

Sunset Park Task Force

July 20, 2022, 1-3pm

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
23. Esther Sosa, Environmental Defense Fund
24. Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE
25. Mike Stamatis, Red Hook Container Terminal

Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC
2. Micaela Skoknic, SBIDC
3. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
4. Justyn Turner, NYEDC
5. Romulo Garza, NYCEDC
6. Andrew Genn, NYCEDC
7. Gustavo Moran, NYCEDC
8. Max Taffet, NYCEDC
9. Sarah Murphy, NYCEDC
10. Sam Jung, NYCEDC

Meeting Notes

Part I

Welcome, Introductions:

- Christine Paglialunga (CP): Opens the meeting, introduces representatives from the co-convening organizations and reads through the agenda.

- Seeking new, diverse, Task Force membership, please share the opportunity with your networks
- Will be seeking three volunteers for the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Strategy Subcommittee

Part II: Offshore Wind Ecosystem Strategy Subcommittee Update

- Sam Jung presented an update for the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Subcommittee and identified the goals of the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Subcommittee. Those goals included:
 - Selection committee is finalizing its RFP
 - Timeline (subject to change)
 - Confirm committee by today (7/20/22)
 - Invite people to self-nominate or nominate others
 - Launch RFP in the Fall
 - Distribute the awards in the Spring
 - Goals identified:
 - Develop career pathways in the offshore wind ecosystem through job education and training
 - To support New Yorkers from historically marginalized communities by prioritized environmental justice and access to workforce and business opportunities
 - To grow the green economy energy ecosystem in NYC
 - Christine Paglialunga: seeks volunteers for the selection committee, and the following TF members expressed interest in participating:
 1. Esther Sosa
 - Resident of sunset park. For her job, doing a lot of research on offshore wind and the job opportunities related to it. Background in creating RFPs and selection criteria.
 2. David Estrada
 - Nice to see some of the things that the taskforce is doing coming into fruition. Looking forward to this bringing into discussion future opportunities for the neighborhood.
 3. Damaris Gonzalez
 - Can be very helpful as a Sunset Park resident and business owner

Comments from TF members:

- John Santore
 - Was the selection committee makeup created by the strategy committee?
 - Sam Jung: No, the strategy committee has not dictated the membership requirements for the selection committee
- Esther Sosa

- What is the timeline for the disbursement of funds? What is the interaction between the selection committee and the CoConvening members?
 - Sam Jung: Quickly as possible ... contingent on a variety of questions. The role of the selection committee is to evaluate applications and to select the awardees. Strong commitment to engage the public as much as possible.
 - Alba Pena: the disbursement of funds could be anywhere between 100k maximum 300k in total. Tentatively, disbursements could start in July 2023. The plan is to have meetings throughout the month to complete RFP with feedback from the selection committee. Looking to set up a grant application process to receive proposals.
- John Santore
 - Is there no opportunity to discuss the makeup of the selection committee?
 - Christine Paglialunga: Yes, this is it because there is a very tight timeline.
- Elizabeth Yeampierre
 - This is not ground in a system of accountability. Make it a little easier for folks in the community to participate in meaningful ways. Meeting in the middle of the week is not accessible. Should be more flexible about when the taskforce meets.
 - Christine: Next best thing to do is to make the information as accessible and transparent as possible. We will try to make the meetings more accessible.

Part III: Freight

- Andrew Genn, Senior VP Transportation, NYCEDC
 - EDC is working to modernize freight distribution by revamping and making it more efficient/greener, and carbon free emissions
 - Five years of growth in freight demand in the city after COVID
 - Compliance: making sure that it is done legally
 - Coordinating actively with NYCDOT, City Planning, Port Authority and regional transportation agencies and organizations
 - Marine Highways
 - Active in applying for federal money
 - Costs have been shifting in favor of water use in recent times
 - Second-to-last and last mile highways
 - Goal: 0 emissions
 - project will start soon – meant to be holistic and responsive to local concerns about fulfillment centers opening in the Sunset Park/Red Hook/Gowanus neighborhoods
 - Rail Infrastructure
 - Goals:
 - Expansion within the district and in other part of the City connected to the district's rail infrastructure, especially car floats at 65th Street Yard
 - Divert truck traffic to rail by creating more locations for "last mile" pick up of freight in appropriate areas
 - Next steps for Freight

