

# Vernon Boulevard

## Queens East River Greenway



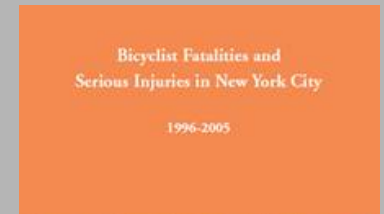
Presentation to Queens  
Community Boards 1 & 2



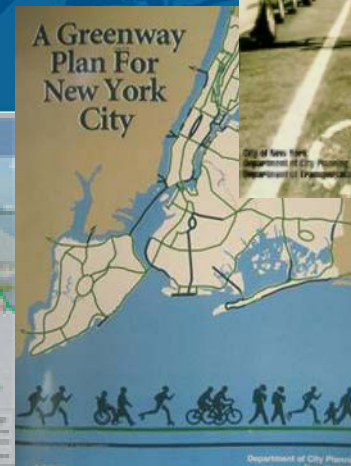
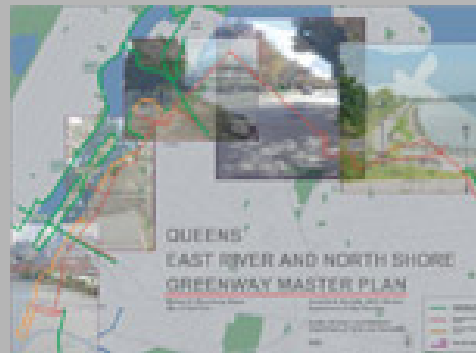
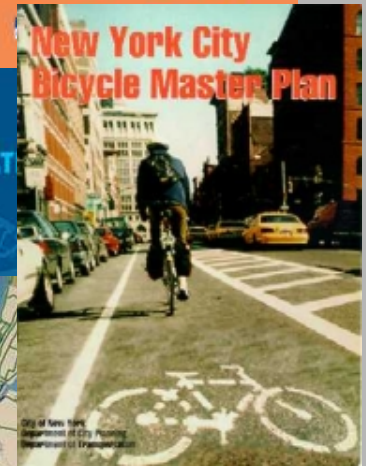
NYC Department of Transportation  
Office of Alternative Modes  
April 2008

# Why are we here?

- Bicycle Fatality & Serious Injury Study – Improve Safety
- Mayor's PlaNYC – A Greener Transportation Network
- NYC Bicycle Master Plan (1997)
- A Greenway Plan For NYC (1993)
- Queens East River & North Shore Greenway (2006)



A Joint Report from the  
New York City Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene,  
Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and the New York City Police Department





# Project Limits



# Objectives of Project

1. Safer Vernon Blvd for All
2. Cycling as a Real Transportation Choice for Residents & Visitors
3. Connections & Access to Waterfront, Neighborhoods & Amenities
4. Maintenance of Vehicular Access Where Needed
5. Momentum Toward Greater, Greener Long-Term Vision





# 1. Safer Vernon

## Wide Lanes & Speeding

### Existing Condition

- Unmarked moving lane on 45' road
- Equivalent of 15' moving lane
- Lanes appear wider when/where parking utilization is low



### Planned Condition

- Buffer & lane line markings
  - Will narrow moving lanes to 11' at all times & calm traffic



# Infrequent Traffic Controls & Speeding

- Downtown Hunter's Point – 18 controls/mile
- North of Hunter's Point – 4.5 controls/mile

## Improvement Plans

- New signal at Queens Plaza South
- Buffer & lane line markings
  - Effective calming for other corridors with infrequent signals



# 1. Safer Vernon

## Roadway Curves

### Existing Condition

- Curves and wide moving lanes make for uncomfortable street
  - Vehicle veer where cyclists operate
  - Difficulty for crossing pedestrians
  - Challenge to motorists



