



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Meeting Notes

Meeting: MSK Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion Construction Working Group (CWG) Meeting
Date: April 16, 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
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.
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
Ethan Nachmani, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office
Anat Rosenberg, F.A.C.T.
Celeste Royo, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Carolyn Ruvkun, NYC Council Member Julie Menin's Office
Judy Schneider, East Sixties Neighborhood Association
Myishia Taylor-Myke, NYC Department of Education
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, Community Member

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 Dessofo, 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
Sarra 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 Environmental
James Rogers, Rockefeller University
Melanie Russo, P.S. 183 PTA
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
Mary Thomas, 404 E 66th St

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 noted that excavation activity is expected to continue into Q4. He also reviewed the six week lookahead, outlining continued steel and concrete installation at the Rockefeller Research Labs building, which is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Daquan shared that chopping would continue over the next several weeks, noting that the rock encountered to date has been relatively easy to excavate. The earliest anticipated start date for controlled rock blasting is the week of April 26, with community notifications to be distributed prior to the approved start date. He confirmed that the air horn test was completed on March 19 and reminded attendees that controlled rock blasting information is available on the Pavilion website.

Daquan also shared that streetlight and crosswalk relocations along York Avenue are scheduled for late April through early May. This work will involve relocating streetlight and crosswalk indicators currently within the site fence to a temporary location outside of the fence. Flaggers and signage will be in place to support the work, as it will impact crosswalks along 66th and 67th Streets.

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 3/19/26 to 4/15/26. The monitor on East 67th Street, near the schoolyard, recorded a high of 19 on the PM10 scale, while the monitor on East 66th Street, near the residences, recorded a high of 28. He also noted that a third air quality monitor has been installed on York Avenue, with data expected to be available by the May CWG meeting.

ALC Environmental Update

Jack Glass from ALC Environmental reported that dust and VOC monitoring has continued and remains within low and acceptable ranges. He noted that monitoring results may not fully align with visible conditions, including observed dust accumulation around the site. He referenced ongoing dust management considerations, including the potential need for enhanced mitigation measures such as increased water application. He also described an odor observation investigation near 436 East 66th Street, where a septic-like smell was identified outside the building and traced to a sump area near the northwest corner, close to the sanitary sewer connection. He stated that construction-related vibration may be a contributing factor and suggested that additional vibration monitoring beyond minimum requirements could provide greater clarity on site impacts.

Old Business

Inquiries - MSK fielded 9 inquiries since the March CWG meeting. The following actions were taken in response:

- Controlled airhorn testing - Reconfirmed 2:00 PM timing for the March 19 controlled airhorn test and provided day of coordination updates.
- Air quality concerns - Reviewed and shared air monitoring results confirming all readings remained below established thresholds with no exceedances or deviations from baseline levels.
- Noise impacts and mitigation - Shared mitigation measures, including coordinating with vendors to reduce delivery noise, and addressed early morning concerns by reminding our construction crew to be mindful of noise on and around the site during early morning hours.

- Odor concerns - Addressed reports of odors and noted NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) investigation into increased water entering the site. Confirmed that the construction team investigates all reports and encouraged neighbors to contact 311 to activate a City response for issues that may fall outside of the scope of the project.

Ian McKnight, District Manager of Community Board 8, shared updates on the odors based on his conversations with DEP. Ian reported that DEP identified an issue in a combined sewer main that carries both stormwater and sanitary sewage, with increased flow during rainfall potentially contributing to odors. The issue is related to defects at joints along the sewer line. A work order has been issued, and repairs will involve relining the pipe, which DEP expects will address the problem. Ian encouraged residents who are unable to get assistance through 311 to contact Community Board 8 directly at 212-758-4340 for support.

CWG Questions and Answers

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

- When will the alternative noise mitigation plan be updated to reflect the actual distance from receptors to your site fence?

A draft of the revised mitigation plan was submitted to DEP and is under review. In parallel, the new noise monitor required by DEP was installed. The goal is to finalize and implement the updated plan ahead of the new law taking effect.

- Under fire code requirements related to blasting, will the community receive physical notifications, or will updates only be shared online?

Notices will be handed out to surrounding buildings for posting at least one week in advance of the blasting start date.

- In the FEIS it says the worst cases of PM 2.5 will be from August 2026 to July 2027, why is that, and what task is responsible for that?

Excavation is generally the dustiest phase of construction.

- Is there going to be wetting down in this phase of construction?

Yes, wetting happens during this phase, and we will have a conversation with the workers again to reinforce a wetting plan.

- What prompted DEP to investigate 67th Street versus 66th Street?

We called 311 to report water entering the site from the corner of East 67th Street and York Avenue.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, May 21, 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.

Addendum – Response to Laura Jackson’s HVAC Follow-Up Question (Clarification on the term “Setback”)

The NYC Mechanical Code has strict requirements governing the location of intake and exhaust openings. These restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- Distance from lot lines
- Distance from fire department vehicle access
- Intake distance from exhaust discharges

While “setback” is often used to describe a building being set back from the sidewalk or property line, in this context the code requirement refers to maintaining required separation distances from occupants, pedestrians, and emergency access areas.