

## Stop Speeding Traffic Near PS176Q

I AM THE PTA VICE-PRESIDENT OF PS176Q IN Cambria Heights, Queens. We would like to turn the street the school is located on into a one-way street and/or get speed bumps. The school is located on the intersection of 120th Ave and 235th Street. We have had over the last two years several incidents where children have been hit by cars. Almost everyday, there is a child endangered because of the traffic coming from both directions...The street has become extremely dangerous for the neighborhood...Please just let me know how we can try to have some if not all of the [traffic calming] methods in place by September. Thank you in advance for your help.

VERONICA JONES

**Editor's Note:** It sounds like PS 176 has some serious traffic safety problems.

The City Department of Transportation is responsible for improving street safety.

Here is the process for winning improvements:

1. Gather letters of support from the school principal, community board and your local city councilmember. If you are not able to get these letters of support, you should still move to number two.

2. Send a letter requesting a meeting with the Queens Borough Commissioner for the Department of Transportation to look at the problems and talk about your proposed solutions or other solutions that the agency has in mind. You should also include a map of the school with circles around the problem spots and/or photos of the problem, if you are able to get them.

3. Follow up with a phone call to the borough commissioner to arrange a meeting time.

4. Meet with the borough commissioner, the principal, other parents and representatives from any of the groups you got to send a letter of support.

## Thanks to Sal and Frank

It took more than 928 square feet of compressed wheat husk, nearly 200 square feet of homosote (compressed recycled newspaper), gallons of paint and over 6 months out of the lives of project manager Frank Robbins and architect Sal Tranchina but T.A.'s new office is finally done and it is beautiful! Sal drew up all of the plans for the new office's layout and design and Frank turned Sal's renderings into a reality. Together Sal and Frank created a more comfortable, workable space where our creative energy would flow and our advocacy would be strengthened. Thanks Sal and Frank!



## The Word on the Streets

Thank you to the many readers who send letters in response to *Transportation Alternatives Magazine*, the T.A. E-Bulletin or [transalt.org](http://transalt.org). Feedback from readers is hugely helpful.

We encourage all readers to send us comments. E-mail [info@transalt.org](mailto:info@transalt.org); mail to 127 W. 26th St. Ste. 1002, New York, NY 10001; fax 212-629-8334; or submit a comment through our Web site. We look forward to hearing from you!

Walk around the site, preferably during a time that shows what the area is like when kids are coming in and out. Ask the borough commissioner to commit to doing something about the problem and to commit to a time-frame.

5. Send a letter of thanks to everyone who attended the meeting.

6. Keep following up with the borough commissioner until you see actual changes on the ground.

This may seem like a lot of work, and it's true that the City DOT tends to make parents jump through hoops to win improvements to the street, even when the problem is glaring.

You have another option, which is to ask the DOT to include you in its Safe Routes to School program. Right now the DOT is working with 135 "priority schools." Unfortunately, PS 176 is not currently on that list. You may want to include a request in your letter to the DOT that PS 176 be included in the program.

We are truly sorry to hear that your school is suffering from dangerous traffic conditions. We hope this information helps you win the traffic calming measures you deserve.

## Bicyclists on Randall's Island Need a Sign

YESTERDAY I BIKED FROM MANHATTAN TO Queens via the Triborough Bridge. On Randall's Island, where one must get off the bridge and find the pedestrian ramp to Queens, was enormously confusing because of the lack of signage. The pedestrian ramps to Queens, Bronx and Manhattan were totally unmarked with any useful information. I do not in any way condone graffiti, but a small, simple spray painted sign in a visible spot, with the word "Queens," might be very welcome by future bike travelers.

PAUL MURPHY

## Give Peds a Chance!

I SENT AN E-MAIL TO COUNCIL MEMBERS & Borough President Helen Marshall a few years ago about putting a traffic light at 138th St and Union Turnpike. This is where traffic is entering the LIE for Eastern Long Island. There is a sign for pedestrian cross-

ing but no one pays attention to it. There are many times I have almost been run over by DOT & Police cars. This is an easy walk to the trains, buses, schools, courts if you are allowed to cross. Maybe you can help. I would like to resume my daily walks but not at the expense of losing my life. Thanks for whatever you are able to do.

DONNA WILSON CHAE

**Editor's Note:** We advise you begin anew by writing to Joe Cannisi, the Queens Borough Commissioner at the Department of Transportation. He is responsible for overseeing that the transportation network is safe for all users in Queens.

The Borough Commissioner will pass your request on to the Signals, Street Lighting and Systems' Engineering Department. They will then conduct a study to determine whether a traffic light at this location is warranted.

Here are some tips to speed up the process:

1. Write to your Borough Commissioner and ask them to follow up with the Signals, Street Lighting and Systems' Engineering Department to a get the date of when they will conduct their study.

2. Copy your letter to your community board and ask them to support your request by sending a letter to the NYCDOT Queens Borough Commissioner. [http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/cb\\_find.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/cb_find.shtml)

3. Copy your letter to your City Councilmember and ask them to support your request by sending a letter to the NYCDOT. [http://www.cmap.nypirg.org/netmaps/MyGovernment/NYC/MyGovernmentNYC-Maps.asp?DistType=cncl\\_06\\_03](http://www.cmap.nypirg.org/netmaps/MyGovernment/NYC/MyGovernmentNYC-Maps.asp?DistType=cncl_06_03)

If you get no response from your Borough Commissioner, write to the DOT Commissioner and ask for the status of Signals, Street Lighting and Systems' Engineering Department study of your requested traffic light.

You should also try contacting the Traffic Safety Officer at your local police precinct. You can find the contact information for the precinct through the following resource: <http://gis.nyc.gov/doit/mp/Portal.do>. They too can put in a request for a traffic light to the department of transportation if they agree that this is a dangerous location.

Keep T.A. posted on your progress. □