### Planned Conditions

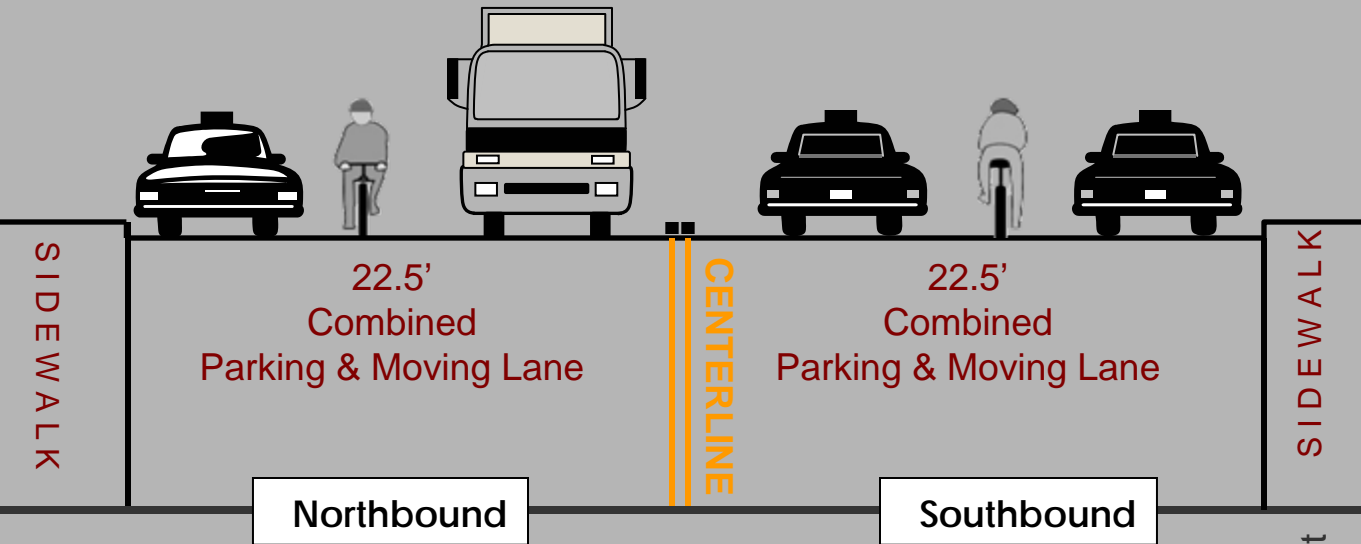
- New & enhanced warning signage
- Buffer & lane line markings
  - Defined moving lanes provide visual cues on curves



## 2. Cycling as a Real Transportation Choice

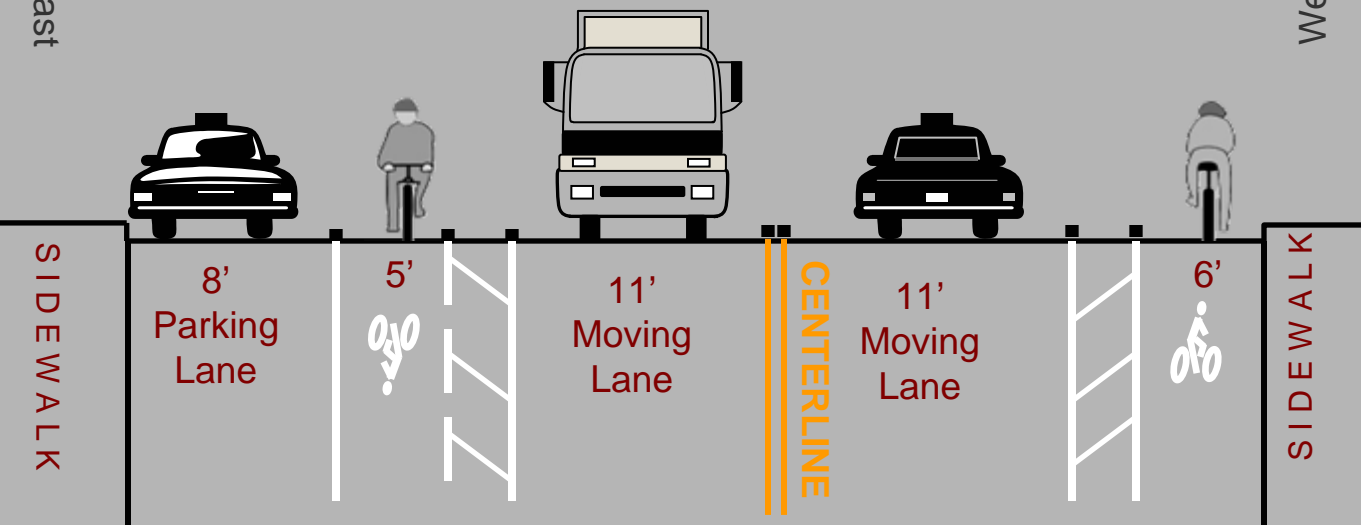
### Existing Condition

- No dedicated space for cycling
- Uncomfortable cycling environment
- Insufficient room for safe passing by vehicles



### Planned Condition

- Wide bicycle lanes
- Buffers from moving traffic





### 3. Connections & Access to Waterfront, Neighborhoods & Amenities

- Improve pedestrian & bicycle links
- Current transportation links weak (limited transit & parking)



