Newtown Avenue Public Workshop
NYC DOT & The Central Astoria LDC
June 5, 2012

Presented by NYC DOT:
Vaidila Kungys & Emily Weidenhof
Agenda

1. Presentation - 15 min
2. Small groups - 20 min
3. Share group thoughts - 15 min
4. Wrap up - 10 min
Newtown Ave
Between 32nd & 33rd Street
Newtown Ave
At 30th Ave looking northwest
Newtown Ave
Near 32nd St looking southeast
School Safety:

PS 17 on 29th St is one of 135 schools citywide that is part of DOT’s School Safety Program.

There is high rate of vehicle accidents in the district.
Total Accidents

89% percentile of Intersections crashes in Queens for 2006-2010

ACCIDENT LOCATION
SCHOOL CROSSWALK ASSIGNED TO P.S. 17
SCHOOL CROSSWALK ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL CROSSWALK

XX/X/X

EXHIBIT 6
HENRY THOREAU SCHOOL
P.S. 17, QUEENS
ACCIDENT SUMMARY
THREE YEAR PERIOD
(1998-2000)

TOTAL ACCIDENTS / PED ACCIDENTS / PED FATAL / SCHOOL PED ACCIDENTS

1 inch equals 300 feet
Newtown Ave
School Safety Curb Extensions to be built Spring 2013, an approx. cost of $400,000
Traffic Calming & Safety
Curbs designed to accommodate all vehicle turns, including trucks
Parking
School Safety project retains existing parking
Pedestrian Circulation

Curb extensions leave little useable public space
New York City Plaza Program launched in 2008
Dept. of Transportation
**Application to the Plaza Program for Newtown Ave/30th Ave**

**Letters of Support**

**30th Avenue Business Association**

37-01 30th Ave, Astoria, NY 11102

**City of New York**

Community Board 1, Queens

37-01 30th Ave, Astoria, NY 11102

**Hellenic Orthodox Community of Astoria St Demetrios**

Astoria Organization applied to the NYC Plaza Program
Astoria is one of ten neighborhoods with the least amount of open space in NYC
30th Ave
Well-serviced transportation corridor with 13,774 subway riders on an avg. weekday
Active & Busy Retail Corridor
30th Ave shopping & food
Active & Busy Retail Corridor
30th Ave shopping & food
Active & Busy Retail Corridor
30th Ave shopping & food
Active & Busy Retail Corridor
30th Ave shopping & food
Land Use Map

- Institutions
- Transportation/Utility
- Open Space
- Residential
- Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Government
- Industrial
- Hotel
- Water
People like open space
Flatiron Plaza adjacent to Madison Square Park. March 13, 2012
The Central Astoria Local Development Coalition founded in 1979 is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the neighborhood of Astoria as a vibrant, affordable, harmonious and desirable community in which to live, work, and do business.

A Plaza Partner based in the Community
Central Astoria Local Development Coalition

Cultural Events: Independence Celebration 2011
Newtown Ave
Public Plaza Proposal that could be built as early as summer 2012 with an approx. cost of $75,000
Newtown Ave

Two-way conversion to maintain driveway access
Emergency Access
Maintain emergency access to hydrants and through the plaza
Parking Impacts

Net loss of 7 parking spaces
**SURVEY QUESTIONS:**
How did you get here today?
How long have you lived in the area?
What’s your zip code?

**SURVEY TIMES:** Thursday, 5/26 AM & PM - Tuesday, 5/29 AM - Saturday 6/2 AM

Hi! I’m [redacted] from NYCDOT and I’m conducting a short survey of shoppers’ habits here on Newtown Ave. I have three questions and will take 30 seconds – would you mind participating?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circle how you got here or specify if other</th>
<th>2. How long have you lived in the area? Number of years/months</th>
<th>3. Your Zipcode? Enter zipcode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>1103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>45 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>1103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>30 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>50 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Foot Livery or private car Subway/Bus</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>1102</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Key Food Shopper Survey
82% of shoppers are from the immediate area

8% of shoppers arrive by car

avg. 16 YEARS shoppers have lived in neighborhood

Key Food Survey Results
Vehicle Peak
At the peak there are 166 vehicles using Newtown Ave in an hour
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET CLOSURE</th>
<th>PEAK # OF VEHICLES / HOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willoughby St, BK</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78th Street, QN</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Ave, BK</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pershing Sq, MN</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtown Ave, QN</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson St, MN</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Elliott Pl, BK</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traffic Network Impacts
Low volumes compared to other plaza project street closures
Pedestrian Peak
At the peak there are 534 pedestrians crossing Newtown Ave in an hour
Pedestrian Traffic
People outnumber cars 4:1 at this intersection
Newtown Ave: What happens if we close the street?
Between 32\textsuperscript{nd} & 33\textsuperscript{rd} Street
Newtown Ave: Alternate Routes
Northbound to 31st Street & Newtown Ave
Newtown GPS Car Runs
Collected on Saturday, June 2, 2012
Newtown Ave is fastest.
33rd St to 28th Ave is fastest
Plaza Toolkit

- Paint
- Gravel
- Moveable tables/chairs
- Umbrellas
- Permanent benches
- Bike parking

- Planters
- Granite blocks – informal seating
- Street lighting
- Signage – parking regulations
- Concrete
- Pavement markings
Tool Kit
Bogardus Plaza at Hudson Street
Tool Kit
Union Square North at Broadway & 17th Street
Tool Kit
Putnam Plaza in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn
Permanent seating: NYC DOT CityBench
Bike parking: NYC Bike Rack
Tool Kit
Umbrellas at Chelsea & Flatiron Plazas
Plaza Maintenance
Central Astoria would be responsible for plaza maintenance.
Full access to the public
Plaza is public, DOT property & amenities are non-exclusive. Anyone can apply to hold an event in the plaza, www.nyc.gov/sapo
Programming
Launch Day Event
Recurring Small-Scale Events
Annual Events
Markets
Public Art
DOT Temporary Art Program
Permanent Artworks
Options for the community: School Safety traffic calming or a pedestrian plaza

We want to hear your thoughts on the opportunities & issues on Newtown Ave.
NEXT STEPS

Gather Workshop Feedback
Present findings to CB Trans. Committee
Present a proposal to CB Full Board on 6/19
Community Engagement:  www.Facebook.com/NewtownAve
DOT Facebook page