

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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November 28, 2011
Start: 12:20 p.m.
Recess: 12:27 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JAMES VACCA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Gale A. Brewer
Daniel R. Garodnick
David G. Greenfield
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
Darlene Mealy
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
James G. Van Bramer
Vincent M. Ignizio
Peter A. Koo
Eric A. Ulrich

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay everybody.

Please take our seats. We now have a quorum. I'm sorry we did not start on time, but we are now going to begin our meeting. Today the Committee on Transportation will be voting on two bills. I welcome the members who are here. Let me start to my extreme right. We have Council member Rodriguez, Council Member Jessica Lappin, council Member Debbie Rose. To my extreme left is Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Peter Koo, Council Member Vincent Ignizio, and I'm James Vacca, chair of the Committee.

We'll be voting on proposed intro 626-A and 671-A. I want to start off by thanking the members of the Transportation Committee for their hard work and input into both of these intros. I want to thank my office and my Committee for their hard work. I want to thank the administration for their input as well as the advocates, who had input into this entire process as well.

The legislation we're voting on today came out of a need for more transparency and stakeholder involvement in major transportation

1 projects. The City is currently in the midst of a
2 major transformation of our street and road
3 infrastructure and it is crucial that all the
4 stakeholders are not only full involved, but are
5 informed about what is happening in their
6 communities. Proposed intro 626-A requires DOT to
7 conduct inter-agency consultation about major
8 transportation improvements with the police
9 department, fire department, Department of Small
10 Business Services, the Mayor's Office for People
11 with Disability. These projects improve the
12 quality of life of people in our city and they
13 also fundamentally alter our streets and roads.
14 For example, while pedestrian plazas have created
15 great outdoor spaces for our communities when not
16 properly planned these plazas may negatively
17 impact small businesses and more importantly, the
18 ability of first responders to get to emergencies
19 as expeditiously as possible. Another concern
20 about pedestrian plazas has come from our
21 disability community where advocates there have
22 voiced concerns that the plazas are not designed
23 to accommodate people with disabilities,
24 especially those with vision impairments.
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2 Proposed intro 671-A requires DOT
3 to assess the impact of major transportation
4 projects on traffic by releasing more detailed
5 statistics to affected community boards and
6 council members. We all agree that communities
7 are improved with better, more responsive
8 infrastructure; however, we have to ensure that
9 these improvements are having the intended results
10 and the only way for us to know is by conducting
11 thorough post-project assessments. Perhaps most
12 importantly, this bill requires DOT to consult
13 with the police department and the fire department
14 about the effect that major transportation
15 projects have on emergency vehicles. I, as well
16 as many of you I'm sure were concerned about news
17 reports showing that ambulances and other
18 emergency vehicles were having difficulty as a
19 result of a pedestrian plaza place in the Borough
20 Park section of Brooklyn. This bill will ensure
21 that these issues are fully assessed and dealt
22 with. Both of these intros do not prevent our
23 city from pursuing projects that improve our
24 neighborhoods and communities. These projects are
25 crucial to the modernization of streets and roads;

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2 however, as we pursue these major transportation
3 projects, we need to ensure proper involvement of
4 all the key stakeholders as well as ensuring that
5 the projects are having their intended results.

6 As chair of the Committee, I'm asking my members
7 to cast a yes vote. I think both of these bills
8 are important and go a long way toward making sure
9 that we maximize the results of these improvements
10 and that we address issues that may arise as a
11 result of them as well. Before calling the roll,
12 I'd like to mention we've been joined by my
13 colleague to my left, Councilperson Gale Brewer.
14 Okay. Without further ado--this Committee had
15 hearings on both of these bills--we will now call
16 the roll. The Chair recommends an aye vote.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,
18 Committee Clerk. Roll call in the Committee on
19 Transportation Intros 626-A and Intro 671-A.
20 Council Member Vacca?

21 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lappin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye and
I would like also to add my name to both intro
626-A and 671-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'd like to
be added to intro 626-A, and I vote aye for both.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'd
like to be added to 671-A and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on
both.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of nine
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, both items have been adopted.
Members, please sign the Committee Reports.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Members, please
sign the Committee Report before you leave, and
the roll will be kept open for 30 minutes for

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2 members who may be at other committee meetings
3 that are now going on in this building. There
4 being no further business, this hearing is
5 adjourned.

6 [gavel]

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: the vote stands
10 at ten in the affirmative, zero in the negative
11 and no abstentions.

12 [pause]

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr.
15 Chairman, I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands
17 at 11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and
18 no abstentions.

19 [pause]

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands
23 at 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no
24 abstentions.

25 [pause]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the

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Committee on Transportation, 12 in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions.

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This meeting is adjourned.

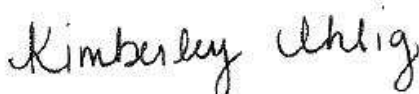
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[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature _____

Date 12/13/11