

# Neighborhood Slow Zone Crown Heights, Brooklyn

Oct  
2014



Commissioner Polly Trottenberg New York City Department of Transportation  
Office of Research, Implementation & Safety  
October 21, 2014 Brooklyn Community Board 9



# Odds of Pedestrian Death\*

70%  20%  5%



\*U.S. Department of Transportation - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration . (1999). Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries-DOT HS 809 021 October 1999

# Neighborhood Slow Zone

Improving Safety  
in Neighborhoods

1. Neighborhood Slow Zone Program

2. Slow Zone Application

Montgomery Street Block Association

3. Slow Zone Proposal



# Neighborhood Slow Zone Program

Neighborhood  
Group/Stakeholder  
Applies  
Montgomery Street Block  
Association

Competitive  
Selection  
Safety #1 Criteria

Neighborhood  
Slow Zone  
Proposal

New York City Department of Transportation  
2014  
NYC Neighborhood Slow Zone  
Application for Communities & Neighborhoods

Please read through the Neighborhood Slow Zone Guidelines before completing the application

**Community Information**


Name of Interested Community/Group: Brooklyn Waldorf School Parent Council Borough: Brooklyn  
Community Board(s): Two and Three Contact Person: Konrad Meisner  
Contact Person's Title: Council President Contact's Address: 11 Jefferson Ave

City: Brooklyn State: NY Zip Code: 11238  
Contact's Phone #: 718.812.4302 Contact's Email: pa@brooklynwaldorf.org

**Slow Zone Example**

Slow Zones should be a self contained area surrounded by strong boundaries. Some examples of strong zone boundaries are highways, parks, elevated trains, dead ends, and major streets.

For example the Boerum Hill Slow Zone (pictured right) is bounded by the major streets Atlantic Ave, 3rd Ave, Union Street, and Smith Street.



**Proposed Boundaries of Slow Zone**

Describe the proposed location and boundaries of the Neighborhood Slow Zone. (Please attach a map.)  
Fullon to Gates, Bedford to Grand. This Zone contains nine schools, eight houses of worship, a library, a playground, it's bordered by Christopher Attucks Park, Putnam Pedestrian Plaza, and the Bed-Stuy YMCA. The Zone includes a portion of Franklin Ave, a residential street that drivers use as a raceway once it changes from a one-lane plus bike-lane to two lanes at Lafayette, five blocks north of the Zone. A speed-gun survey found that Franklin's average speed (at Madison) is 38mph, and that cars regularly hit the upper 40s. According to CrashStat, 219 people have been struck by cars within this zone in recent years. In just three weeks, three separate crashes barreled onto sidewalks, hitting three pedestrians, two of whom were children standing outside their school, P.S. 3.  
This speeding epidemic is in jarring, dangerous contrast to the relaxed, vibrant sidewalk culture. Dominated by Southern and Caribbean migrants, sidewalks here are slow-people saunter, smile, and say hello; they cluster around stoops, barbecue on the sidewalk, play skelly in the street, and stop to admire chickens in a neighbor's front yard.  
Please help us bring the street and sidewalk into a better harmony. We are desperate to keep our children safe.

