



neighborhood streets news

Issue #14 Summer 1999

Members:

Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association
Auburndale Improvement Association
Banana Kelly Community Association
Bronx Shepherds Restoration
Care About the Slope
Brooklyn Heights Association
Carroll Gardens Association
Chambers-Canal Civic Association
Charles St. Block Association
Clinton Hill Society
East Side Association
Eden Wald Gun Hill Neighborhood Center
Environmental Watchperson Project
First Street Resident's Association
Fulton Ferry Landing Association
Grand Avenue Block Association
Harlem Environmental Impact Project
Highbridge Advisory Council
Institute of Public Administration
Jane Street Association
Jefferson Avenue Block Association
Juniper Park Civic Association
Our Lady of Refuge PTA
PS 116 PTA
PS 27 PTA
PS 66 PTA
Park Slope Action for the Environment
Project for Public Spaces
Richmond Town and Clark Ave. Civic Association
Sierra Club—NYC Chapter
Soho Partnership
St. James/Ful/Gates Block Association
South Bronx Community Coalition
Sunset Park Restoration
Trees Not Trucks
Tr-State Transportation Campaign
Transportation Alternatives
Walk NY
West 9th Street Block Association
West Village Houses Tenants Association
University-West Burnside Neighborhood Association

NSN Going Strong

While there hasn't been a newsletter in a while, the Neighborhood Streets Network is still going strong. All over the city, neighborhoods continue to work for safer streets and a better quality of life. City and agency officials are beginning to get the message—traffic calming works, and our streets need much more of it. Keep asking for those speed humps!

Elizabeth Ernish, former NSN coordinator, left Transportation Alternatives in January to join pedestrian consultants Sam Schwartz & Co. Neel Scott came on board in late June from the Environmental Defense Fund to fill her large shoes. Feel free to contact Neel at (212) 629-8080, or by email at ped@transalt.org with questions, comments, and suggestions.

Slow Speed Bill: We're Almost There (But We Need Your Help)!

As most of you know, Transportation Alternatives and the Neighborhood Streets Network have been working for three years on slow speed legislation that would modify the State Vehicle and Traffic Law to

allow New York City to establish speed limits as low as 15 mph to facilitate the effective use of traffic calming devices. The **good news** is that the bill made it through the Senate, last year's impediment. The **bad news** is that the bill is currently languishing in the Assembly, a hostage to the current budget negotiations. We need you to write, fax, or call Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and tell him to pass bill **A3896A**, the NYC Slow Speed and Traffic Calming Legislation. Speaker Silver is the key to these negotiations. He's the one that can get this law passed.



State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
270 Broadway Ste. 1807
New York, NY, 10007
TEL (212) 312-1400
FAX (212) 312-1418

News Shorts

Safe Routes to School Program Builds on Success

Transportation Alternatives and member groups from the Neighborhood Streets Network started the Safe Routes to School project in response to the many hazards that Bronx children face on their way to school—the borough has the highest rate of child pedestrian death and injury in New York State. The program, the first of its kind in the U.S., is a collaborative process involving parents, school officials, local elected officials, and the NYC Department of Transportation. Since 1997, the project has created safe walking corridors at 25 Bronx elementary schools, and will work with another 12 in the 1999-2000 school year. For more information on Safe Routes to School, contact Program Coordinator Ellen Cavanagh at (212) 629-8080.

Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming Hits Rough Spot

In late June, NSN and community groups joined T.A. in expressing disappointment over the refusal of the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden and the DOT to share the results of the Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming project's first round of public outreach. It was hoped that the project marked a new spirit of cooperation between the public and the government in efforts to reduce area traffic—with the free exchange of information as the cornerstone of the process. The Borough President's refusal to share basic information is particularly vexing, since he hosted the meetings between the public and government that produced the project. The groups called on Golden to renew his leadership by convening an emergency meeting to get the project back on track and to ensure that the public has full access to the project consultant's reports and analysis. Write Borough President Howard Golden and urge him to keep the Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming project going strong.

Howard Golden, Brooklyn Borough President

209 Joralemon St.

Brooklyn, NY 11201

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What's Next?

After the hopeful passage of the Slow Speed Bill, we'll be taking on a number of projects during late summer and fall. We want to:

- Reach out to new civic and neighborhood groups and expand the NSN to 100+ groups.
- Get and publicize a list of all relevant New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee "Transportation Improvement Plan" (TIP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) pedestrian projects, so that NSN groups know where the city is spending its money.
- Put pressure on Mayor Giuliani and the DOT to follow-up their support for the Slow Speed Bill with action: begin implementing the 15mph speed limit in conjunction with traffic calming efforts.

Keep Us Informed

Remember to send us your press clips, correspondence, anything that tells your neighborhood's story. We want to know what is happening on your block.

Also, if you know a local group that is fighting for safer streets, let us know. Send a note with the contact person, address, and phone number of the group you have in mind to: Transportation Alternatives, Attention Neel Scott, 115 West 30th St. Suite 1207, New York, NY, 10001. Or fax (212) 629-8334.