

Chatham Square/Park Row Improvement Program

Project Background

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) implemented a security plan to protect its headquarters (1 Police Plaza), and other City, State and Federal facilities located in the “Civic Center” in Lower Manhattan. These facilities were and continue to be considered potential terrorist targets by the NYPD.

The security plan established checkpoints and installed provisional booths and vehicle interdiction devices, closing several streets to general traffic. Because this plan required restrictions on portions of Park Row, a north-south connection between Chinatown and the Civic Center was lost to thru traffic and vehicular access for residents of Chatham Towers and Chatham Green became constrained.

The NYPD prepared a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identifies significant impacts including: traffic, noise, air, and visual resources and urban design. The environmental review process, which concluded in 2007, recommended implementation of two major mitigation measures which this project will implement:

1. The reconfiguration of Chatham Square;
2. The creation of a pedestrian promenade on Park Row.

Chatham Square Reconfiguration

The existing Chatham Square intersection was built in 1999, when it was aligned to facilitate the north-south movement between the Bowery and Park Row. When Park Row was restricted, north-south traffic was shifted to St. James Place, sending motorists on a serpentine path through the square. Pedestrians crossing through Chatham Square must contend with long crossings, inadequate sight lines and multiple simultaneous turning movements through crosswalks. A new design, proposed and reviewed as part of the EIS process, would reconfigure Chatham Square in order to improve traffic and pedestrian conditions and create substantial new public open space.

Benefits of the Reconfiguration

- The planned reconfiguration will re-align both the north-south and east-west movements through Chatham Square: the Bowery will flow directly into St. James Place while Worth Street will flow directly into East Broadway.
- Crosswalks will be shorter and visibility will improve for pedestrians and motorists.
- A more efficient configuration of traffic lanes will improve traffic movements, alleviate congestion and benefit pedestrian safety.
- New York City Transit (NYCT) has reviewed the new alignment and stated that they believe it will reduce bus travel times through the area.
- City officials have been meeting with local residents, business owners, Community Boards and local stakeholders since early 2004 to explain the plan and gather feedback. These meetings have led to a number of valuable improvements to the plan.
- The reconfigured intersection at Chatham Square increases available public open space in this area. The new Chatham Square will boast a landscaped public plaza of approximately 22,000sf. The City has engaged landscape architects Stantec and Thomas Balsley Associates to design this new open space in conjunction with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, City Planning, Design and Construction, and Transportation.
- The newly expanded plaza at Chatham Square will feature a dedicated space for the existing Kimlau Memorial Arch as well as programmable space for a variety of passive public uses. In addition, the plaza will include ample seating (benches, tables, and

chairs), extensive plantings and street trees providing a refuge for pedestrians, and a water feature that will act as a focal point for the Square.

Park Row Promenade

- The existing configuration of Park Row permits two lanes of through traffic plus a parking lane in each direction. Now that Park Row is restricted to authorized vehicles (local residents, NYPD vehicles, NYCT buses and emergency services), this roadway is underutilized.
- Nearly 50% of the right-of-way for vehicles is planned for conversion as a landscaped promenade for pedestrians and bicyclists. The promenade will feature:
 - An array of appropriate trees and plantings;
 - A landscaped path linking Chinatown to the Civic Center and Lower Manhattan that can accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists;
 - Passive recreation space; and
 - A new location for the Commissioner Lin Xe Zu statue near the northern terminus of Park Row (this location was identified with input from the Lin Xe Zu Foundation).
- Between Pearl Street and the 1PP Plaza, the project proposes to construct a pedestrian ramp that will provide a direct pedestrian link from the Civic Center / One Police Plaza to Park Row, including the City Hall subway station. This ramp will provide an important connection to and from Chinatown that currently does not exist.
- The plan for Park Row also features improvements to the existing “sallyport” security configuration at its northern entrance (near Worth St). These improvements will provide mobility for residents and MTA buses that pass through the checkpoint and will provide upgrade the security devices to improve aesthetics and reduce visual and noise impacts.