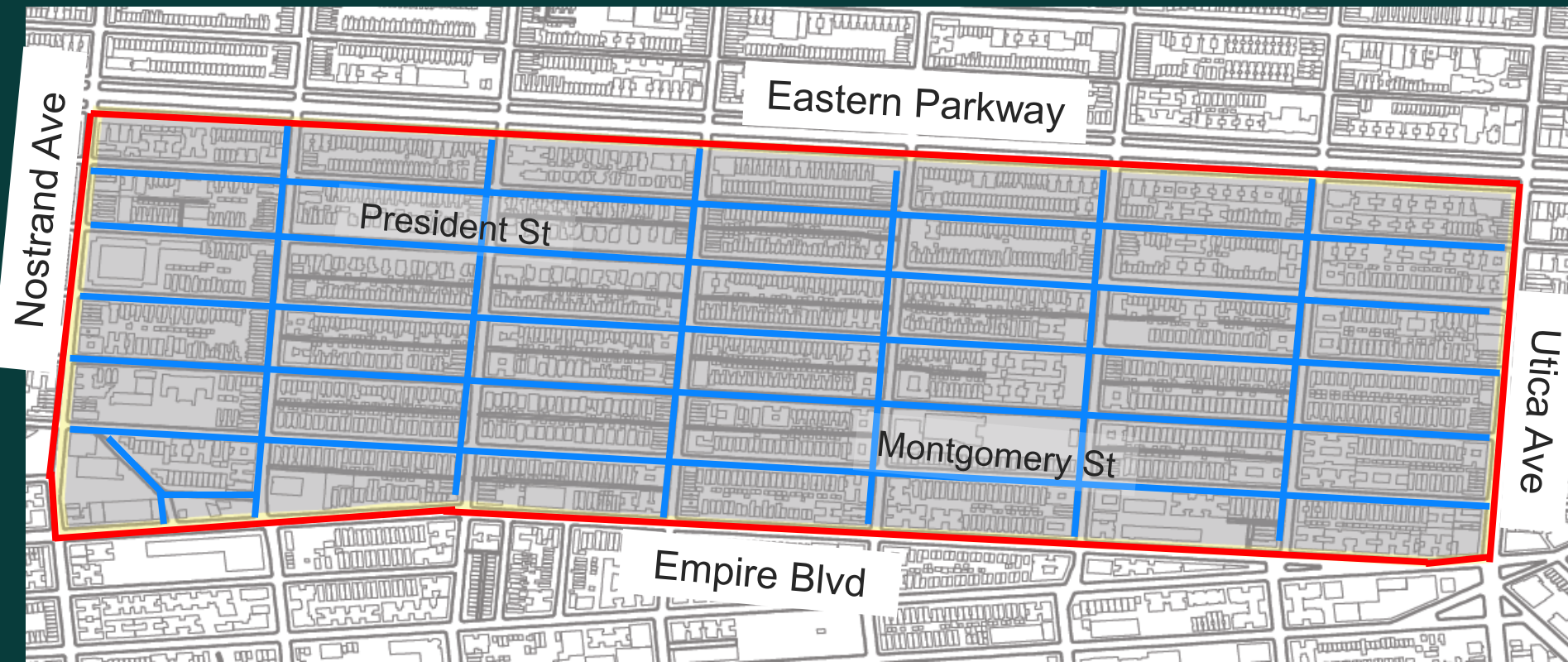


16 Selected  
74 Applications  
2014-15



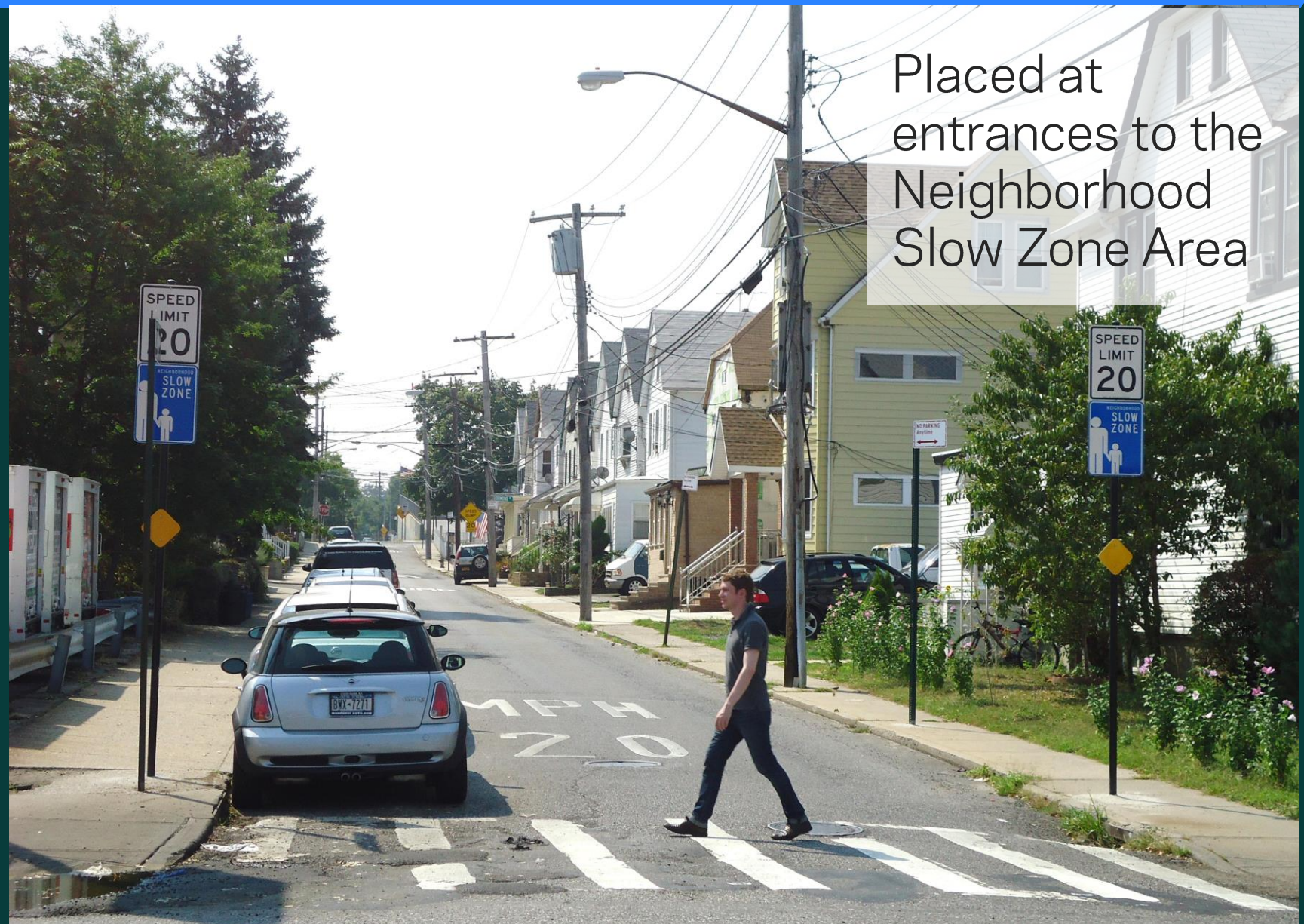
# What is a Neighborhood Slow Zone?

