



Public Meetings Keep Community Informed



NYSDOT Project manager, Jim Wilson, P.E. (left) talks with and Mark Ward, P.E. (right), project manager for the consulting engineers, answer questions from community members following the June public meeting.

Over the past two years, NYSDOT has held over 20 meetings with the community. Community Boards, elected officials, school principals, letter carriers and civic groups to discuss various aspects of the BQE project. The frequency of meetings public meetings are held every 3-4 months and the level of public input has fostered a constructive exchange of questions, comments and ideas throughout the design process. Community input has led to a better pedestrian design at the Northern Boulevard interchange and industrial treatment at the 34th and 35th Avenue interchanges to create a more vibrant and safer environment under the new design. The design team also selected an artist and design firm to develop art and design for the new Boulevard from article on page 31, should whether or not to install on locations. At public meetings, read the papers and ration problems of programming NYSDOT and the design team and statement plans.

This past August, final plan submitted by the consulting engineers. The project is scheduled to be put in 1999, and awarded to a contractor 2000, with construction to begin in the Spring of 2000. As this newsletter goes to print, the project schedule is contingent upon approval of the design plans from outside agencies who have jurisdiction over portions of the project corridor. Until these approvals are received by NYSDOT, the construction schedule can not be finalized. NYSDOT will continue to keep the community advised of project schedule changes at public meetings and on the upcoming BQE web site (see article on page 2). Community members can also contact NYSDOT project engineer Jim Wilson (see page 4 for contact information).



“It was refreshing that after I posed a problem, they [NYSDOT] actually came back with an answer.” --City Councilman John Sabini



“They are trying to do a good job in terms of getting the word out and letting people know far in advance what is going to happen so there are no surprises, and that is a good thing.” --Dan Andrews, spokesman for Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, about NYSDOT.



“I’ve never seen any organization ever inform people as much as yours, so I compliment you very much for that. Thank you.”
- Gene Stewart, Neighborhood Resident

Brooklyn Queens Expressway Reconstruction Project - Broadway to 25th Avenue
Combining Expertise in Public Involvement and Transportation Planning

The public involvement program for designing the State’s largest highway project under construction has resulted in enormous goodwill toward the NYS Department of Transportation for its proactive responsiveness to community concerns. To manage the outreach effort, K&K assigned planners who drew on their transportation expertise to reframe problems into opportunities. K&K’s outreach managers worked as integral members of the design team in fashioning solutions that led community leaders to come to view the roadway reconstruction as an *enhancement* of their densely developed area. These include: the pedestrian-oriented redesign of a massive interchange with Northern Boulevard; barriers to shield residences from more than noise; major artwork selected through a community-led process; attractive façade treatments; distinctive underpass designs to denote nearby neighborhoods; enriched landscaping and other features to upgrade the corridor. By keeping in close touch with three Community Boards, supervising the community design process, and regularly monitoring nearby construction plans, K&K guided the team in preparing for public meetings and produced newsletters and other materials that are regarded as highly informative. K&K designed a project website to serve as the authoritative information source during construction.