Concourse Village West
Congestion Mitigation and Traffic Safety Study
Concourse Village Town Hall
March 5, 2020
Overview

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Background
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- Community Board 4 and local elected officials requested DOT conduct traffic study to address traffic congestion and safety on Concourse Village West corridor, between E 153rd Street and E 161st Street.
- Area is mixed-use with residential, commercial and various schools along Concourse Village West.
- Schools located in study area:
  - P.S. 359 Concourse Village Elementary School
  - P.S. 156 Benjamin Banneker School
  - P.S. / M.S. 31 The William Lloyd Garrison School
  - KIPP Academy Elementary School
  - Cardinal Hayes High School
  - High School for Careers in Sports
  - Future school to open at corner of E 156th St/Concourse Village West (Sept 2020)
- Major traffic generators on the corridor are schools, various civic offices and commercial land uses.
Existing Conditions
Study Area

Existing School:

Future School:

[Map showing study area with existing and future school locations indicated]
Existing Street Directions

Existing “exit points” for Concourse Village West traffic

- E 153 St
- E 156 St
- E 158 St
- E 159 St
- E 161 St
- Grand Concourse
- Concourse Village West
- Morris Ave
- Park Ave
Existing Issues

Grand Concourse and E 153rd Street:

• E 153rd Street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West is marked as two-way for a short segment.

• Vehicles use this short segment to make U-turns off Grand Concourse, undermining safety for pedestrians and increasing delays for through traffic on E 153rd Street.
Existing Issues

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street:
- Off-set intersections requires multiple turns, creating congestion on this critical link.
- Majority of vehicles traveling eastbound on E 156th St turn left onto Concourse Village West and then turn right onto E 156th St.
- Key conflict between northbound through traffic and eastbound left-turning traffic.
Existing Issues

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street:

Concourse Village West and E 156 St looking south

E 156 St and Concourse Village West looking west
Existing Issues

E 156th St: Concourse Village West to Morris Ave

- Narrow two-way street with 90 degree angle parking on the north side.
- Turn restrictions onto E 156th St are posted at Morris Ave during school days (7-9AM and 2-4 PM).
- During weekday AM and PM school hours, street becomes congested due to narrow width, head-on traffic conflicts due to turn prohibition violations, and school bus activity.
Existing Issues

E 156th St: Concourse Village West to Morris Ave

• Narrow street width and opposing vehicle conflicts makes passing difficult, causing congestion.
Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:
- Very wide, multi-leg intersection controlled by one signal.
- Heavy pedestrian volumes and vehicle turning movement volumes during AM and PM school hours.
- Morris Avenue lacks designated lane markings, leading to inefficient traffic flow.
Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:
- Wide intersection with long crossing distances and multiple crossings lead to increased pedestrian exposure to motor vehicle traffic.

Pedestrian paths:
Based on field observations and data collected during school arrival and dismissal hours.
Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:
- Lack of queuing space for southbound traffic on Morris Ave, between E 156th St and Park Ave, contributes to congestion spilling back on E 156th St, resulting in blocked crosswalks for pedestrians.
Proposed Improvements & Benefits
Proposed Street Direction Changes

1) Convert E 153rd St to one-way eastbound between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.

2) Reverse direction of traffic flow on E 156th St between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West from eastbound to westbound.

3) Convert E 156th St between Concourse Village West and Morris Ave to one-way eastbound (eliminate time-of-day turn restrictions).

4) Convert E 158th St to two-way street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.
Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design

Grand Concourse and E 153rd Street:

- Convert E 153rd St to one-way eastbound from Grand Concourse to Concourse Village West.

Provides a conflict-free pedestrian crossing across Grand Concourse (south crosswalk).

Streamlines traffic flow and reduces vehicle turning movement conflicts by removing two-way operation.

Improves pedestrian safety by eliminating illegal U-turns by motor vehicles.

Significant addition/reclamation of pedestrian space:
- Improvements would be made in temporary materials.
- Could be built-out as capital improvements in the future.
Proposed Street Direction Change

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street (west leg):

- Reverse the direction of traffic on E 156th Street from one-way eastbound to one-way westbound from Concourse Village West to Grand Concourse.

Proposed direction:

Creates additional opportunity for an alternate “way out” of the northbound Concourse Village West corridor for motorists by reversing direction of E 156th St.

Reduces pedestrian/vehicle and vehicle/vehicle conflict points.
Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design
Grand Concourse and E 156th Street

- Significant addition of pedestrian circulation space.
  - All construction in temporary materials.
  - Could be built-out as capital improvements in the future.

Parking is retained along painted space
Proposed Street Direction Change

E 156th Street between Concourse Village West and Morris Avenue (east leg)

- Convert E 156th Street to one-way eastbound from Concourse Village West to Morris Avenue.

Reduces pedestrian/vehicle and vehicle/vehicle conflict points.

Eliminates the head-on traffic “friction” along E 156th Street, between Concourse Village West and Morris Ave, resulting in more streamlined traffic flow out of Concourse Village West corridor.
Proposed curb extensions reduce pedestrian crossing distances.

Significant addition of pedestrian circulation space.
  - All construction in temporary materials.
  - Could be built-out as capital improvements in the future.

More conventional crosswalk arrangement with improved pedestrian visibility.

2-lane striping provides positive guidance to motorists.

Increased queuing storage space for southbound Morris Ave.
  - Reduces propensity for congestion and vehicle spillback blocking the Morris Ave/E 156th St intersection.

Improved/conventional geometric design.

Morris Avenue and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:

Morris Avenue and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue: Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design
Proposed Street Direction Change

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

- Convert E 158th Street to two-way operation between Concourse Village West and Grand Concourse.

Proposed direction:

Two-way operation allows motorists to avoid overlapping with school traffic.
- Motorists can access civic buildings or commercial establishments north of E 158th Street.

Creates another new opportunity for a “way out” of northbound Concourse Village West.
On-Street Parking Changes

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street

• Remove parking on the SW corner of Concourse Village West and E 156th Street to allow for improved intersection operations.
• Curbside parking space for two (2) vehicles would be eliminated on west side of Concourse Village West, south of E 156th St.
On-Street Parking Changes

E 156th Street between Concourse Village West and Morris Avenue

- Rotate current 90-degree back-in angle parking on the north side of E 156th Street to 60 degree back-in parking with striping.
- Currently un-striped parking stalls accommodate approximately 87 spaces. Space for one (1) vehicle would be eliminated (86 striped spaces).
On-Street Parking Changes

Morris Avenue, between Park Avenue and E 156th Street

- Restore parking on east curb of Morris Ave between Park Ave and E 156th Street.
- Currently signed as No Parking Anytime (8 parking spots restored).

On-street parking changes:
On-Street Parking Changes (Original Plan)

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

- Considered on-street parking removal on the north side of E 158th St, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West, to allow for two-way operation (street is 35 feet wide).

- Eliminated curbside parking space for approximately 14 vehicles on the north side of E 158th St.
On-Street Parking Changes (Revised Plan)

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

• After Community Board and residents feedback, parking will be maintained on north curb of E 158 Street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.
Timeline and Next Steps
Timeline and Next Steps

- CB 4 contacted DOT to request traffic study.
- DOT conducted traffic study.
- Presentations to CB 4, local elected officials and other stakeholders.
- If approved, DOT implements proposed improvements.
- Monitor improvements and make refinements as needed.
Thank You!