- Neighborhood streets speeds changed to 20 MPH
- Boundary streets **unchanged**



# Slow Zone Components: Gateway Signage

Placed at entrances to the Neighborhood Slow Zone Area



# Slow Zone Components: 20 MPH Markings



Markings placed throughout zone to remind motorist of the speed limit

# Slow Zone Component: Speed Bump

- Makes the Slow Zone “self-enforcing”; **lower speeds through design**
- Distributed evenly throughout the Slow Zone
- Successfully used throughout NYC

Bumped streets:  
~40% reduction  
in injury crashes  
  
~20% reduction  
in speeds





# Speed Bumps & Speed Humps

NYC DOT Standard



Never Used by NYC DOT



# Program History

- **Pilot Project 1 zone 2011**
  - Bronx: Claremont Slow Zone
- **1<sup>st</sup> Round 13 zones 2012-13**
  - Brooklyn: Boerum Hill
  - Queens: Corona, East Elmhurst-Jackson Heights, Auburndale, Elmhurst
  - Bronx: Mt Eden, Riverdale, Eastchester, Baychester
  - Staten Island: Rosebank, New Brighton-St George, Dongan Hills
  - Manhattan: Inwood
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Round 16 zones (Current) 2014-15**
  - Brooklyn: Clinton Hill, East New York/Brownsville, Crown Heights, Brooklyn Heights, Prospect Heights
  - Queens: Jackson Heights, Sunnyside Gardens-Woodside, Sunnyside, Astoria
  - Bronx: Norwood, Parkchester, Westchester Square
  - Staten Island: Midland Beach
  - Manhattan: Alphabet City, West Village, Hudson Heights

### Promising Safety Findings\*:

- **10-15%** reductions in speeds
- **14%** overall reduction in crashes with injuries
- **31%** reduction in vehicle injuries
- Ongoing evaluation of Slow Zones



# Application Crown Heights

## Slow Zone application

- Application submitted by Montgomery Street Block Association

Support: Crown Heights Jewish Community Council & Kingston Avenue Merchants Association

New York City Department of Transportation

2011

# NYC Neighborhood Slow Zone

Application for Communities & Neighborhoods



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### Community Information

Name of Interested Community/Group:  Borough:

Community Board(s):  Contact Person and Title:

