



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

August 10, 2015

Following is the position of the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association in reference to traffic flow and pedestrian/bicycle safety on roads surrounding Astoria Park.

1. **Ditmars Blvd.** We back constructing another speed bump on Ditmars between 19th St and 21st St. We also prefer that all speed bumps around Astoria Park be 4 inches in height to make them more effective. This is a similar pattern that was established on Astoria Park South that has been quite effective in calming traffic. Also, we feel that the lettering on the street advising a stop is coming should be repainted, and made larger to warn drivers of the upcoming 4 way stop at 19th st and Ditmars. Ditmars also needs to be kept as 2-way traffic.

2. **Shore Blvd.** We are opposed to the total removal of vehicles on Shore Blvd to make it pedestrian only. The loss of valuable neighborhood parking, plus lack of access for people with disabilities and the elderly, makes this untenable. Also, this has been tried in the past with disastrous results. All the vehicles just ended up moving to the local side streets, taking up valuable parking, and whatever noise and partying was created was now in residential neighborhoods. Excluding cars could also limit access for people not within walking distance. By bringing people from other communities we increase the spending in our neighborhood. It could make Police enforcement more difficult, as everyone was now spread out, instead of in one location. And with the advent of the Performance Space, parking will become more essential.

Access to the Park by service vehicles of the NYPD and Fire Department would be negatively affected. (Time is crucial). Also, the issue of noise abatement in the summer months has been addressed successfully by the installation of No Standing Night Regulations requested by the NYPD.

Please note that rather than removing Parking in the winter, we at OANA have already requested a study from DOT and the NYPD to restore overnight parking on Shore Blvd off season, from Nov 1 to May 1. This is now in the hands of the NYPD for study.



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Finally, because of all the major development on the Astoria waterfront, the demographics will undergo major changes in the next 7-10 years. Therefore it makes no sense to create changes until these new perimeters are established.

Also, we are not opposed to the creation of one-way traffic on Shore Blvd. to facilitate establishment of a protected bike lane, as long as said bike lane does not use unsightly Jersey Barriers, instead using parked vehicles.

3. **Astoria Park South.** We do not feel any alterations are needed. It must be kept 2-way.

4. **19th St.** OANA is opposed to turning 19th St into a one-way street. There is no more effective traffic calming measure than 2-way traffic, especially on a narrow street such as 19th st. because of the park and especially the pool; we have many children in the area. Turning this one way is just inviting speeding or inattentive drivers, creating major safety concerns. While the 2-way on 19th St may be inconvenient, it is not worth the risk changing something that is not broken.

5. We also have requested to DOT that the no parking at night regulations be instituted on a reasonable basis. Allow local residents to park from November to April when the issue of rowdy behavior on Shore Blvd is not relevant.

6. Make sure all speed bumps (Including Ditmars) are 4 inches high with 15 mph limit.

Regards

Richard Khuzami

Kevin Hernandez

Diane Kontzoglou

OANA Board Members