



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Meeting Notes

Meeting: MSK Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion Construction Working Group (CWG) Meeting
Date: June 18, 2026
Location: Zoom and Zuckerman Research Center, Room 136

Attendees: **MSK Project Team**
CWG Co-Chair Shakima Grant, Senior Community Programs Manager, Community Engagement & Health Equity (CEHE)
CWG Co-Chair Daquan Sisco, Senior Project Manager, Design and Construction
Maribel Rodríguez, Senior Project Coordinator, CEHE
Ana García, Senior Director, CEHE
Ryan Kiefer, Associate Director, Design and Construction
Jason Tavarez, Project Executive, Turner Consigli
Thomas Drumm, Project Executive, Turner Consigli
Shelly Friedman, MSK Land Use Counsel, Friedman & Gotbaum
Henry Kearney, Senior Vice President, Air Quality, AKRF
Erin Stolz, Senior Technical Director, Environmental Health and Safety, AKRF
Kenny Mui, Vice President, Construction Analysis, AKRF

Community Representatives

Yasmina Caleo, F.A.C.T.
Rachel George, 400 E 67th St (The Laurel)
Mary Gera, 436 E 66th St
Jack Glass, ALC Environmental
Laura Jackson, 438 E 66th St
Alex Kogan, Rockefeller University
Ian McKnight, Community Board 8
Anat Rosenberg, F.A.C.T.
Jochen Weber, 404 E 66th St

Observers

Jaishree Capoor, 404 E 66th St

Invitees not in Attendance:

Kemi Babagbemi, Community Member
Lisa Barnhart, Community Member
Shean Buissereth, 404 E 66th St
Evan Calero, 435 E 65th St
Rev. Stefan, Chanas, Church of St. John Nepomucene
Julie Clarke, P.S. 183 PTA
Rande Coleman, 404 E 66th St
Richard Czaja, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)
Andrea Dawes, NYC Department of Education
William Dessoffy, 400 E 67th St (The Laurel)
Marianne Dziuba Fiore, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)

Tasha Edmead, NYC Department of Education
Daniel Egers, Community Member
Courtney Ferrissey, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office
Harry Gale, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office
Sarrah Hale, NY State Senator Liz Krueger's Office
Kyle Kolich, P.S. 183
Valerie Mason, Community Board 8
Julie Menin, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office
Nicole Munczinski, ALC Environnemental
Ethan Nachmani, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office
James Rogers, Rockefeller University
Celeste Royo, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Melanie Russo, P.S. 183 PTA
Carolyn Ruvkun, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office
Judy Schneider, East Sixties Neighborhood Association
Sowaibah Shahbaz, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Nate Sherfinski, NYC Mayor's Office
Serge St. Leger, NYC Department of Education
Jonathan Szott, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office
Audrey Tannen, NY State Senator Liz Krueger's Office
Myishia Taylor-Myke, NYC Department of Education
Mary Thomas, 404 E 66th St
Gregg Wolpert, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)
Martin Woodard, P.S. 183

Welcome, Meeting Goals, and Format

Shakima Grant welcomed the Construction Working Group (CWG) members and observers, then briefly shared the meeting goals and format. The CWG meetings are designed to give the MSK project team a chance to:

1. Provide timely updates to Upper East Side residents and leaders about MSK Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion construction activities.
2. Receive information and questions about ways the project construction activities are affecting the community.
3. Report on how MSK is responding to community construction questions and concerns.

The meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Meetings are hybrid with members on Zoom or in person at MSK. CWG members include the MSK project team, representatives from neighboring buildings, and representatives from local agencies and officials. Each building or office may have one representative and a designated alternate. The CWG meetings are open to the public to observe. Comments and questions regarding Griffin Pavilion construction activities should be directed to CWG members to be raised for discussion during the meetings.

The CWG meetings are recorded. Recordings are available in the Construction Working Group Meetings section of MSK's website: <https://www.msk.org/GriffinPavilionConstruction>

Construction Report: Current Status & 6 Week Lookahead

Daquan Sisco provided an overview of the current status of the site, which includes ongoing excavation and foundation activities. Thomas Drumm noted that the north side of the site has reached the bottom of excavation, allowing mat slab installation to begin while excavation continues toward the south.

Daquan reviewed the six-week construction lookahead with the following key updates: The team continues to make progress with excavation via chopping. Blasting is still anticipated, though the timeline may be shortened if rock conditions remain favorable. Foundation work including waterproofing, rebar, and formwork is ongoing and will continue for the next month.

Daquan noted that the lookahead now separates day pours from night pours for community clarity. Night pours are anticipated during specific date ranges, though these are one-day events. The team committed to providing 48-hour advance notice to the community before each pour. The first several scheduled night pours are on the smaller end of the spectrum. Saturday work on chopping has been removed from the schedule; Saturday activity will focus on waterproofing, rebar, and formwork, which occurs mostly in the basement of the neighboring building.

