



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Meeting Notes

Meeting: MSK Kenneth C. Griffin Pavilion Construction Working Group (CWG) Meeting
Date: May 21, 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.
Julie Clarke, P.S. 183 PTA
Rachel George, 400 E 67th St (The Laurel)
Mary Gera, 436 E 66th St
Laura Jackson, 438 E 66th St
Alex Kogan, Rockefeller University
Ethan Nachmani, NY State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office
James Rogers, Rockefeller University
Melanie Russo, P.S. 183 PTA
Judy Schneider, East Sixties Neighborhood Association
Sowaibah Shahbaz, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Myishia Taylor-Myke, NYC Department of Education
Jochen Weber, 404 E 66th St
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

Rande Coleman, 404 E 66th St
Richard Czaja, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)
Andrea Dawes, NYC Department of Education
William Dessoify, 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
Jack Glass, ALC Environmental
Sarrah Hale, NY State Senator Liz Krueger's Office
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.
Celeste Royo, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Carolyn Ruvkun, NYC Council Member Julie Menin'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
Gregg Wolpert, Stahl Organization (1213 York Ave)

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.

It was noted that the chat function during Zoom has been eliminated to ensure all conversations are visible to both in-room and online participants. Members were encouraged to raise their hand or use their liaison to submit questions in advance.

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 status of the site, which includes ongoing excavation activities.

He reviewed the six-week construction lookahead. Steel and concrete installation at the Rockefeller Research Labs (RRL) building is ongoing through the week of 5/31. Excavation via chopping continues, and the anticipated start date for controlled rock blasting has been moved to the week of 6/7 as favorable rock composition allows chopping to remain effective. Foundations work—including waterproofing, rebar, formwork, and pours—is beginning the week of 5/17 and continuing through the end of June.

As communicated in the email sent on 5/11, the Con Edison vault setting on East 66th Street is targeted for the weekend of 5/30. Part of the site fence will be dismantled, and a crane will be positioned on East 66th Street to install the vault beneath the future northern sidewalk. Once completed, the fence will be restored to its previous position. Flag personnel will direct pedestrians to the southern sidewalk during work.

The relocation of streetlights and crosswalk indicators (currently within the site fence) to temporary locations outside the fence is targeted for the week of 5/31; this work relies heavily on Con Edison coordination.

Thomas Drumm provided an overview of the upcoming concrete foundation phase, noting that the north side of the site has reached the bottom of excavation, and the team is now progressing southward toward 66th Street. This allows the mat slab installation to begin, which will overlap with ongoing excavation activities. Key points about concrete pours:

- Trucks queuing in the neighborhood will stage on the east side of York Avenue, entering through the gates on the corner of York Avenue.
- Washout of trucks will occur within the site using washout boxes; no washdown into city sewers.
- Some pours will require after-hours overnight work; 48-hour advance notice will be provided to the community.
- Temporary lighting needed for night pours will be directed down into the excavation site and away from 66th Street as much as possible to reduce impacts.
- The number of pours done during regular hours and via 67th Street will be maximized.

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 4/16/26 to 5/19/26. The monitor on East 67th Street, near the schoolyard, and the East 66th Street monitor, near the residences, both recorded a high of approximately 48 on the PM10 scale. He also noted that the third air quality monitor on York Avenue has been transitioned from temporary to permanent power. The team is working through calibration issues and expects to include data from all three monitors at the June meeting.

ALC Environmental Update

Representatives from ALC Environmental were not present during this meeting. Attendees were encouraged to continue reaching out to Jack Glass with questions or concerns.

Old Business

Inquiries - MSK fielded 4 inquiries since the April CWG meeting. The following actions were taken in response:

- Air quality concerns and dust mitigation - Reviewed air monitoring results confirming all readings remained below established thresholds with no exceedances or deviations from baseline levels on April 16. Confirmed that wetting down practices continue to be in place to mitigate dust.
- Noise mitigation - Outlined noise mitigation measures in place, including sound insulation baffling on site fencing, equipment covers for excavation machinery, and designated rock processing areas designed to reduce disruption.
- Vibration monitoring - Confirmed that vibration monitoring is code compliant, overseen by an independent engineer, and currently within normal limits, with adjustments made if needed. Clarified that the nearby structure is an overhead enclosure for parking garage ramps, not a fortifying structure.
- Project updates - Provided clarification on the overall project duration, project website link to access the construction timeline and six-week lookaheads, and construction working group meeting dates.

CWG Questions and Answers

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

- What time does work start and end each day, Monday through Friday?

Activity starts at 7:00 AM and ends at 5:00 PM.

- Multiple residents reported hearing construction activity starting well before the 7:00 AM permitted start time. What is being done about this?

Workers arrive before 7:00 AM for preparation. The team previously met with the field team to restructure morning activities to reduce impact. This will be addressed again with the construction crew.

- Will equipment listed as prohibited for after-hours activity be used on Saturdays?

The alternative noise mitigation plan lists the equipment intended for Saturday use, and the team will comply with it.

- What is the machine doing the chopping called?

It is an excavator with a hammer attachment.

- Has the blasting timeline been pushed back?

The team is still on schedule for the originally established completion date.

- Will concrete washdown clog sewer lines?

The washdown activity occurs in boxes within the site. The concrete cures in the box, is chopped up, and carted away as solid debris. Filters are installed under catch basin gratings and silt socks run along the site perimeter.

- Where are the vibration monitors for blasting, and why aren't buildings across 66th Street being monitored?

Vibration monitors are in the lowest levels of the Rockefeller Labs building, approximately 35–40 feet below ground, positioned to capture the highest readings along the interface with excavation activities. An independent engineer assessed whether monitoring was required for buildings across 66th Street and determined it was not necessary based on pre-construction survey conditions. The monitors in their current locations will register higher readings than monitors placed farther away.

- Community members expressed concern that they were led to believe vibration monitors would be placed in their buildings. Can the engineer's assessment be shared?

Pre-construction survey reports have been shared with individual building owners.

- Were the pre-construction survey agreements the same for all buildings, or were there different liability negotiations?

The same draft was sent to all properties.

- Were there any dust concerns this week, yesterday, May 20, in particular?

No emails were received reporting concerns, and no data points exceeded the threshold.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, June 18, 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.