Contact's Address:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

# Neighborhood Slow Zone Application

High amount of **severe crashes/fatalities**

- 4 per mile

Good **boundaries** (wide busy streets)

- Utica Av, Empire Blvd & Nostrand Av Truck Routes

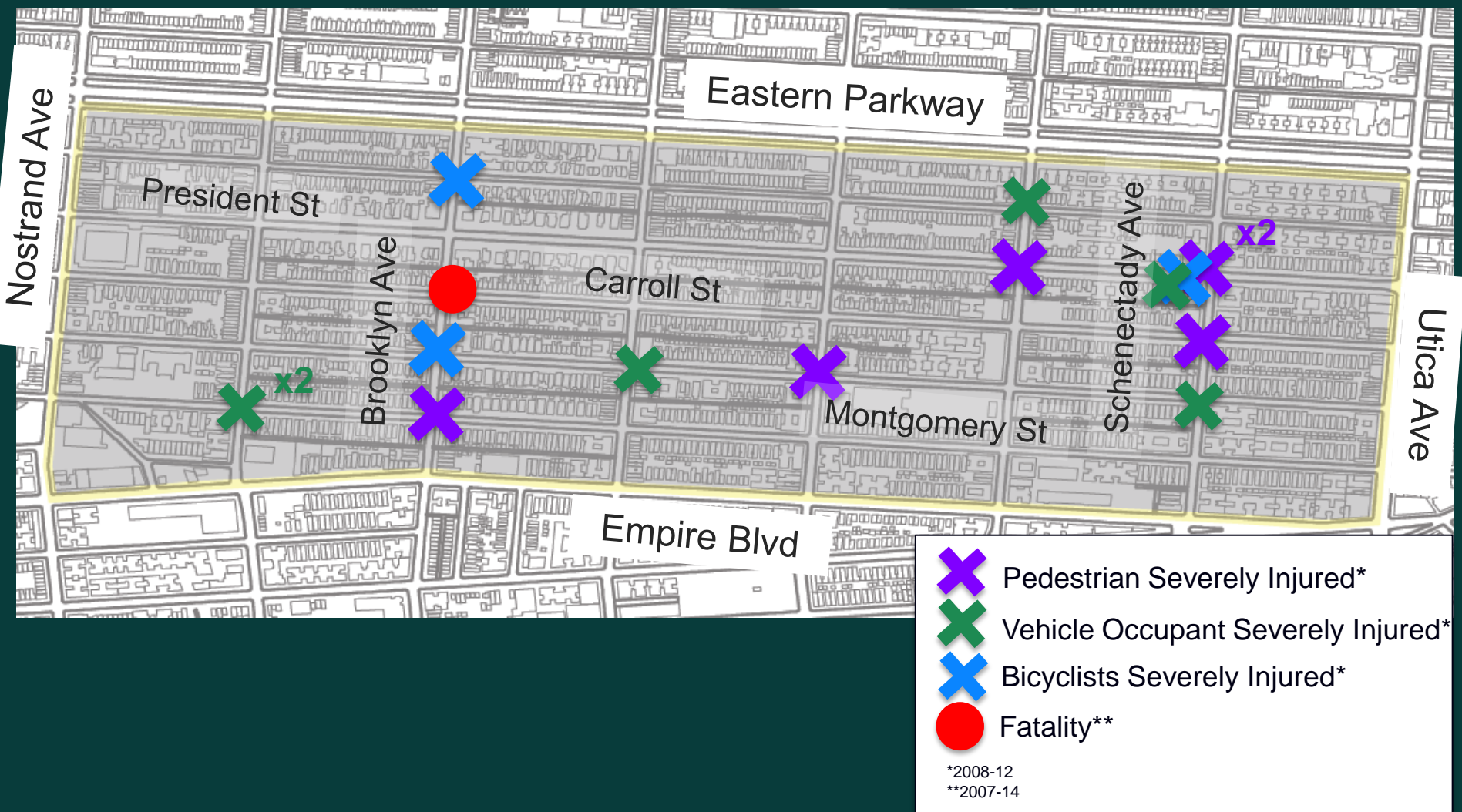
	Severe Crashes	Crash Injuries	Size
<b>Crown Heights</b>	<b>4 per mile</b>	<b>87 per year</b>	.4 sq mi
Boerum Hill (2013 Zone)	2 per mile	32 per year	.25 sq mi

