



# Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

## Meeting Notes

**Meeting:** MSK Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion Construction Working Group (CWG) Meeting  
**Date:** February 26, 2026  
**Location:** Zoom and Zuckerman Research Center, Room 136

**Attendees:**

**MSK Project Team**

CWG Co-Chair Shakima Grant, Senior Community Programs Manager, Community Engagement and Health Equity (CEHE)  
CWG Co-Chair Terron Browne, 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  
Charles Maggio, Project Executive, Turner & Townsend  
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.  
Julie Clarke, P.S. 183 PTA  
Rachel George, 400 E 67th St (The Laurel)  
Jack Glass, ALC Environmental  
Alex Kogan, Rockefeller University  
Ethan Nachmani, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office  
Abby Ochs, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office  
James Rogers, Rockefeller University  
Celeste Royo, Manhattan Borough President's Office  
Melanie Russo, P.S. 183 PTA  
Judy Schneider, East Sixties Neighborhood Association  
Myishia Taylor-Myke, NYC Department of Education  
Mary Thomas, 404 E 66th St  
Jochen Weber, 404 E 66th St  
Gregg Wolpert, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)  
Martin Woodard, P.S. 183

**Observers**

Jaishree Capoor, 404 E 66th St  
Daniel Egers, P.S. 183

**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  
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  
Courtney Ferrissey, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office  
Harry Gale, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office  
Mary Gera, 436 E 66th St  
Sarrah Hale, NY State Senator Liz Krueger's Office  
Laura Jackson, 438 E 66th St  
Kyle Kolich, P.S. 183  
Valerie Mason, Community Board 8  
Ian McKnight, Community Board 8  
Julie Menin, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office  
Nicole Munczinski, ALC Environmental  
Anat Rosenberg, F.A.C.T.  
Sowabab 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

### **Welcome, Meeting Goals, and Format**

Shakima Grant welcomed the Construction Working Group (CWG) members and observers, then briefly shared the meetings 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**

Terron Browne shared an update on the site progression, noting the completion of structural demolition and exterior abatement, as well as the current status of the site, which includes the initiation of excavation activities. Terron also reviewed the six-week lookahead, outlining continued steel and concrete installation between the project site and the Rockefeller Research Labs building, ongoing installation of excavation support, modifications to the RRL entrance overhead protection, and completion of the site fence extensions on 66th and 67th Streets.

Terron highlighted that the first anticipated week of controlled rock blasting is scheduled for the week of March 23.

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

### **Air Quality Report**

Terron shared the air quality readings from 1/15/26 to 2/25/26: the monitor on East 67th Street - proximate to the schoolyard, showed the high point for the month was 94 on the PM10 scale. The monitor on East 66th Street - proximate to the East 66th Street residences, showed the high point for the month was 49 on the PM10 scale.

Terron noted a gap in readings from January 23 through January 27 on the East 67th Street monitor. Snow and freezing temperatures during the winter storm caused the monitor to go offline, and staff were unable to get it back online until the morning of January 27. Procedures are being reviewed to help prevent similar gaps in the future. The second monitor on East 66th Street, which remained active during that period, recorded good air quality.

### **ALC Environmental Update**

Jack Glass from ALC Environmental provided an update on the email correspondence he had with some area residents on February 17, regarding elevated levels of fine particulate matter across the NYC metro region. The elevated readings were due to regional conditions. A third site monitor could help distinguish construction-related conditions from broader regional conditions.

