Hillside Ave: Sutphin Blvd to 179th Pl
Corridor Safety Improvements

New York City Department of Transportation
Presented by the Office of Research, Implementation and Safety
Queens Community Board 12—Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Vision Zero

- Multi-agency effort to reduce traffic fatalities in NYC
- Borough Action Plans released in 2015
- Priority Intersections, Corridors, and Areas identified
  - **Hillside Ave** is a Priority Corridor
  - 4 Priority Intersections
    - Parsons Blvd
    - 169th St & Homelawn St
    - Merrick Blvd/166th St
    - 172nd St
Project Location

- Hillside Ave from Sutphin Blvd to 179 Pl; 1.4 miles
- Commercial and residential land use with high vehicular and pedestrian volumes
- **Buses:** Q1, Q2, Q3, Q17, Q25, Q30, Q31, Q34, Q36, Q43, Q65, Q76, Q77  **Subway:** E and F trains

**Recent Projects**

- 2008—5 pedestrian islands on Hillside Ave in (178 St, 181 St (2), 182 St, 184 St)
- 2012—5 pedestrian islands installed on Hillside Ave in (172 St, 175 St, 187 St, 197 St, 199 St)
- 2014—Homelawn/169th St & Hillside Ave redesign
- 35 KSI (persons killed or severely injured) crashes
- 568 total injury crashes
Left turn pedestrian crashes from the cross streets have been identified as a particular problem on Hillside Ave.

- Left turns from cross street can be taken at a wider angle and at higher speeds than right turns.
Pedestrian safety islands have been shown to:

- Decrease pedestrian crashes by 46%
- Reduce vehicle crashes by 39%

Source: US Department of Transportation FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures - Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas
Proposal: Hillside Ave Pedestrian Islands

EXISTING

- 10’ Bus Lane
- 10’ Travel Lane
- 10’ Travel Lane
- 10’ Turn Bay/Flush Median

PROPOSED

- 10’ Bus Lane
- 10’ Travel Lane
- 10’ Travel Lane
- 10’ Turn Bay/Flush Median w/Island

Source: US Department of Transportation FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures

7 Pedestrian Safety Islands are proposed on Hillside Ave at the following intersections:
- Sutphin Blvd
- 161st St (2)
- 170th St
- 172nd St,
- 179th Pl (2)

At all intersections, islands will also create simpler, safer left turns onto Hillside Ave.

Northern Blvd at 61st St—Before

Northern Blvd at 61st St—After
Where islands are not feasible, the Hardened Centerline will be used to create simpler, safer left turns onto Hillside Ave:

- 150 St
- Parsons Blvd (Priority Intersection)
- Merrick Blvd (Priority Intersection)
- 178 St

Allows traffic calming benefit without banning a turn.
Proposal: Hillside Ave

- Construct a total of 7 pedestrian safety islands at:
  - Sutphin Blvd, 161st St (2), 170th St, 172nd St, and 179th Pl (2)
- Add high visibility crosswalks at all intersections
- Hardened Centerline at 150 St, Parsons Blvd, Merrick Blvd, and 178 St
- No changes in traffic capacity
Benefits of Proposal

- No changes in traffic capacity
- Provides safer pedestrian crossings
- Creates simpler, safer left turns from cross streets
- Reduces motor vehicle and pedestrian conflict
- Redesigns 1.4 miles of a Vision Zero Priority corridor and three Priority Intersections

Hillside Ave and 187 St—looking east
Questions?

Thank You

Contact: NYCDOT Queens Borough Commissioner’s Office – (212) 839-2510