

SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc.

Community Roundtable – July 20, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to a written notice via email, website, and social media, members of the public attended an information session (Community Roundtable) organized by the SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc. (dba SoHo Broadway Initiative) on Thursday, July 20, 2023 remotely via Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

Executive Director Mark Dicus welcomed attendees, introduced SBI staff (himself, Brandon Zwagerman, Dan Hogle), acknowledged Board Members in attendance at the beginning of meeting (Pete Davies, Michele Varian)

Mark introduced staff from the NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT): Ed Pincar, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, and Kate Scherer, Lower Manhattan Borough Planner.

Ed gave an overview of key DOT priorities:

- 26% of NYC land is under DOT jurisdiction. Change over last 10-20 years in how agency thinks of streets. Priorities: safety for all users of streets, better use of the space available, improving accessibility and mobility.
- Freight innovation is major area of focus given changes in delivery patterns (now more residential than commercial deliveries). Off-hour delivery program encourages shippers and receivers to move to overnight hours when possible when less traffic, but causes challenges for more residential areas without noise mitigation. DOT issuing report later this year about strategies for microhubs. LockerNYC pilot launched to address package theft.
- Please let DOT or Mark know of issues that should be addressed locally, small or large. DOT email addresses: [epincar@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:epincar@dot.nyc.gov) [kscherer@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:kscherer@dot.nyc.gov)

Q&A from attendees with Ed Pincar of DOT:

- Question about how freight mobility initiative will work for commercial deliveries. It is a series of interventions; there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Every neighborhood and industry is different: size of buildings/deliveries, whether a loading dock, staffing hours overnight, incentive programs to defray costs. Some businesses may be interested in overnight deliveries, some may be interested in cargo bike corrals (e.g. Whole Foods) but not all solutions right for all situations.
- Question about whether DOT is holding forums with business owners given anything that adds operational costs is a challenge. DOT talks to businesses and off-hours program isn't compulsory, but happy to talk

offline with any local businesses and could bring freight unit to talk to BID or businesses further.

- Comments about challenge of night/early morning deliveries which awaken residents, poor condition of Belgian block paving on Crosby Street between Spring Street and Grand Street, Lafayette Street Open Street dominated by skateboarders. Crosby Street is on DOT radar, but Belgian block streets are expensive to maintain, and budget limited.
- Question about what DOT can do in regard to traffic congestion from cars driving to Holland Tunnel (especially on Fridays), and attendant horn honking. Mark echoed this issue as one BID frequently gets complaints about; have not been able to get traffic agents via NYPD recently. Challenging without regulatory change, but hope that congestion pricing helps somewhat. Mark to share DEP anti-honking pilot using tech. Box-blocking cameras not authorized by NYS.
- Questions about placard abuse via government officials parking in loading/unloading zones and incentives for small businesses to transition to electric vehicles. Anyone using a placard is supposed to be a government owned vehicle on government business. Happy to take a look at photos or do a walkthrough. Not aware of city incentives for electric vehicles but may be state/federal incentives.
- Questions about whether metered parking will be installed on side streets like Mercer Street and what can be done about bikes riding on sidewalks. There are many different classes of e-bikes, which are confusing even for police; let us know if there are problem areas that could use a redesign.
- Question about Canal Street effort status. DOT collecting traffic data this year and hope to develop and present potential proposals next year.

Mark Dicus thanked Ed and Kate ended meeting with general BID update:

- Clean Curbs Pilot has launched at Prince b/w Broadway and Crosby St.
- Streetplus took over from ACE as our sanitation contractor on July 1:
- New Streetlight banner campaign: SHVO
- Summer plantings from The Hort installed: coleus, lantana, cuphea, and sweet potato vine, plus sedum & allium in the bin box
- New DSNY Rule for Restaurants-must use sealed containers when putting out garbage. As of August 1, 2023, food-related businesses that place trash out for collection must use lidded containers. Restaurants, grocery stores, delis, bodegas, caterers or other businesses that sell or handle food must comply. Containers can be kept inside, outside along the building, or within three feet of the building line. Containers may be set out after 8 p.m. or an hour before closing.
- Summer Streets: car-free streets from Brooklyn Bridge to 125th Street including Lafayette Street through SoHo. Saturdays, August 5, 12, 19, 7am – 1pm
- New stores opened since prior Community Roundtable: Armani Exchange (536 Broadway), Empire Cannabis (426 Broadway), Love, Bonito (465 Broadway), Mangia (590 Broadway), Pandora Jewelry (577 Broadway) [relocated], Rally Museum (446 Broadway), Sample Sale SoHo (542 Broadway), Sunglass Hut (523 Broadway), The Vintage Twin (587 Broadway) [relocated]

Q&A:

- Question about whether BID can get a City compost smart bin. BID currently has small scale pilot, contact us if interested, can explore asking City for smartbins.
- Nick Iordanou from 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct announced National Night Out Against Crime August 1 at South Street Seaport.