

# Sunset Park Task Force

April 6, 2022, 6-8pm

## Attendees

### Task Force Members

1. Nick Azadian, Sunset Park resident
2. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods
3. Edward Cerna, New York City Council Member Alexa Aviles' Office
4. David Estrada, Sunset Park BID
5. Max Feld, Sunset Park resident
6. Damaris Gonzalez, DG Tax
7. Dr. Darlene Williams, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
8. Dash Henley, NYCDOT
9. Keith Bray, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner DOT
10. Jeremy Laufer, Brooklyn Community Board 7
11. Stephen Leone, Industrial Carting
12. Emmitt Mendoza, NYS Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes's Office
13. Emily Riquelme Beaufort, NYCDOT
14. Summer Sandoval, UPROSE
15. Eugenia Tang, NYCDOT
16. Pat Whelan, Sahadi's
17. Jenny Zhang, NYS Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes's Office
18. John Santore, Sunset Park resident
19. Dan Wiley, Chief of Staff of State Rep. Nydia Velazquez
20. Christopher Lee, PANYNJ
21. Maria Ferreira, Center for Family Life
22. Hannah Wade, NYU Langone

### Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Megan Quirk, NYCEDC
2. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC
3. Micaela Skoknic, SBIDC
4. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
5. Justyn Turner, NYEDC
6. Romulo Garza, NYCEDC

### Guest Speakers

1. Alba Pena, Equinor
2. Andel Koester, Karp Strategies
3. Lily Hurley, Karp Strategies

### Members of the Public

1. María Roca
2. Heather Hall
3. Cindy VandenBosch

## Meeting Notes

### Part I

Welcome, Introductions:

- Christine Paglialunga (CP): Opens the meeting, introduces representatives from the co-convening organizations and reads through the agenda.
  - o Proposes and membership agree to discuss proposals and new business at close of meeting
  - o Reminder to continue to promote task force membership opportunities throughout networks

## Part II: Offshore Wind Ecosystem Strategy Subcommittee Update

- Nick Azadian (NA) presents on behalf of “Ecosystem Fund Strategy Subcommittee.” Provides updates on group meetings, timeline for release of the strategy and RFP, and intent to formalize priorities in August.
  - o Currently finalized soliciting feedback from broader community. Two out of three briefings with experts have been completed.
  - o NA reviews fund priorities and their desired outcomes(education and training; creating accessible pathways and elevating local businesses to participate in the local supply chain). An invitation to a broader engagement convening, hosted by Equinor and to be held on Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>, is extended to the community.
- Romulo Garza (NYCEDC) presents on Selection Subcommittee.
  - o The purpose of this group is to select candidates to carry priority funds once the RFP is released. Romulo goes over structure, members of the subcommittee being SPTF, EDC, and Equinor. TF members may volunteer on either the Strategy or Selection committee (cannot be on both) and members of the Selection Committee are not able to apply for funds from the OSW Ecosystem Fund.

### Comments from TF members:

- John Santore: which information will be provided to people who wish to join the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>? Is there way to give feedback should people not be able to join?
  - o Andel Koester from Karp Strategies mentions a one-pager and flyer that will be circulated.
- Summer Sandoval: How will Sunset Park will be prioritized in the fund? There appears to be consensus that the fund is not big enough to benefit NYC, city-wide. With Sunset Park bearing historic load of pollution, what does this mean for neighbors in Sunset Park and Red Hook?
  - o Alba Pena from Equinor responds it is not possible for Equinor to make the fund beneficiaries exclusive to Sunset Park. As the scoring rubric develops, there will be more information there on who will be prioritized. Selection subcommittee will take these considerations in mind as they develop the rubric. This feedback has been captured.
- Jeremy Laufer seconds Summer’s opinions.
- John Santore: What is the rationale for the fund being \$5,000,000?
  - o Romulo Garza it was negotiated as part of an MOU in addition to the lease negotiated between Equinor and EDC.
  - o John Santore follows up: which elected officials were involved in the negotiation? EDC says outreach was done, will need to look into specific parties
- Dan Wiley: Council members discussed some goals for development leading up to negotiations, but lease itself might have not been accessible to CMs. Also mentions there is housing in Sunset Park, since Project Based Section 8 developments should also be

considered (this in response to a slide on the fund priorities, which mention Sunset Park housing in addition to Red Hook NYCHA)

- Nick Azadian: Suggests the scoring rubric should prioritize Sunset Park, and commits to carrying this through in future meetings.