- Pursue federal funding opportunities to improve water and rail infrastructure
 - launch trailer-on-barge pilot project with local transportation companies
 - release RFPs for Marine Highway service at DockNYC and other City sites
 - support industry pilots for water-based freight and 0 emissions
 - identify funding for One Way Pair street improvement project to complement EDC's district Infrastructure project.
- Mike Stamatis introduced himself (CEO of Sustainable SBMT, the operator of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal)
 - Blue Highway (Marine Highway)
 - Majority of the world's goods are moved by ocean transportation
 - Develop and expand marine highway service options and facilitate their further integration into the current U.S. surface transportation system, especially where water-based transport is the most efficient, effective, and sustainable option
 - Highlight the benefits, increase public awareness and promote waterways as a viable (in some cases a superior) alternative to landside shipping and transportation options

Comments from TF members:

- Summer Sandoval: Timelines of the projects. More specifically EDC's effort in reducing truck traffic.
 - Andrew Genn: A lot of these things are happening right now. Working on smaller scale pilots with E-quads that can go to terminals between the Bronx and Manhattan later this year. The cost signal to distribution companies is quite stark to serve NYC so it's making the waterways more attractive.
- Jeremy Laufer: Approval for 1st and 2nd avenue one way plan? Why are you seeking funding if there is no approval?
 - Andrew Genn: DOT likes the plan and has approved EDC to do final design.
 - We are not a regulatory agency but have agreed with DOT that enforcement is key to addressing this issue. Infrastructure around the city that carries freight must be addressed and that comes with working with the freight companies to do the right thing.
- Jeremy Laufer: What efforts has the EDC made on working with the NYPD regarding illegal activities? What levels of the NYPD have we spoken to?
 - Andrew Genn: We and the DOT are working on solving these matters together. We are not a regulatory agency; therefore, we are working on this with the DOT, and they feel the same way. We are working on the BQE One-Lane idea.
- John Santore: Is the UPS site in Red Hook on hold because UPS is trying to transition to waterborne freight?
 - Andrew Genn: UPS has not made a final decision on what they are going to do. We hope that the pilot will show the industry that it is okay to use the water. The challenge is that this is a new thing for them so we are trying to show them that it

can be done and efficiently/cost efficiently. Ultimately, that is the hope, there is potential, but this is a new concept, and we are trying to show them that can be done and that it is an efficient idea.

- Elizabeth Yeampierre: It would be in your interest to work with people who have been engaged with this for a long time. It is unfortunate that this is the first time we are hearing about this in this PowerPoint. Cannot expect us to put a rubber stamp on something that we had no idea about and not included with the design and idea.
 - o Andrew Genn: Understand that you want to hear more, and we are happy to provide more information and continue the conversation.
 - o Mike Stamatis: I hear what you are saying. I think we are having this conversation today because we are far from having a plan. It is an idea that still has to be thought. We are saying that there is a need for this to happen because it is not happening.
- Esther Sosa: Would love to hear more about what jobs are being created because of this.
 - o Christine Paglialunga: That information is not available

Part IV: District Wide Updates

- Christine Paglialunga – Feasibility of the one-way pair study is complete and EDC is working on retaining funds to support the design and implementation.
- Sarah Murphy – Bush Terminal Pier 7 mitigation banking
 - Maritime environment will be restored when the remaining deteriorated pier material is removed;
 - Working on a draft restoration plan which will be made available in late summer/early fall
- Jesse Solomon – Workforce trends
 - o Jobseekers connected to employment by the Brooklyn Workforce1 Industrial and Transportation Career

Comments from TF members:

- Esther Sosa: Pier 7 and the completion of the project. Can you share more about the timeline. At what point will stakeholder engagement be required?
 - o Sarah Murphy: No concrete timeline because we are still early in the process.
 - o Max Taffet: The plan is to engage with parties that are actively engaged and have been looking at aquatic restorations for many years.
- Patrick Whelan: Have we looked at upgrading the capacity of the grid? If you are bringing lumber by float bridge, doesn't it make sense to do it via the marine terminal?
 - o Andrew Ginn: Where the grid is strong/weak is still an issue, but it is something that we have to stay focused on.
 - o Mike Stamatis: That infrastructure does not exist at this point but proves that we need to be efficient with expanding infrastructure and upgrading infrastructure.
- Dan Wiley: On the cruise terminal, is there any updates on updating the plug ins so that they can work with more ships?

- Christine: We will have to get back to you.
- John Santore: Does EDC have any data on how many people work at Brooklyn Army terminal?
 - Christine Paglialunga: We are doing a survey this summer.
- Can you comment on the public input that will go into Pier 6?
 - Christine Paglialunga: Not at this time, a consultant is being retained and when they are on board, we will plan the public engagement process.

Meeting ends