

## BRIEFING MEMO

TO: Borough President Marty Markowitz, Chief of Staff Carlo Scissura  
FROM: Luke DePalma  
RE: Meeting with Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, DOT  
Date: Monday 3/1/10 @ BP Conference Room

### **Reason: Prospect Park West Bike Lane**

**Monday, March 1st at 10am, you will meet with DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, her External Affairs Director David Woloch, and Joe Palmieri to discuss the Prospect Park West bike lane proposal. Carlo and I will join you.**

### **Project history:**

May 2009: DOT unveiled a plan to calm traffic on PPW (at the request of CB6).

### **The plan is as follows:**

- DOT wants to remove the eastern lane on PPW, and replace it with a 2-directional bike lane
- The eastern (park side) parking lane will be moved west and adjacent to the bike lanes, and will provide a safe barrier between traveling cars and bikes.
- Car traffic will have the remaining 2 lanes to use.
- The parking lane on the western side will remain unchanged.

DOT believes that this will help calm traffic and reduce speeding by reducing the roadway's existing capacity.

DOT believes that this bike lane is an important link for commuters, not just recreational cyclists.

DOT believes that Prospect Park West will not be adversely impacted by the change.

**CB6 approved the plan** with request that DOT make additional improvements, such as providing a raised, planted median separating the bikes from the parked cars, and installing light signals for cyclists (traffic lights that tell cyclists when to go and stop).

### **YOUR RESPONSE**

**Since May 2009, you have written to Sadik-Khan imploring her to abandon this plan. Your opinion has been supported by former DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall.**

- You have stated that Prospect Park is a **Regional Park used by all of Brooklyn and New York**, and the roads around the park need to accommodate all these visitors.
- As a regional Park, not everyone uses public transit to get there. Buses and families need space to unload vehicles when going to the park. The elimination of a car lane will cause double-parking to block the entire street.
- These traffic backups will be most obstructive during the warm months when the people use the park during concerts, barbeques, and other large events (like the breast cancer walk, or Celebrate Brooklyn).
- DOT's plan seems to have been made at the request of CB6 but not in any real consultation with the other CBs that surround Prospect Park: CB7, 8, 9, 14.

**Additionally, since this proposal comes from a plan to calm traffic on PPW: DOT can do other things, like:**

- **Install more traffic lights on PPW, and stagger their timing to reduce speeding and provide more crossings.**
- **Install bulb-outs or neck downs at certain crosswalks to provide safer crossings and increased pedestrian visibility**
- **Provide 2-directional bike travel in the Prospect Park loop (Prospect Park drive) so that cyclists can use the loop more efficiently to commute.**

**DOT still plans to implement this project.**

**You should restate your opposition and concerns, and insist that this bike lane, if installed, be done on a "pilot" or trial basis. This will give DOT a chance to monitor the impacts the lane might have on the traffic during the spring and summer.**