### Part III: Transportation Topics in SP

- CP opens this section stating the SPTF has discussed transportation issues in a couple of meetings, so DOT had been requested to present on some of the topics raised by the SPTF members.
- Introductions from Emily Riquelme, Dash Henley, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray, Eugenia Tang.
- Eugenia Tang presents. Growing trends, among which Last Mile Distribution is acknowledged. Freight mobility measures are being considered in response to the growth of last mile.
  - o Marine way freight development. Pilot goals for activating NYC waterways, currently requesting expressions of intent.
  - o Neighborhood Loading Zone programs
  - o NYC Clean trucks program.
- Emily Riquelme presents on safety improvements, addressing school safety issues.
- For 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, if CB6 considers more locations could benefit from metered parking, DOT is open to receive feedback on this regard. Discusses Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway.
  - o Jeremy Laufer: DOT said they would not move forward with any changes without community board support. Jeremy indicates there has been no presentation on truck routes or on a pedestrian safety plan, and asks how do trucks get to the Prospect Expressway from Sunset Park? Emily Riquelme to follow up with Jeremy.
    - Keith Bray: The quote (on DOT requiring community input to move forward on projects) was taken out of context. It pertained to a specific project. Also indicates DOT will begin a truck study for last mile. They are also looking at a study for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
  - o Nick Azadian: Thanks Commissioner Bray for acknowledging 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave study, since this study has been advocated for since 2003. On a separate note indicates the green highway is second to the more urgent issue of idle truck parking along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Says DOT defers the issue of infractions to NYPD, but there is no enforcement. Asks how are decisions made at DOT?
    - Keith Bray: Several and large teams work on plan designs. DOT wants to work with the community on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Study.
  - o John Santore: Asks DOT to clarify if they will do a study on Last Mile on Red Hook and Sunset Park. Seems DOT is assuming last mile is an inevitable part of its economy, asks whether the community can have a saying on which new sectors to incentivize. "This seems to be a political decision".

- Keith Bray: The focus of last mile study is Red Hook. Work will be done along with DCP. Once the study is ready, there will be a community advisory committee. Emily Riquelme will be a point of contact for this project.
- Dan Wiley: Six last mile logistic centers are being built as-of-right. Asks what kind of permit mechanism can be established? What can DOT do about warehouses already being built? Mentions bi-partisan infrastructure law recently passed, and that Governor Hochul is to pass law to expand currently existing ports to strengthen maritime freight. There is earmarked community funding for projects, from topics ranging from education to labor to transportation. Bipartisan money would require joint effort between DOT and community to request funding. Next Monday is deadline to put out project.
- Edward Cerna, CM Aviles's office: Asks to prevent the clustering of last mile facilities currently seen in Red Hook, and now Sunset Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. CM Aviles' office is working on text amendment changes, talking to DCP, and community organizations like Earthjustice and UPROSE.
- Jenny Zhang from AM Mitaynes' office: Echoes Edward's words, her office is also taking the approach of avoiding a concentration of warehouses. They are favoring an air quality permitting approach, but these measures take time. Trying to plan proactively around the issue of last mile.
- Edward Cerna: Adds DOT is at the meeting, while last mile issue speaks to DCP competencies.
- David Estrada: Discusses BQE, and automated truck sensing. Call to Commissioner Bray and DOT on holding space at cross-disciplinary meetings, would like to be considered for meetings on automated weight and size controls in the neighborhood streets that are burdened, considering measures such as congestion pricing. What is needed are incentives, controls and enforcement, and education.
  - Keith Bray: Needs State legislation to work on cantilevered updates.
- Jesse Solomon: Regarding the blue highway project and RFEI for maritime activation, what is the timeline for this project in general? Can the SPTF group be helpful in the activation of the blue highway?
  - Eugenia Tang: RFEI in development phase. They are looking for cargo bike technology providers and other operators interested, DOT is eager to hear from stakeholders on this.
  - Proposals to tap on federal funding, can it be tied to blue highway? Is DOT considering this? Eugenia will get back to the group on this.
  - There is research contained in a privately funded truck study for the Red Hook area. If DOT is studying this issue, would they consider taking into consideration the recommendations of a private funded study?
    - Keith Bray: The study DOT is working on is hyper-local. They would be open to looking at those privately funded recommendations, though who funded it?

