

# **Manhattan Community Board 7 Neighborhood Task Force on Design and Safety**

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# Introduction: Why establish the CB7 Neighborhood Task Force on Design and Safety now?

- So that the community can analyze and make recommendations for improving the public realm.
- In the last years, the public has expressed concerns about street safety and design; increasing congestion; new construction and new buildings; multiple modes of transportation, street conditions, and many more.
- This is a particularly good time for the community to study these conditions in an interconnected and holistic fashion and to make recommendations for action to all relevant/responsible government agencies in a comprehensive manner.

# Definition: Public Realm

The public realm includes all exterior places, linkages and built form elements that are physically and/or visually accessible regardless of ownership. These elements can include, but are not limited to, streets, pedestrian ways, bikeways, bridges, plazas, nodes, squares, transportation hubs, gateways, parks, waterfronts, natural features, view corridors, landmarks and building interfaces. Public realm is inclusive of above grade features/infrastructure as well as below grade infrastructure such as water, sewer and utilities.

# How and Where?

Begin with a geographical focus on two neighborhoods:

- Lincoln Square and Lincoln Center area from 60<sup>th</sup> to 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets
- 100<sup>th</sup> Street to 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Central Park West to Riverside Drive

From the literature about good practices, here are **some widely accepted ideas** for a walkable, safe, enjoyable city and neighborhood:

- protect the pedestrian;
- organize all modes of transportation for definable, predictable areas for safety and good design;
- mix the uses; promote diversity of uses;
- get the parking right;
- let transit work;
- encourage alternative transportation modes;
- shape and enhance the public spaces;
- plant trees;
- make friendly and unique building faces with interesting facades and relationship to sidewalks;
- pick your winners and priorities and then work with government to make them happen.

## Some Important Values:

- encourage a pedestrian culture;
- embrace diversity;
- identify what is safe/comfortable/active (not unsafe/uncomfortable/inactive);
- encourage green urban places;
- define and promote good design for your community;
- encourage sustainable design;
- identify and promote density in our city and neighborhood that works for everyone;
- identify and protect quiet, tranquility in our urban neighborhood.

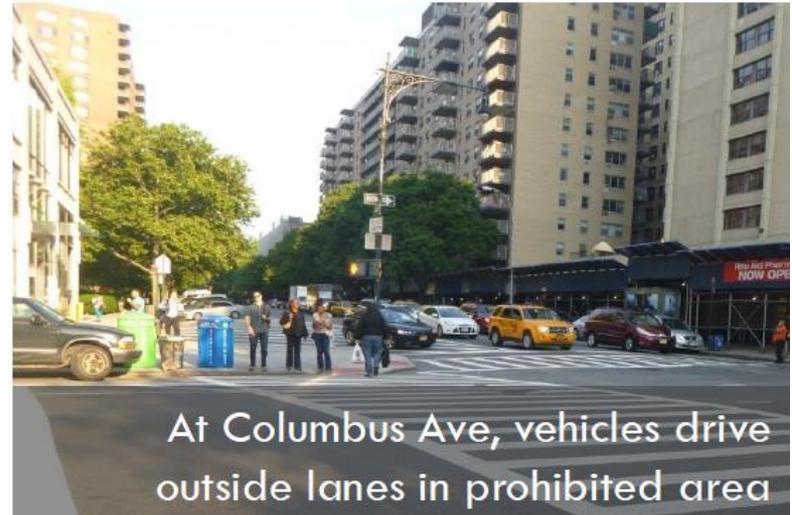
Much of the public realm of the **Upper West Side** works well for most people and activities



# Some aspects of the public realm on the **Upper West Side** work less well and need improvement



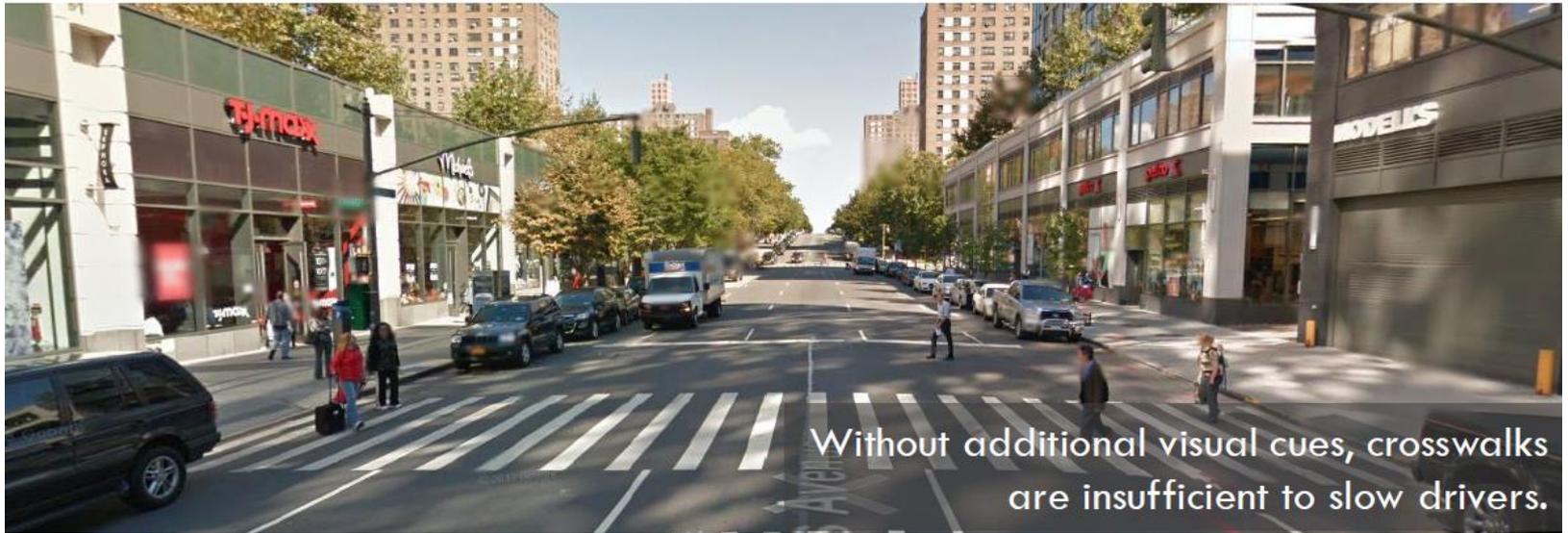
Two excessively wide lanes between Central Park West and Columbus Ave



At Columbus Ave, vehicles drive outside lanes in prohibited area



Long block length and no intersecting streets encourages drivers to speed



Without additional visual cues, crosswalks are insufficient to slow drivers.

# Sustainability and Livability



## Some upcoming reports of interest

- FEIS for Jewish Home Lifecare on West 97<sup>th</sup> Street.
- CB7, Lincoln Square BID and DOT Lincoln Square Bow-Tie Safety Workshop Report in September 2014.

# Next Steps

- Fill out the contact form.
- Check the CB7 website, [nyc.gov/mcb7](http://nyc.gov/mcb7), for Task Force meetings and community outreach.