### **Old Business**

**Inquiries** - MSK fielded 12 inquiries since the January CWG meeting. The following actions were taken in response:

- Questions about the timeline for controlled rock blasting timeline: Confirmed anticipated blasting start date and committed to sharing real time updates as the schedule is refined.
- Air quality concerns: Confirmed that construction activity on January 28 did not result in any deviation from established low baseline air monitoring levels, with no spikes observed during the period reviewed.
- Third party utility work: Clarified scope and responsibility for Con Edison overnight utility work and confirmed completion following inquiry. Going forward, community impacts will be included in notifications from MSK, as we are made aware of them by Con Edison.
- Noise impacts and mitigation: Responded to inquiries by outlining mitigation measures already in place, including sound insulation baffling on site fencing, equipment covers for excavation machinery, and designated rock processing areas designed to reduce disruption. Confirmed MSK continued adherence to approved construction hours and ongoing monitoring.
- Project timeline: Provided clarification on the overall project duration, anticipated completion in 2030, and shared the project website URL for access to the construction timeline and six week lookahead.
- Construction Working Group: Added residents to distribution lists as requested, encouraged participation in monthly hybrid meetings, and provided a point of contact for follow up questions.
- Snow removal: Confirmed that snow will be cleared along the perimeter of the site to maintain safe and accessible pedestrian pathways.

## Questions and Answers

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

- Is the blasting going to happen earlier in the day, or at a particular time?

Controlled rock blasting will happen during our normal permitted hours of activity.

- What can I share with neighbors when they ask what to expect?

Before and after each controlled rock blast, safety air horns will sound on the job site to ensure the blast area is clear and to signal when it is safe to return. The number of blasts will vary depending on the work plan, ranging from none on some days to approximately six to ten on others.

A one-pager on what to expect during this phase of construction is available [here](#), which also includes a link to the blasting process presentation shared during the November CWG meeting.

- Can you schedule a test air horn on a set day and time before blasting so neighbors know what to expect?

Yes, we will plan to put that in place.

- Can approximate end dates be indicated for activities so neighbors have a rough idea of the duration, especially for noise-related activities?

We can explore including additional milestone information for activities, and though it won't cover every activity line by line, we can include additional detail that outlines the target dates for when each phase of work is scheduled to start and complete.

- Will monitors be installed in the basements of the buildings facing the construction site before blasting begins?

Monitors were already installed in the building adjacent to the job site. Monitors closest to the work record the highest vibrations, helping to show what might be felt nearby. Monitors in other buildings are mainly used if surveys identify specific conditions. To date, no issues have been found that would require additional monitors beyond those already in place near the site.

- Can we get clarification on the site fence extension on 66th Street, what it will look like, how long it will last, and what happens if an emergency vehicle needs to make a three-point turn with only one lane of traffic?

66<sup>th</sup> Street has only ever had one lane of through traffic. The new configuration during construction shifted the through lane from the center lane into what was the former parking lane on the South side of the street. Emergency vehicles will continue to have access as needed. This setup will remain in place for the duration of the project.

- What is delaying the installation of the third air quality monitor?

Installation is being considered based on the timeline previously discussed. The team is completing modifications to the site fence, and analysis is being done to determine the best location for the third monitor. Updates will be shared at each meeting.

- If you know Con Edison is performing very loud work overnight, could you coordinate to then avoid starting your construction at 7:00 AM to give people a chance to sleep?

We will do our best to be thoughtful and communicate with neighbors when we know third-party utility work is scheduled. However, we cannot shift our start time based on those activities.

- There are new NYC Department of Environmental Protection DEP noise monitoring regulations scheduled to be implemented in April. Has there been any more planning around that, and where the monitor will be?

We have not yet confirmed how that regulation will impact the site. We will discuss the details as we get closer to the date.

- When will we see drawings of what the building will look like, including planting?

We plan to present this at the March meeting. Our focus will be on the exterior of the building, including the interfaces, traffic paths, and related features. The planting activities that have been under discussion will not be part of that presentation.

- What's happening on 1st Avenue?

Discussions are under way for a potential future streetscape improvement plan. Any changes would likely be coordinated with the completion of the Pavilion.

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. For project updates, visit [msk.org/GriffinPavilionConstruction](https://msk.org/GriffinPavilionConstruction), email [communityaffairs@mskcc.org](mailto:communityaffairs@mskcc.org), or call the construction hotline at 212-639-4444.