



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

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PRESS RELEASE

The members of OANA are in favor of the participatory budgeting process currently in District 22, Astoria NYC NY.

We would like to take this opportunity make the following comments on ballot items within our organization's borders (Astoria Park to the north, 21<sup>st</sup> St to the East, 36<sup>th</sup> ave. to the south, and the East River to the West).

In general we support any capital improvements within our area. However we would like to comment on the following:

Ballot item 12: Redesign 21<sup>st</sup> St at Astoria Blvd:

We are adamantly against this item. The loss of the right hand turning lane will cause already extremely congested traffic to become more severe. The development of Hallet's Point will make this congestion much worse.

Instead of removing the lane, we suggest allowing right hand turns on red from Astoria Blvd right turning lane westbound to 21<sup>st</sup> St Northbound to alleviate congested traffic. Then, provide turning lights for cars turning from northbound 21<sup>st</sup> St to westbound Astoria Blvd/27<sup>th</sup> Ave and cars turning from southbound 21<sup>st</sup> St to eastbound Astoria Blvd/Newtown Ave. The proposed removal of the turning lane and increase in size of the sidewalk would only reduce the time to walk across the intersection by less than 5 seconds, so if you want to help pedestrians just increase the crossing time by 5 seconds.

Ballot item 13: Dog Run In Astoria

We are strongly in favor of this proposal. Astoria is in urgent need of a Dog Run where dog owners can safely exercise their dogs, especially between 9 am and 9 PM. This area under the Triborough Bridge is currently underutilized. This also allows Astoria Park to keep its off leash privileges from 9 PM to 9 AM, giving dog owners the ability to exercise their dogs 24 hours a day without being restrained by a leash. Also, the Astoria Dog Owners Association and OANA have committed to maintain this facility, a prerequisite of the Parks Dept before allowing construction.

Richard Khuzami  
President



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