*"Downtown" Hunters Point*



*Whitey Ford Field Park*



*Astoria Pool*

*Bicycle Parking Shelter at Subway*

#### Connections Made

- Neighborhoods

- Astoria
- Ravenswood
- Long Island City
- Hunter's Point & its services

- Parks & Waterfront Attractions

- Astoria Park & Pool
- Shore Towers Esplanade
- Whitey Ford Field Park
- Hallets Cove Esplanade
- Socrates Sculpture Park
- Rainey Park & Cosco Esplanade
- Queensbridge Park & Greenway Path

- Mass Transit

- 7 – Vernon Blvd / Jackson Ave

3.

## Connections & Access

# New Strong Connection to Queensbridge Park & Its Greenway Path

### Existing Condition

- Greenway path is isolated
- Difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to exit & enter park & path

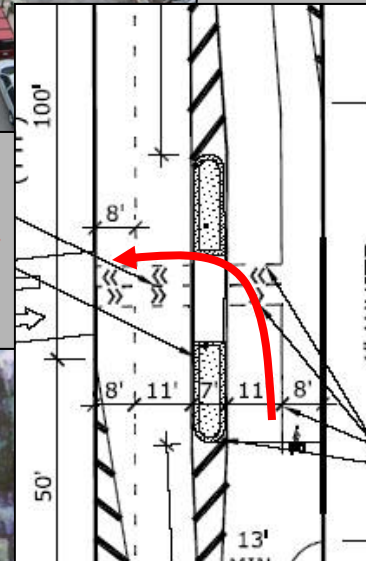
### Planned Conditions

- 2 New Landscaped Refuge Islands
  - Hi-Visibility Signs & Markings
  - Calm traffic
  - Ease crossing at access points, particularly for 2-way streets



*Existing entrance to park greenway*

*Plan for new island and markings*

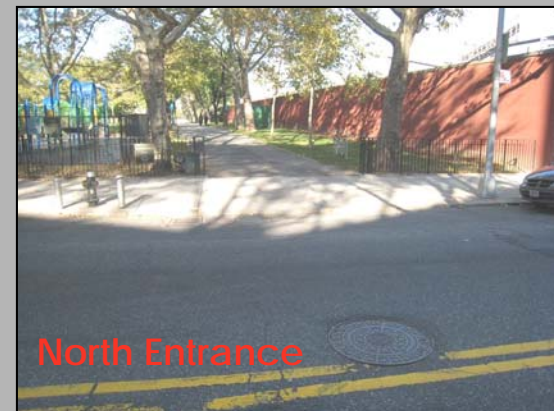
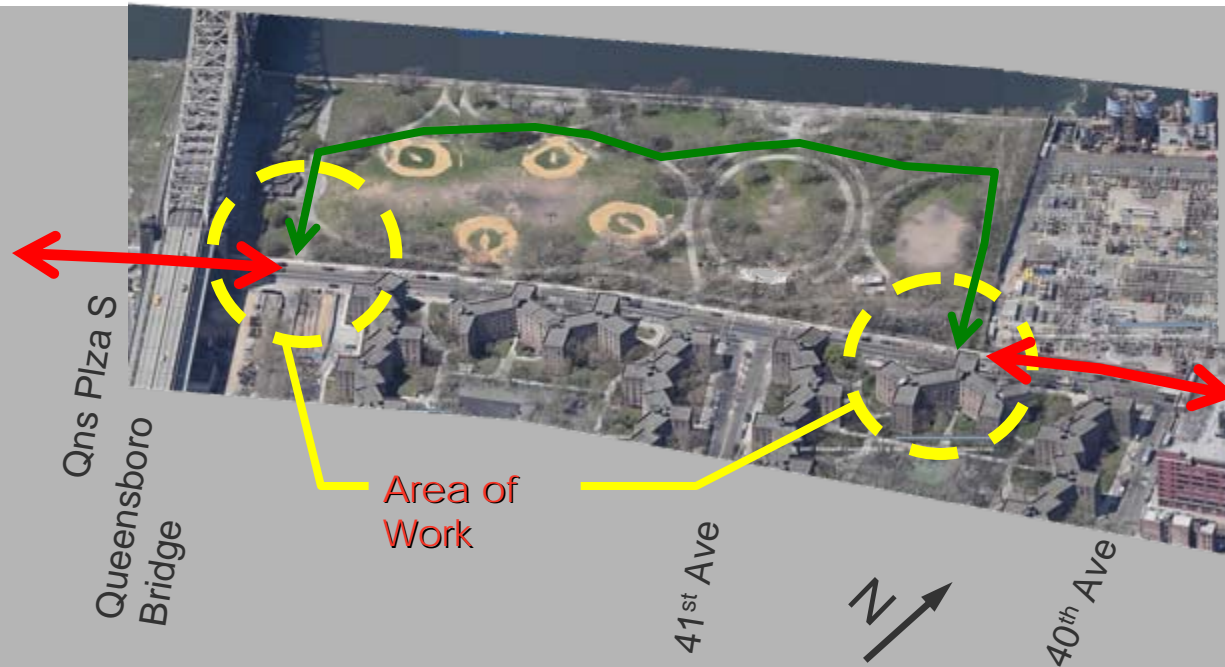


