



Parking Management

Bronx Parking Management Workshop

July 10, 2006

A Parking Management Workshop was held in the Bronx on July 10, 2006, at Bronx Community Board 4. The workshop was sponsored by NYMTC and was the second in a series of pilot workshops that are being held in the NYMTC region in order to deal with the issue of parking both at a local and a regional level. Michael R. Kodama, a parking expert from Los Angeles, led the workshop and facilitated discussion.

The Bronx faces many unique challenges in terms of parking. Depending on time of day and location, parking spots in the community are either plentiful or in short supply, according to testimony from audience members. Although the parking requirements for the area are extremely low, some institutions, including the hospital and court systems, require their own parking and also strain the parking available for residents and customers in the Bronx business districts.

Many of the questions posed to Kodama by the audience centered around the new developments in the neighborhood, including the new Yankee Stadium and the proposed Gateway Center at the Bronx Terminal Market. Community residents want to be able to use the Yankee Stadium parking lots on non-game days in order to alleviate parking congestion on Grand Concourse and 161st Street. However, this was tried in the past and failed. Now that the Yankees are looking to build another stadium, the community wants to capitalize on this opportunity for renegotiation. Kodama emphasized that in such dealings, the important question is: “What’s in it for me?” In other words, businesses and institutions will only participate in a solution if the business has something to gain. Also, residents were concerned that if the parking lot were opened that it would be a magnet for commuters, whom residents would prefer take the Metro-North train rather than driving to the Bronx and taking the subway into Manhattan. Kodama offered the solution of parking permits, adding that those are not his first option, given the inherent bureaucracy and costs.

The Gateway Center development is a new retail development south of Yankee Stadium that is planning to charge for parking. Residents are concerned that customers who balk at paying for parking will instead park in spots that were formerly occupied by residents. “Spillover” is a concept Kodama discussed at length, asserting that the best option is to block housing from parking via a natural barrier (river, freeway, hill, etc).

Overall, the parking management workshop was an informative event for Bronx residents and planners to come out and hear some new strategies that will be helpful as the borough faces the prospect of accommodating the cars that will be inevitably coming to its new developments.