

Out of Touch

An account of a plaza proposed in Queens shows an out of touch NYCDOT when it comes to NYC's streetscape. The agency proposes a pedestrian plaza at the intersection of Hillside Avenue, Home Lawn Street and 169th Street and discloses it at a public meeting. Either they shared it with the MTA first and that agency blew it or DOT did not consult at all. Clearly, the first time the union representing most of the MTA bus drivers in Queens learned about it occurred at the May 17 meeting. A labor leader (see story excerpt below) summed up the proposal in one word: "Ridiculous." About time this *Out of Touch* agency stopped trying to *Squeeze* its square ideas into round pegs. *So the final verse is sung.*

Queens Chronicle

DOT seeks to improve bus service in Jamaica

Posted: Thursday, May 19, 2011 12:00 pm

by [AnnMarie Costella](#), Assistant Editor

The city's Department of Transportation held an open house on Tuesday in Jamaica to present its ideas on how to improve bus service in the area.

Many community leaders attended the event, which consisted of viewing the plans on various display boards rather than a formal presentation, and most were pleased with the suggestions, though there were some concerns regarding traffic flow, livery cabs and the location of a proposed pedestrian plaza.

The DOT's goals are to reduce congestion along busy corridors, make bus lanes easier to see and simplify intersections for motorists and pedestrians.

The DOT's proposed changes to bus lanes include painting them in a color it labeled terra cotta and hanging large signs above the bus lanes stating what times they are active and when they can be used for parking and deliveries.

Other recommendations include placing a pedestrian plaza at the intersection of Hillside Avenue, Home Lawn Street and 169th Street. Daneek Miller, president of Amalgamated Transportation Union, Local 1056, opposes the idea, stating that the intersection is dangerous and buses have to use the area suggested for the plaza in order to make wide turns.

"It's ridiculous, particularly because there is no commerce over there," Miller said. "The only thing it's going to attract is kids from Jamaica and the high schools up there and give them a location to congregate."

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