*Rendering of improved connection*

3.

### Connections & Access

## New Strong Connection to Queensbridge Park & Its Greenway Path





### 3. Connections & Access

## New Signs & Markings to Clearly Guide Users to & From Exciting Amenities



*Entry to Hallets Cove Esplanade*



*Example Greenway Signs*



*Example Bicycle Guide Signs*

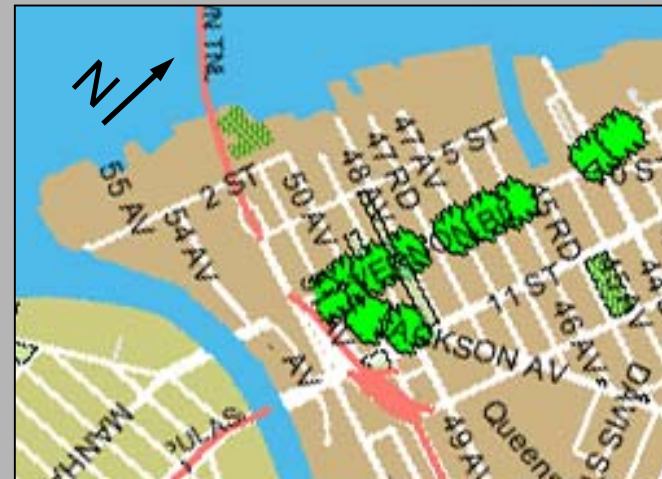


*Example "Gateway" Markings for Paths*

#### 4. Maintenance of Vehicular Access

## No Parking Loss in Calmer “Downtown” Hunter’s Point

- Frequent traffic signals and “main street” commercial activity already calm traffic
- Small businesses need curbside access
- Cyclists accommodated with shared lane signs and markings



*Hunters Point Traffic Signals*



*Example Shared Lane Markings*



*Vernon Blvd at 48<sup>th</sup> Ave*

4.

## Maintenance of Vehicular Access

# Plan preserves parking at Queensbridge Park & Houses

- Bike path currently provided in park
  - Shared lane markings for Vernon adjacent park
- Island at park entrances will calm traffic







4. Maintenance of Vehicular Access

# Parking Loss on West Curb Adjacent Properties with Off-Street Parking & Loading





-  Areas to Remove Curbside Access
-  Areas Not Required to Remove Curbside Access

4. Maintenance of Vehicular Access

# Parking Loss on West Curb Adjacent Properties with Off-Street Parking & Loading



-  Areas to Remove Curbside Access
-  Areas Not Required to Remove Curbside Access



#### 4. Maintenance of Vehicular Access

## Actively Survey & Monitor Side & Parallel Streets for Parking Opportunities

- Respond to Evolving Land Uses
  - Potential to alter regulations from No Parking (Industrial) regulations
- Input and Information from Local Community Essential

