

Holding ...

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PHOTO: LENORE SCHULTZ

“The Bronx has very limited east-west routes,” said Frank Zimmerman, from the Borough President's office. “149th and 161st Streets are the only two in the area. Both streets, independent of this project, are going into construction at the same time.”

Another issue that raises major concern is whether this street closures and traffic rerouting will have any extensive impact on the three schools located on Grant Avenue between 163rd and 164th Streets; Saint Angela Merici, CES 35, and IS 166. “I can't tell you the angst we are having over this problem here,” said D. Lee Ezell, Chairwoman of the Board's Municipal Services Committee. In an attempt to put such fears to rest, Woods assured the crowd that the teachers' parking on Grant Avenue and on 163rd Street will not be touched, and that residents themselves will only lose parking between 161st and 162nd Streets. Also, the school buses will be able to move in and out of the area without any added delay.

Surprisingly, for a topic that has so much impact, not only on the community, but the entire borough, Eric Stevenson, the representative scheduled to give the report from the Borough President Fernando Ferrer's office, was not on hand to address the standing room only crowd of approximately 100. However, among those in attendance were Police Department Assistant Chief Patrick Timlin, Commanding Officer Patrol Borough Bronx; Police Traffic Enforcement Chief Harris Rachlin; Fire Department Battallion Chief Jeff Lever; Thomas Lynch from the New York City Sanitation Department; police officers; local school officials; representatives from various Bronx Council Districts; and a representative from the office of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

According to its website, the Dormitory Authority, in more than 50 years of service

to New Yorkers, has provided billions of dollars in financing and construction services to public and private universities, not-for-profit healthcare facilities and other institutions that serve the public good. Among those listed as prior projects in the Bronx are Hostos Community College, Jacobi Medical Center, Lehman College, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx Psychiatric Center, and North Central Bronx Hospital.

Bovis Lend Lease, one of the world's largest construction management firms, has numerous corporate offices in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. The company's overview states that, beginning with the building of defense facilities in England during World War II, they have successfully completed public and government buildings around the world, including airports, hospitals, schools, stadiums, museums, pharmaceutical plants, and prisons. Some of their famous clientele include Coca-Cola, IBM, Sony, Ford, Toyota, At&t, BP-Amoco, Fox Studios, and Sun Microsystems. The Olympic Stadium in Sydney, Australia was one of their more recent projects.

“Parking, pollution, the environment, and children have always been some of the biggest issues addressed here, but I think it's wonderful,” said Martha Reyes, a community resident who says she has attended every Board meeting in the past 2 years. In regards to the new facilities, she believes that “the final product, as opposed to the current eyesore, brings up the economic development of the community. It's a great enhancement for Board 4.”

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February 23	LEARN HOW TO PLAN, PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS PART II	10:00 am 12:00 noon
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