

Meeting of the HOH Transportation Work Group (TWG) held Tuesday, 6/28/16 at 7:00pm

In attendance:

Jeanette Sawyer Cohen, Amy Lamberti□, Dan Sbrega, Samantha Wilt, Jim Nolan

Andy Ratzkin (Conservation Commission liaison)

Kerry-Jane King, Chair of Conservation Commission

Maura Gedid, Irvington Safe Routes to School Committee, Walking School Bus (invited guest)

PTSA members and members of the public including Lisa O'Reilly, Director of Hastings Village Camp

Meeting Summary:

Camp Drop-Off

The meeting began with an impromptu discussion of camp drop-off (7:30am, 8:45-9:15am) and pick-up (1pm, 6pm) problems by Lisa O'Reilly, Director of the Village Camp, which lasts until Aug. 5. She will contact Dan Sbrega for brainstorming and help as needed.

Irvington Walking School Bus Program

Next invited guest Maura Gedid presented on the Irvington Walking School Bus Program, a parent-led walk to school program. Over 80 families and 100 kids participated over 10 weeks. Financing is provided by a Federal grant administered by state. Maura advises improving infrastructure first, before encouraging children to walk. Parent volunteers are important and must be trained. PTSA members asked questions and copies of the presentation were provided. Maura agreed to share their community survey to assist in the development of ours.

PTSA Conversations

Next Amy Lamberti reported as school liaison about conversations with the PTSA. Low hanging fruit idea: combining surveys with PTSA. Joint TWG and PTSA Survey committee then formed: Amy, Richard, and Sam w/ Marisa Kefira, and Alison Andrus. Group will identify signs near school to replace and talk to Principal DePietro about drop off protocol.

June 21 Board Meeting

Jeanette reported on June 21 Board meeting. Trustee Nikki Armacost will be our group's liaison. Twelve of the 24 sign recommendations will be funded by the board. Jeanette will follow up on which ones. Fran Frobels is looking into tape/paint for the restriping.

James Street area/Ravensdale-9A intersection

Reasons for prioritizing James Street area/Ravensdale-9A intersection were discussed next. Kerry-Jane gave background on James Street. Problems include speeding and cutting through. Comments: county southbound—if a light is placed there it will make the cut-through less attractive, because there are lights in Yonkers but not Hastings. Mentioned that the 25mph is hard to read and that the stop sign is run at Thompkins, and that police presence and enforcement should be raised. Discussed creating sub-committee on James/Ravensdale. Kerry-Jane will follow up and connect with other interested people and be our point person for James Street, pulling together points that can be brought to the board, including ideas and perhaps a suggestion to hire a consulting engineer. Crossbar was also mentioned as having a problem with speeding, especially during non-rush hours. Two community emails were noted with concerns in the area about safety, poor signage, and lack of sidewalks.

Ravensdale/9A

The Ravensdale 9A intersection was discussed next. A community member commented that there is no safe time to cross to the intersection. Other observations included: 9A has become “an industrial highway” and Rivertowns Square and the Lofts at Sawmill will make it even more crowded. Children walk from the Yeshiva into town, and it's a very dangerous intersection to cross. There are 120 Yeshiva students now, with a capacity of 300. For the school kids of 240 families it's the only way to cross to get to school. Causes people to drive, not walk, thus increasing traffic in town. Jeanette would like Richard to consider being the group point person on the Ravensdale/9A issue.

Ravensdale

Ravensdale itself was discussed. Area residents report an incredible and ever-increasing amount of traffic, and concern it will get even worse with additional of Target behind Stew Leonards. Residents would like to slow traffic down going to Jackson. Questions posed: Can a stop sign and crosswalk be added. Can a stop sign be added at Farragut and Ravensdale? Ravensdale requires future needs assessment.

Survey/Community Event

Survey was discussed next and how to log incoming suggestions. Also discussed when to hold community event.

Conservation Committee update

Route 9 Corridor Broadway being studied for bike lanes up from Hastings up through Sleepy Hollow, north and south of the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

Rose Street Playground

Parking problems/accidents reported.

Next Meeting

July 26 will be the next meeting of the committee. DPW will be invited.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.