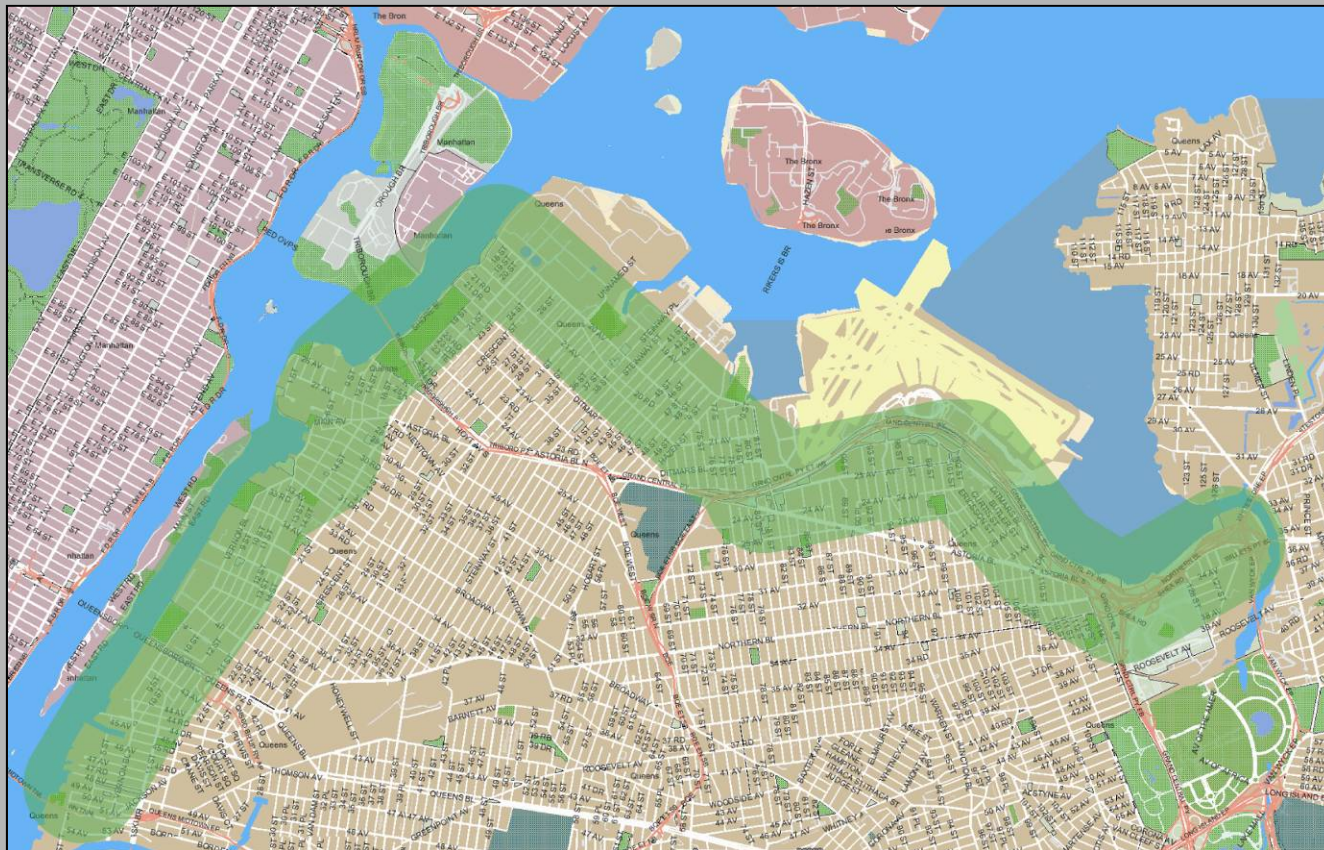


*Potential Parking Opportunities*



## 5. Momentum Toward Greater, Greener Long-Term Vision

- Safer, balanced & more connected Vernon by Summer 2008
- Improvement assist in attracting additional funding
- One element of long-term vision for Queens waterfront areas



*Queens East River North Shore Greenway Target Area*

## 4. Momentum Toward Greater Vision

# Upcoming & Potential Improvements

- Parks Department Projects
  - Queensbridge Park
  - Rainey Park
  - Astoria Park
- Studies & capital projects to improve and green problematic intersections
  - Community input important to prioritize
  - Example Intersections:
    - 11<sup>th</sup> / Jackson/ Pulaski Bridge
    - Broadway / Vernon
    - Vernon/ 8<sup>th</sup> / Main



*Vernon Boulevard @ Broadway:  
Socrates Sculpture Park*

# Project Summary – Achieving Objectives

- |                                         |   |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Safer Vernon                         | ⇒ | • Signs & markings to calm traffic                      |
| 2. Cycling a Real Option                | ⇒ | • Dedicated space buffered from traffic                 |
| 3. Connections to Important Attractions | ⇒ | • Lanes, islands & signs link neighborhoods & amenities |
| 4. Maintenance of Needed Access         | ⇒ | • Parking loss only where necessary                     |
| 5. Momentum to Long Term Vision         | ⇒ | • One project of Multi-Agency Effort                    |





# Next Steps

## 1. Community & Stakeholder Input

- Side & parallel street parking opportunities
- Focus Intersections

## 2. Project Refinement

## 3. Implementation

- June & July 2008 Target

## 4. Evaluation

## 5. Pursuit of Longer Term Improvements



End of Presentation

