

## Town Hall 3 Questions – Transportation and the Environment

- Have we reached out to local trucking companies on +/- of moving cargo in and out of Sunset Park? -Pat Whelan, Sanadi Fine Foods
- Who owns the BQE (Gowanus Exp. how can we get a ramp for trucks on to the BQE?
- One needs to consider the role that the regional rail network from BAT interfaces with SBMT. What is happening with BAT/SBMT conversation? - Maria Roca, Friends of Sunset Park
- In addition to Industry City on the west, Sunset Park will be grappling with two other massive rezonings on 62nd street/8th Ave on the East across the street from each other. Shouldn't the 3 ULURP processes be reviewed in relationship to each other and their collective impact on our community? - Maria Roca, Friends of Sunset Park
- Can we work on making it clear what falls under manufacturing and what doesn't?
- What are the numbers of people who live in Sunset Park that work in Industry City? And if they rezone how many more would have jobs from Sunset Park?
- Is there a proposal for more accessible transportation?
- Can you provide any examples of similar economic development projects that were done well? Any further reading or resources suggested?
- Why does the trolley start in Red Hook? That's silly.
- We have 3D companies and drone companies and data centers. Do they have a hire locally policy?
- Will Citibike be taking parking spaces away from the community? -Ivan, Sunset Resident
- What efforts from the developer could the community demand in this specific ULURP that would address the future effects of climate change? - Andrew Saavedra, CB7 Resident
- Can a cap on commercial rents be added to the requirements for Industry City?
- Can we ask that commercial leases be given for 5/10/15/20 year lengths w/max increases per year?
- What about people who go fishing on 43rd Street and 58th Street? If you want to bring big ship into this neighborhood?
- What do you think about burying the Gowanus? Would the rezoning process make it easier to accomplish? - Longtime Resident
- How do we ensure luxury condos don't get built in 5-10-20 years?
- Where are our community gardens in Sunset Park? How do we get more of them and more green space?
- Is it possible to propose incentives to alternative transportation usage to the community?
- Currently there are multiple wholesale and storage locales opening around the area, is this going to increase as new development? - Teresa Sanchez, Property owner and resident
- How this would impact to taxes on property? - Teresa Sanchez, Property owner and resident
- While we wait for the environmental impact statement, can the Ryans address the worksheet from the Dept. of City Planning from Sept. 1, 2017? I am alarmed by what I see here.
- What would be so bad about the Garment Center business coming here? As opposed to NJ or elsewhere?
- How does land contaminated from past industrial uses affect plans?
- Ryan Chavez brought up "affordable industrial space." How do we maintain affordable industrial space? Is the innovation economy a threat to that affordability?

- Who owns South Brooklyn Marine Terminal?
- Last year when Industry City submitted their draft scope, a hearing to the city planning commission was held on the environmental impacts of the rezoning proposal. The community raised many important concerns, including that the environmental impact be expanded to ½ a mile instead of the minimum 400 feet that was proposed. When will the community find out if their recommendations will be included in the environmental impact study and when will those study results be released?
- Can the ULURP process begin before the environmental impact study results are made public? - Antoinette Martinez, CB7 Member
- For those longtime residents who want to learn more about projects on what the impact (social/economic/environmental/transportation/accessibility) of this proposal - has a study been done projecting the change? If so can it be discussed? Made public?
- Can a mandate be issued in the growth/change for Industry City so that a percentage of all jobs come from the surrounding neighborhood? (Sunset/Borough/Park Slope)
- Suggestions for boards - Bodegas - partner with biz owners and display board on some days; barber shops; hair salons; 43rd, 53rd 36th Street stations
- How do you anticipate the proposed rezoning affecting current tenants of industry city? What will a change to the current zoning do to the cost of rent in IC?
- When the elements of the so-called “innovation economy” were listed, neither retail or hospitality were mentioned. Do you see a rezoning that expands retail space to nearly 1 million sq. feet and allows for hotels as necessary to have an “innovation economy”? Why or why not?
- This will increase traffic to industry city. The existing truck traffic cannot get onto the Prospect Expressway. Will the proposed on-ramp get built? If not, what is the expected local impact?
- Will additional parking facilities be added? Given the known impact of emissions on climate change, how much of the new parking capacity (if any) will have charging capacity?
- How will parking be addressed? A lot of car owners on my street have a difficult time parking their cars (due to hydrants, churches, and schools) If they can no longer park under the overpass because Citibike stations or traffic calming or buses/BQX, etc measures are in place, what are they to do? -Hayley, longtime resident
- What is the administration doing to use the platform of land use in the continuation of hotels being built as opposed to housing or schools?
- Given the importance of the jobs you both mention, what can we do to support people walking to work? How can we make our roads and streets safer? -Longtime resident
- Why is the proposal “radical”?
- What are the transportation and environmental concerns specific to the proposal?