Many **children in the area**

- Schools
- Pre K
- Daycare Centers

<b>Positive Criteria</b>	Crashes	Letters of Support	Schools	Senior Centers	Daycare	Strong Boundaries	Subway Stations	Bus Routes (on Boundary)	Truck Routes (on boundary)
<b>Negative Criteria</b>	Fire Stations	Hospitals						Bus Routes (in zone)	Truck Routes (in zone)

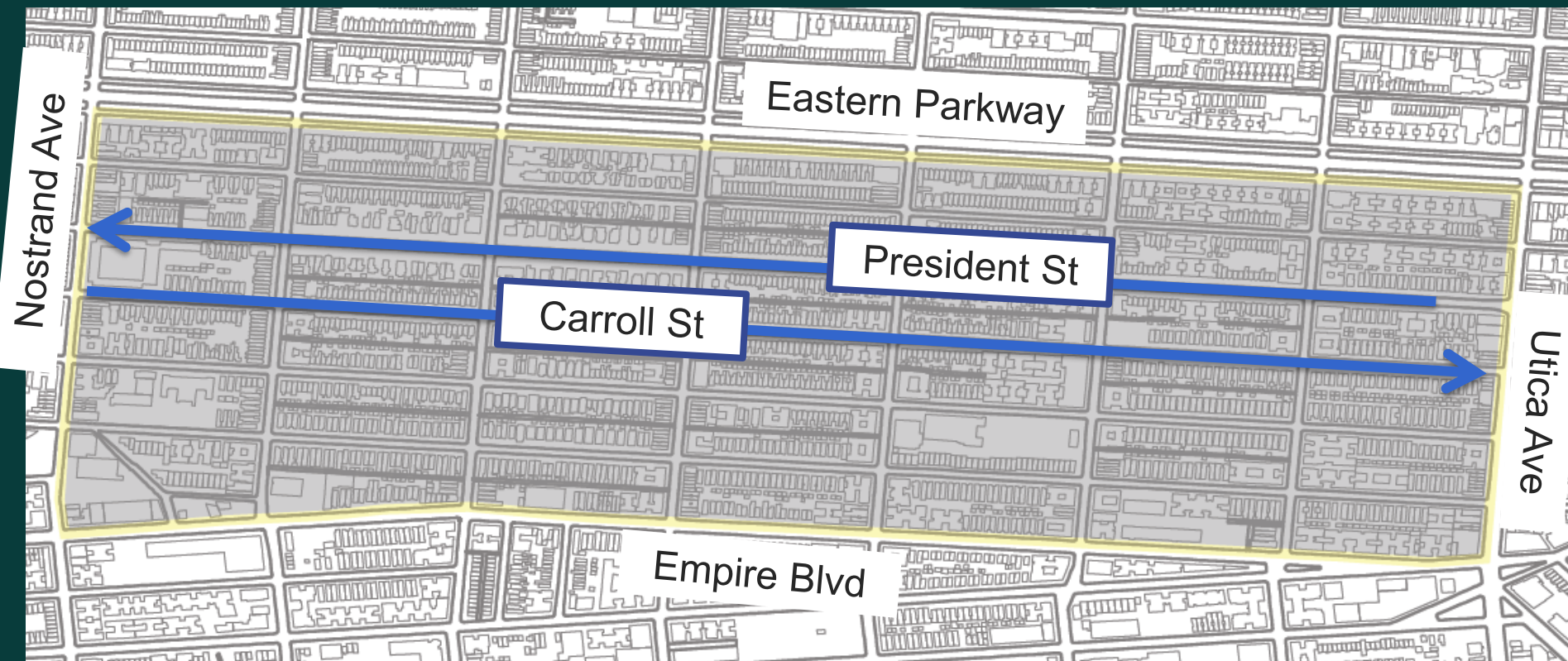
# Severe Injuries & Fatalities



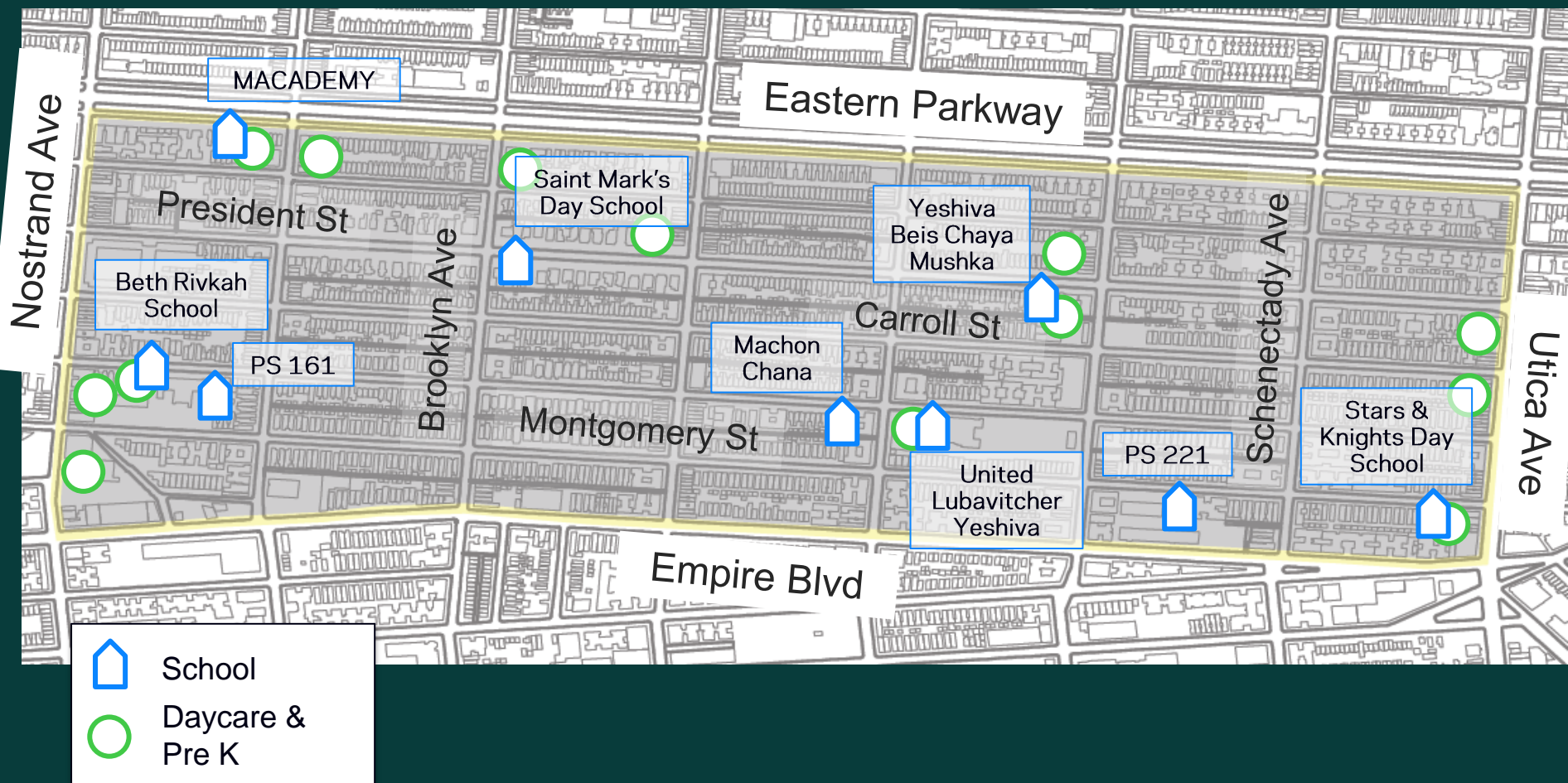
# Sample of Speeds in Zone

Speeding on residential streets with homes and schools

	Carroll St	President St
Avg Speed	26 MPH	27 MPH
Drivers above Speed Limit (30 MPH)	27%	23%