Traffic light relocation is targeted for the weekends of July 7-13, July 14-20, and July 21-27. This work will take place outside the site fence at the York Avenue corners on 66th and 67th Streets and will likely occur on Saturdays in coordination with DOT. Sewer connection work on 66th Street is taking place during the current week. The team is working within the site to access the existing sewer connection point, though some work may extend slightly outside the site fence. If exterior work is needed, flag personnel will be positioned to direct pedestrians. If exterior work is needed, flag personnel will be positioned to direct pedestrians.

The 6-week Lookahead is available in the 'Current Construction Lookahead' section of MSK's website: <https://www.msk.org/GriffinPavilionConstruction>.

Air Quality Report

Daquan shared air quality readings from 5/20/26 to 6/17/26. The monitor on East 67th Street, near the schoolyard, recorded a high of 25 on the PM10 scale. The East 66th Street monitor, near the residences, recorded a high of 15 on the PM10 scale. He also noted that the third air quality monitor on York Avenue, recorded a high of 93 (still below the 100 threshold) on the PM10 scale. Daquan explained that the monitor was temporarily positioned too close to equipment, including a generator, which skewed readings. The monitor now has a permanent location with stable power.

ALC Environmental Update

Jack Glass from ALC Environmental participated in the meeting. Discussion focused on access to blasting plan documentation and coordination of post-blasting structural surveys. See the questions and answers section for details.

Old Business

Inquiries - MSK fielded 5 inquiries since the May CWG meeting. The following actions were taken in response:

- Morning site preparation - Confirmed that only permitted daily prep work is being conducted prior to permitted hours. The construction team has been reminded of the importance of minimizing noise during early these morning site preparation activities.

- Vibration monitoring - Reiterated that vibration monitoring is being conducted and that current readings remain within normal limits. We also noted that additional monitoring will be evaluated if conditions warrant it.
- Overnight deliveries to Rockefeller Research Lab - Shared that we are working with our vendor to restore the normal refill schedule of approximately every three to four weeks and will continue to monitor the situation.
- Blasting schedule - Confirmed that the earliest anticipated start for blasting is the week of June 29, subject to change based on site conditions. Notifications will be sent to the CWG prior to the start date. Also confirmed that the FDNY permit is expected to list 1233 York Avenue as the project address.
- Reimbursements - Confirmed that MSK is unable to provide reimbursement for hotel stays related to overnight concrete pours. Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize community disruption. Also confirmed that 48-hour advance notice will be provided before each overnight pour.

CWG Questions and Answers

The following questions were raised during the meeting and answered as indicated.

- **How will overnight concrete pours comply with the NYC Noise Code given typical equipment sound ratings of 85, 82, and 76 decibels?**

Equipment ratings reflect maximum sound power levels, not necessarily operating levels in all conditions. The alternative noise mitigation plan with the specific equipment utilized for concrete pours has been submitted to the DEP. Required noise monitoring will be in place and the team believes operations will remain compliant.

- **Where is the DEP-required noise monitor located and how can the community access the readings?**

The noise monitor is installed at the southwest corner of the site fence on 66th Street. Jack Glass has access to review the reading on the online system.

- **What will be the schedule and duration for night pours?**

Night pours typically start at approximately 8:00 PM and can go until 6:00 AM, with some extending into normal morning work hours. The 48-hour advance warning will specify the anticipated duration for each specific pour, as sizes vary significantly.

- **Is this night pour approach standard practice?**

This is completely standard practice, similar to what's done across New York City on virtually every construction site, including the previous MSK job on 74th Street.

- **Has the blasting timeline been delayed, and when might it be eliminated entirely?**

The team is 2-3 weeks away from confirming whether blasting will be needed at all. Excavation is complete everywhere except one corner (southeast area where the ramp is currently located).

The hardest rock encountered was in the southwest corner, which has already been excavated. If blasting is required, it would be limited to a 4–6-week program at most, completed by the end of July.

- **Why aren't buildings across 66th Street being monitored for vibration?**

Vibration monitors are placed in the lowest levels of the Rockefeller Labs building (35-40 feet below ground) where they will register the highest readings along the interface with excavation activities. The multiple pre-construction surveys conducted on the nearby East 66th Street buildings found no evidence of conditions that would require on-site monitoring in those buildings.

- **Why has the chopping noise increased noticeably in recent weeks?**

The increased noise may be due to the rock hardness in the current excavation area and the fact that excavation has moved southward, closer to 66th Street residences.

- **Why have high-pressure gas deliveries to Rockefeller Labs increased in frequency?**

Delivery trucks with extra material from other nearby deliveries were making extra drop-offs. MSK requested that this no longer be a standard practice. Regular deliveries are expected to return to the normal schedule.

- **Will MSK reconsider providing hotel room reimbursements for residents during overnight concrete pours?**

The perspective remains the same from the last meeting. This is not something MSK will do.

- **Can the blasting plan be shared with community representatives?**

FDNY has required the blasting plan be shared on a need-to-know basis. Jack Glass and MSK agreed to discuss offline whether limited information could be shared in a manner consistent with FDNY policies.

- **What is the protocol for post-blasting structural surveys?**

Post-blasting surveys would be conducted on an as-needed basis if new conditions warrant.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. For project updates, visit msk.org/GriffinPavilionConstruction, email communityaffairs@mskcc.org, or call the construction hotline at 212-639-4444.