I revised and incorporated Jeremy’s questions into the original 10, and renumbered them so they aren’t specifically related to either speaker. My thought is I would ask the question towards one of them, then ask the other for a response. With only 30 minutes, we may only get through 5 or 6 of these questions.

## MODERATOR QUESTIONS

### 1. Gentrification

There has been a lot of changes on the waterfront/Sunset Park in the past 10 years - new parks, rejuvenated warehouses, new infill housing.

Area seems more desirable, attracting new people, increased tax base and investment, safer streets, more business opportunities and jobs.

Why isn't this a good thing, what am I missing in this history of the neighborhood?

### 2. New industries at the waterfront

Several of the waterfront developments are focused on the "innovation economy," creative businesses in design, media, fashion and tech vs. traditional blue collar jobs in industrial manufacturing. Is it an either/or question or can both co-exist?

### 3. EDC and City Renewal Policies

City inherited a lot of the waterfront land after the demise of the port industry. They are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on improving BAT, Bush Terminal and SBMT. What do you think about their strategy or progress to date?

### 4. Examples

Has the revitalization of industrial districts been attempted in other places? Do you know of some good examples and what made them successful?

### 5. Climate change

We are hearing about flooding in the Carolinas including hazardous sites with coal waste and animal waste and contamination of communities. Many of the facilities in our heavy

manufacturing zones contain hazardous materials. What should be done to contain such materials in the event of a storm surge or flood?

## 6. Connectivity

In order to get to the waterfront, everyone needs to pass beneath the Gowanus Expressway and it is dark and filthy and cars are parked haphazardly. Your organization has spent a lot of time and effort to improve pedestrian and bike connections from the waterfront up to the residential areas. What preventing us from getting these areas cleaned up and improved?

## 7. Traffic Congestion

More jobs and retail will mean more trucks and cars, but we haven't seen an increase in public transportation capacity and the highway is already beyond capacity. Can current systems handle a large increase in the number of workers and customers? Will "destination retail" have parking for customers or will they be competing with residents?

## 8. Truck routes

Sunset Park has suffered from the number of trucks using neighborhood streets, not just on the waterfront, but connecting thru residential neighborhoods to other parts of Brooklyn. We've seen a rise in traffic-related accidents, deaths, congestion, health-related impacts from elevated carbon monoxide levels. Now with industrial and commercial industries expanding on the waterfront, why is there no comprehensive truck and traffic safety and mitigation plan for the community that takes all of these developments into account?

## 9. Infrastructure

In the past few years the City has closed the combined sewage outflows in the Gowanus Canal to help clean the water, but we continue to have one in the heart of Bush Terminal Park draining into the harbor around the park. Delayed street reconstruction, electrical generators siting, waste transfer stations, concrete plants, federal detention center. The Sunset Park waterfront seems to always be the repository for these noxious uses.

Why does Sunset Park have to be burdened with these facilities? What can the community do to push back on these land use decisions?

## 10. Community vulnerability

Historically, minority neighborhoods like Sunset Park have been vulnerable across a spectrum of social issues.

Impact of rising housing prices and the threat of displacement have a direct effect on social wellness of the community.

Student educational outcomes, lack of transit choices and lengths of commute, child development and health effects from pollution.

What can we do to help those families in need? What are the policy priorities we need to focus on?