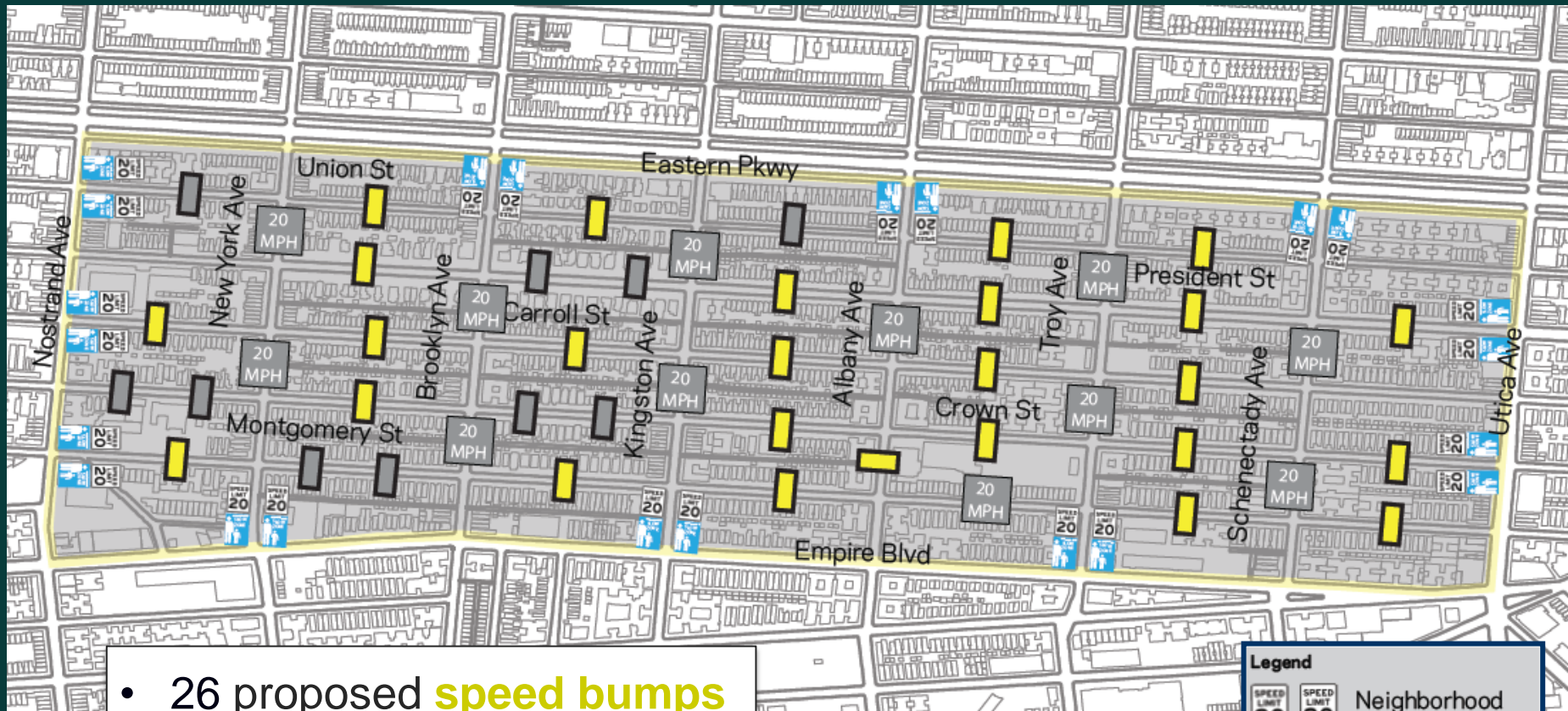


# Schools and Community Resources in Slow Zone

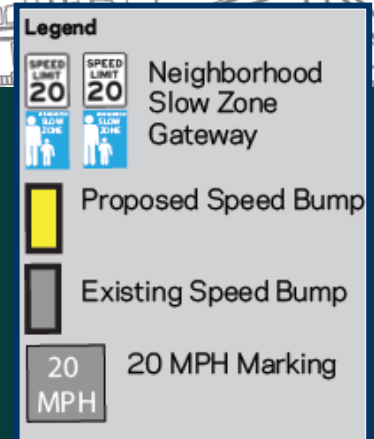




# Proposed Crown Heights Slow Zone



- 26 proposed **speed bumps**
- 11 proposed **gateways**



# Proposed Slow Zone



Empire Blvd & Kingston Ave

# Increasing Safety in Crown Heights

## Local Request

- Montgomery Street Block Association

## Why implement?

- **9 schools** in the proposed area
- Odds of pedestrian death **4 times lower** at 20 mph compared to 30 mph



Questions?

**Thank  
You**

# Bus Map

□ Slow Zone

No Speed Bumps will be placed on bus routes

