

Attendees:

Stephen Noone, Cornell Tech
Jane Swanson, Cornell Tech
Tolu Onafowokan, Berlin Rosen
Pete Krokondelas, Kasirer Consulting

Task Force Members

Christina Delfico
Matthew Katz
Judy Buck
Cali Madia
Larry Parnes
Jesus Perez
Sushant Harite
Ellen Polivy
Jonathan Kalkin

Members of the Public

Rick O'Connor
Judy Berdy
Albert Salas
Margie Smith
Vicki Feinmel
Kin Chang
Erin Olavesen
Briana Warsing
Joyce Short
Elizabeth Canela
Ctipor Cember

Milestones (Because the capital project was discussed extensively at the recent town hall, there was no campus construction update at this meeting)

- Bike Study: Cornell Tech's engineering firm, AKRF, will assess the feasibility and cost of a bicycle helix structure connecting the elevated structure just west of the Roosevelt Island Bridge ("Motorgate Garage Level 4 entryway structure") to the north-south service road along the East River – East Channel - to provide a direct access to a proposed two-way bike path. Also, because there is an interest on behalf of Roosevelt Island's residents and visitors in seeing short-term improvements, AKRF will assess the potential for immediate action measures such as pavement striping and signage improvements on the helix and its approaches.

Community Involvement:

- The next Roosevelt Island Women's Health Organization seminar will be held this Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 in the 12 flr conference room of 546 Main Street. The topic is Nutrition. These seminars are sponsored by RIWHO, Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine.
- Let's Code Roosevelt Island Day will be held this Friday from 9:30 to 11:30; 70 Cornell Tech graduate students have volunteered to mentor PS/IS 217 students at this event. Since it is close to Halloween, they will be using Scratch, the block coding language developed at MIT, to create some spooky online projects.

Discussion:

- Task force members discussed the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian/bike elevator on Roosevelt Island to connect to the Queensboro Bridge. Cornell Tech responded that they raised this issue with NYC DOT leadership in mid-2013, and due to the scale, complexity and potential cost of the project,

combined with the fact that the Bloomberg Administration had only a few months left in office, the administration did not want to pursue a feasibility study. Instead, Cornell Tech engaged in a demand study, reviewing the local and regional travel patterns to make estimates regarding potential ridership and demand for a pedestrian/bike connection at the Queensboro Bridge. Cornell Tech is happy to share the results of that study. (it also includes a demand analysis for ferry service). If there is a strong constituency on the island for pursuing this idea, Cornell Tech could work with them and RIOC to approach the City on this issue. However, it's important to note that the current administration is focused on putting their resources (\$55 million) behind an expanded ferry system that includes a stop at Roosevelt Island

A member of the public indicated that she has some paperwork pre Bloomberg on this issue that she will try to find and share;

A task force member asked about next steps: it was pointed out by Cornell Tech that "a full court press" in terms of RIRA, RIOC, elected officials, would be helpful; Jesus Perez, task force member from Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office pointed out the need for as much documentation is needed to make the case and to counter objections;

- Ferry Service discussion: a task force member reminded everyone that the NYC Economic Development Corporation will make a presentation on ferry service (that will include a stop on Roosevelt Island) on Wed. Nov. 4th at 7:30 at the Good Shepard Chapel; cohosted by RIRA and Community Board 8's Roosevelt Island Committee; the group was also reminded that the fare will be the cost of a bus/subway fare; Cornell Tech reminded the group that it has committed to contributing \$500,000 per year for 5 years to the cost of operating ferry service once an operator has been chosen and once Cornell Tech opens its campus on Roosevelt Island in 2017;
- Meeting dates for next year were discussed and it was agreed that the last Monday of the month works well and that the task force would continue that tradition; meeting dates next year will be 1/25, 4/25, 7/25 and 10/24 (the last Monday of October is the 31st but that is Halloween so the meeting will be held on the prior Monday);
- Thursday, June 30th was suggested by Cornell Tech for the town hall meeting but this date has not yet confirmed and it was pointed out that weekend is the 4th of July weekend and people may be away;
- Possible presentation topics for 2016 meetings were discussed: Cornell Tech suggested that an organization called NEW present at the January meeting; Cornell Tech explained that NEW stands for Nontraditional Employment for Women; was founded in 1978, NEW is a sector-based workforce development program that prepares women for careers in the construction, transportation, energy, and facilities maintenance industries. (jobs like: carpenter, plumber, electrician, sheet metal installer, utilities worker); they would provide an overview on who they are/what they do. It was suggested by Cornell Tech that the task force may want to work with NEW to develop a recruitment event on Roosevelt Island; task force members agreed that NEW should be invited to present at the January 25th meeting;
- A task force member also suggested that when presentations such as the pallette presentation are scheduled that we should publicize them to the wider community so that more people could attend;
- A task force member also suggested that it has been a tough year for Roosevelt Island organizations and suggested that one of our meetings focus on ways these organizations can get contingency funding since the state's funding of public purpose funding has been in question;
- Task force member Cali Madia from Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's office pointed out that the public purpose fund legislation will move ahead and that there may be additions to the legislation that would be of additional benefit to Roosevelt Island organizations;

Presentations

- Four Cornell Tech students gave a presentation on palette, a tongue controlled wire-less device they have developed for use by people with quadriplegia. The four students, Oliver Hoffman, Dan Levine, Shawn Bramson, and Rohit Jain are in the Connective Media program at Cornell Tech, a two year program launched in 2014 that is offered by the The Jacobs Institute - the academic partnership between Cornell and the Technion.