Small Business Assistance Program

Businesses may be eligible for assistance through the Small Business Assistance Program established by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation in Cooperation with the Small Business Services and the New York City Economic Development Corporation. More information can be found at:

http://www.renewnyc.com/ProjectsAndPrograms/small_firms.asp

Project Schedule

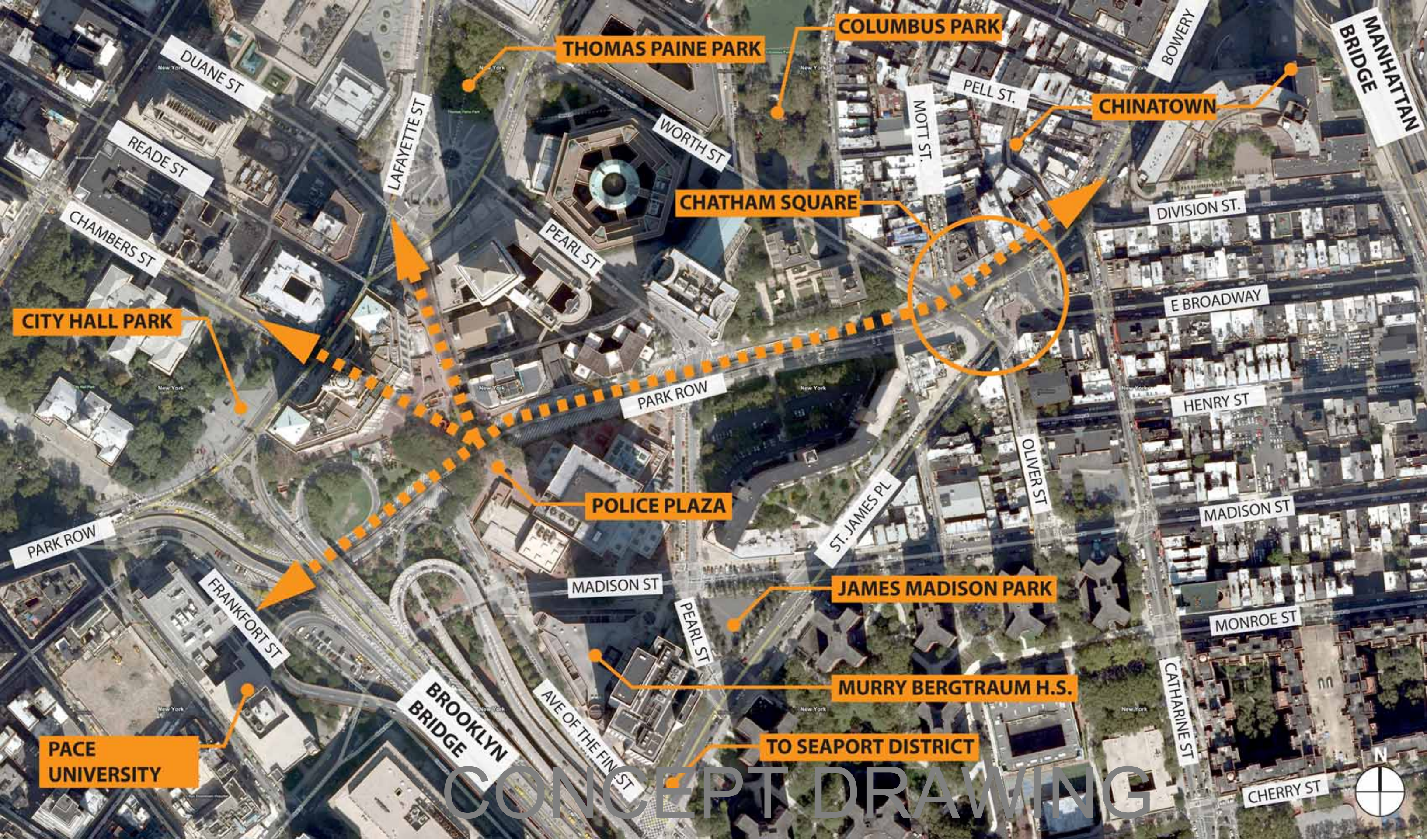
The schedule for the Chatham Square / Park Row Improvements project will coordinate with the Brooklyn Bridge Rehabilitation Project, which will require traffic to be detoured to the Manhattan Bridge and through the Chatham Square intersection. The Brooklyn Bridge project is scheduled to begin in mid-2010, and the Chatham Square intersection realignment and related utility work needs to start construction one year ahead of the Brooklyn Bridge project.

Chatham Square intersection re-alignment and related utility work

- Target construction start: Mid-2009
- Expected duration: Late 2011

Chatham Square Landscaping, Park Row Promenade and Pedestrian Ramp (concurrent with Brooklyn Bridge)

- Target construction start: Early 2010
- Expected completion: Mid-2011



CONCEPT DRAWING



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