- Summer Sandoval: Clarification on whether the RFEI for the blue highway will come in next two months? What is the estimated timeline for last mile truck facility study?
  - Commissioner Bray: last mile study is not even on scoping phase, yet the community will be involved.
  - E. Tang clarifies blue highway RFEI to be released in the upcoming months, currently in initial stages.
- Dan Wiley: MARAD has a grant program for port development/upgraded sites. Mike Stamatis and Hughes Marine won a grant recently for Blue Highway project. There was an RFEI released by DOCK NYC, but there were issues with working with Port Authority, along with initiatives to close some railyards and use them as ports. Dan will follow up with EDC and groups that proposed this RFEI.
- Steven Leone: Follows up on DOCK NYC comments, barge to land will be needed to move freight. Asks if truck traffic would be driven to these areas with 65<sup>th</sup> street Metropolitan Recycling proposal for waste transfer station.
  - E. Tang: A truck traffic study is being proposed to determine how trucks are to pick up freight through green alternatives, cargo bikes, etc.
  - Jesse Solomon, Stephen Leone and Dan Wiley to discuss these topics separately.

#### **Part IV: Districtwide Updates**

##### **Infrastructure Project**

- Meredith Simon-Pearson (NYCEDC) provides an update on the infrastructure project to commence in June and will have an 18-month construction phase.

##### **One-Way Pair Study**

- Megan Quirk (NYCEDC) Feasibility study ended, working on securing funds for next phase of design (1 year), then community engagement period.
  - Dan Wiley: Does it need to be approved?
    - EDC will get letter of approvals from CB, says Megan Quick.
  - Nick Azadian: Asks EDC about contact with precinct? Will need more enforcement.

##### **Site-Specific Updates**

###### **South Brooklyn Marine Terminal**

- Romulo Garza: SBMT agreements for reactivating SBMT have been finalized. Over 1,000 jobs will be created at SBMT, the project will support 3.3 GW of New York State's overall goal of creating 9GWs of offshore wind power. The project is currently being permitted.
  - Nick Azadian: Job creation. Jacobs engineering has been retained for local jobs sourcing, with the issue they are not local or MWBE contractors. Which firms were invited to BID?
  - 30% MWBE target for the lease. Question on MWBE contractors will be conveyed to Alba Pena.

### **Made in NY Campus at Bush Terminal**

- CP goes over updates on North Campus, South Campus and Bush Terminal Piers Park. Sinkhole anticipated completion is date summer 2022.

### **Brooklyn Army Terminal**

- CP provides update on renewed leases and an upcoming ReFashion Week event.

### **Workforce Trends**

- JS gives updates, including hiring are at an all-time low city-wide.

### **Workforce1 Center**

- Several logistic companies are recruiting through the WF1 Centers.
- Stephen Leone hired through Workforce 1 Center.

### **Q & A**

- CP: The task force does not have a process in place for new agenda items, Task Force members can propose agenda topics or use the last 10 minutes of the meeting for new business.
  - o Pat Whelan: Asks not to duplicate the efforts of the CB and the SPTF
  - o Nick Azadian: Limit the time, means for input are good but need to be cognizant of people's capacity.
  - o General agreement for 15 minutes at the end for new agenda items. David Bolotsky, Summer Sandoval, Dan Wiley, among others express agreement.
  - o John Santore raised a list of policy topics he would like the Task Force to discuss.
- Conversation amongst members on transparency, information on the MiNY project, tours of waterfront projects, pausing MiNY construction

Meeting Ends