten / Grant Houses)
 - Committee went through the application forms and materials submitted, provided feedback to the applicants

VII. Old Business / Items to Monitor:

- 145th Street & St. Nicholas Task Force
 - no new updates
 - implement daylighting on SW corner near subway entrance
 - back angled parking for TD3 vehicles
 - no authorized angled parking by DOT
 - could bollards be put on the sidewalk
- Elevator Meeting re: 125th Street #1 Subway Station - MHCC, MRHS, MTA, Columbia University, CB9, WHDC

- Still waiting for funding to be secured
- Feedback on proposed DOT Neighborhood Loading Zones
 - No new updates from DOT
- RVJ Auto Body Shop, 134th Street between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue
 - 30th precinct currently investigating, more news to come
- Double Parking on 149th Street between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues
 - Still an on-going issue
 - Need 30th precinct to step up enforcement of double parking and blocking of fire hydrants

VIII. New Business

- M60 SBS Bus Stop Removal
 - Was not removed - MTA will replace signs
- Bike Request for PS125 on 123rd between Amsterdam and Morningside Avenue
 - Asking DOT to facilitate
- Open Street Notification - Amsterdam Avenue from Cathedral Parkway to West 106th Street
 - July 5th, 2025 to November 8th, 2025
 - How can we keep community members informed?
- Assigning Minutes for 2025
 - We will wait for new committee members to be assigned
- Resolution - NYPD Criminal Summonses for Cyclists
 - Felipe Castillo presented resolution
 - Residents across the city feel endangered re: bike/wreckless bike riders
 - Deterrents are needed to stop quality of life crimes
 - Adams administration is being too heavy handed. Emboldened police.
 - Ask executive board to bring someone in from DA's office to discuss at general board

IX. Adjourn

- There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by F. Castillo. Seconded by C. Johnson. All members present agreed.
- The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair S. Prophete at 9:14 PM.

*Please Note: The next UTS Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4th, 2025
Minutes submitted by S. Prophete*