

Attendees:

Andrew Winters, Cornell Tech
Jonathan Libutti, Cornell Tech
Jane Swanson, Cornell Tech
John Di Capua, Tishman Construction
Tim Croke, Tishman Construction
Tolu Onafowokan, Berlin Rosen
Arianna Sacks Rosenberg, Hudson Related
Aleks Yelizarov, Monadnock Construction
Cliff Goldsmith, Turner Construction
Kate Bicknell, Forest City Ratner Companies

Task Force Members

Christina Delfico
Tricia Shimamura
Matthew Katz
Judy Buck
Joe Strong
Courtney Ferrissey (for Cali Madia)
Jonathan Kalkin

Members of the Public

Sally Minard
Nina Lublin
Howard Polivy
Erin Olavesen
Albert Salas
Margie Smith
Lynne Shinozaki
Judy Berdy
Briana Warsing
Dave Evans
Caitlin Goodspeed
Sara Maher
Rick O'Connor

Milestones

- Demolition Phase II: buildings A, G and J are complete; buildings E and B are down, with all demolition to be finished in June;
- Demolition Barging: as of April 1st, approximately 19,500 tons of waste have been removed by barge; as a result, including mobilization, approximately 4,350 –4,650 trucks had been avoided as of April 1, 2015. This translates to 8,700 –9,300 truck trips.
- Site Utility work: anticipated utility work expected to start in early May; road closures will be necessary during this time; due to the fluid nature of the project, people are encouraged to check Cornell Tech's construction website for the most up-to-date information.
- First Academic Building: excavation and foundation work began in March
- Co-Location Building: foundation work to begin in late May; the building developer conducted a projected parking demand analysis for the building; the results indicated a potential demand of 17-41 parking spaces; the developer will include approximately 41 below-grade parking spaces in the building;
- Residential Building: excavation and foundation work to begin in late May/early June;
- There is good news about the large tree at the southwest corner of the site. At the request of the task force, Cornell Tech studied how it might preserve the tree. After meeting with city DOT and RIO, it has been determined that the tree will be saved by bringing the sidewalk inside the Cornell Tech property line rather than along the street.

- Cornell Tech continues its engagements with the community: on April 17th, Cornell Tech held a very successful “Hack Roosevelt Island Day”. More than 30 Cornell Tech graduate students practiced coding games related to the environment and computer graphics with 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students from PS/IS 217 using the python platform Codecademy; they then moved to the senior center where they taught computer literacy to a group of very studious senior citizens; in March Cornell Tech partnered with RIRA and other Island organizations in the very snowy but very successful Easter Egg Hunt and on April 25th for the equally successful but much warmer Cherry Blossom Festival; one of Cornell Tech’s most recent collaborations is with The Roosevelt Island Women’s Health Organization, working with NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medical College to bring their seminar series to Roosevelt Island; the first seminar was held in January on the topic of neck and back pain; April’s seminar will focus on nutrition, May’s will be stroke prevention and June’s seminar will be on sleep health; Cornell Tech has bridged an organization called NPower to the senior center to provide an initial assessment and ongoing maintenance for their computer lab; NPower conducted their initial assessment of the senior center’s computer lab in March and they are now implementing an ongoing system of support that will be easy for the center to manage; they will also help the staff of the senior center with their computer technology;

Discussion:

- A task force member asked if Cornell Tech would participate in an air monitoring study of Main Street; Cornell Tech reiterated its willingness to participate in such a study.
- A task force member commented that in addition to community and programmatic engagements, Cornell Tech should also contribute financially to the island.
- A task force member asked if bikes would be allowed on the West Road while it is closed; Cornell Tech responded that bikes would not be allowed on the road nor should pedestrians walk in the road; Cornell Tech reminded people that the promenade would be open at all times;
- A task force member asked if the construction of Hudson Related’s Riverwalk Buildings 8 and 9 would impose any problems in terms of Cornell Tech construction of its buildings; representatives from Hudson Related indicated that no issues are anticipated;
- A task force member asked if Cornell Tech’s presence on Roosevelt island would increase subway crowding on the F train; Cornell Tech referenced the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which indicated that Queens traffic to the site would free up space on the F train for Manhattan bound Roosevelt Islanders boarding at the Roosevelt Island stop;

Presentations:

- Andrew Winters, Director of Capital Projects, Cornell Tech, gave an update on demolition.
- Tim Croke, Tishman Construction, gave a presentation on the utility installation plan.
- Cliff Goldsmith of Turner Construction and Kate Bicknell of Forest City Ratner Companies provided an overview of the Co-Location Building construction.
- Arianna Sacks Rosenberg from Hudson Related and Aleks Yelizarov from Monadnock Construction gave an overview of the Residential Building construction.
- Jane Swanson, Asst. Director of Government and Community Relations, Cornell Tech, reported on community engagements over the last few months.
- Juliet Weissman, Cornell Tech’s new Chief Administrative Officer, introduced herself to the group and gave a few remarks.