



Grand Army/Prospect Heights Public Realm Plan

Update for Community Boards 6, 8 & 9

April 15, 2024



Project Overview



Public Realm Capital Planning

DOT & DDC are collaborating on a \$1.8M Capital Project Scope Development (**CPSD**) study for:



Grand Army Plaza



Vanderbilt Ave Open Street



Underhill Ave Bike Blvd

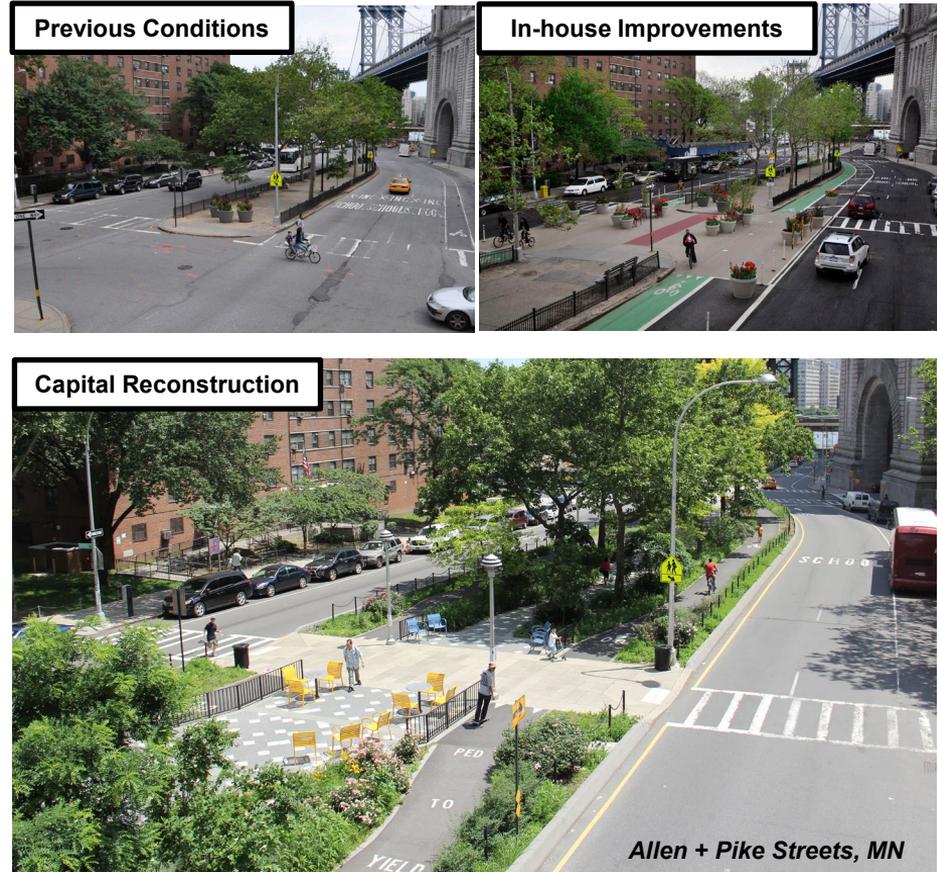
What is a CPSD Study?

The CPSD program is a way to clearly determine project scope, cost, and other key factors before construction capital dollars are committed.

Typically reserved for larger-scale projects with substantial unknowns, which may influence cost and feasibility.

Includes:

- Traffic study
- 30% design documents
- Preliminary landscape design
- Community and stakeholder outreach
- 3 design alternatives with accurate construction cost estimates



Planning Coordination

Ongoing & Future Initiatives:

Atlantic Yards Development

Berm and Arch restoration by PPA and DPR

Water Main Replacement by DEP

Flatbush Ave Bus Priority Project

Atlantic Ave Mixed Use Plan by DCP

Washington Ave Capital Project

Initiative limits are diagrammatic only



What locations are being studied?

Grand Army Plaza

Plaza St East and West

Vanderbilt Avenue

Atlantic Ave to Grand Army Plaza

Underhill Avenue

Pacific St* to Eastern Pkwy

*Atlantic to Pacific block included in Washington Ave Capital Plan



CPSD Schedule

'22 Summer - Study Funded

'22 Fall - Initial Outreach/Workshops

'23 Summer - DDC onboarded Design Consultant

'23 Fall – '24 Spring - Traffic Study Ongoing

'24 Spring - Community Engagement – April Joint CB Meeting

- In-person workshops & Surveys (May-June)

- Preliminary Design

'24 Summer/Fall - Community Presentation

- Design Refinement

'24 Fall/Winter

- Final Concepts Community Presentation

- Conclude Study & Report, Present to OMB

- Identify Paths for Capital Funding



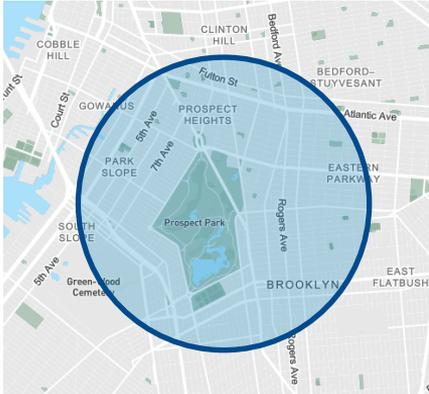
Community Engagement

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Demographic Overview

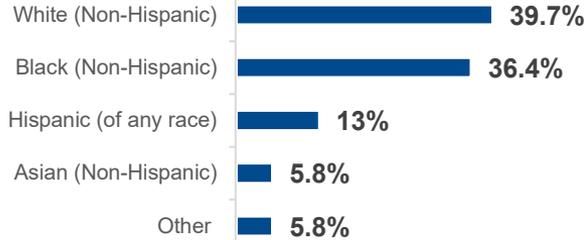
Prospect Park Surrounding Communities (2017 - 2021 ACS)

Grand Army Plaza and the surrounding area draws people from and influences a large portion of Brooklyn

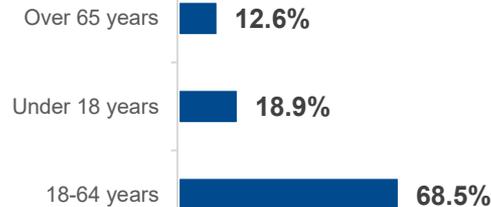


Demographics

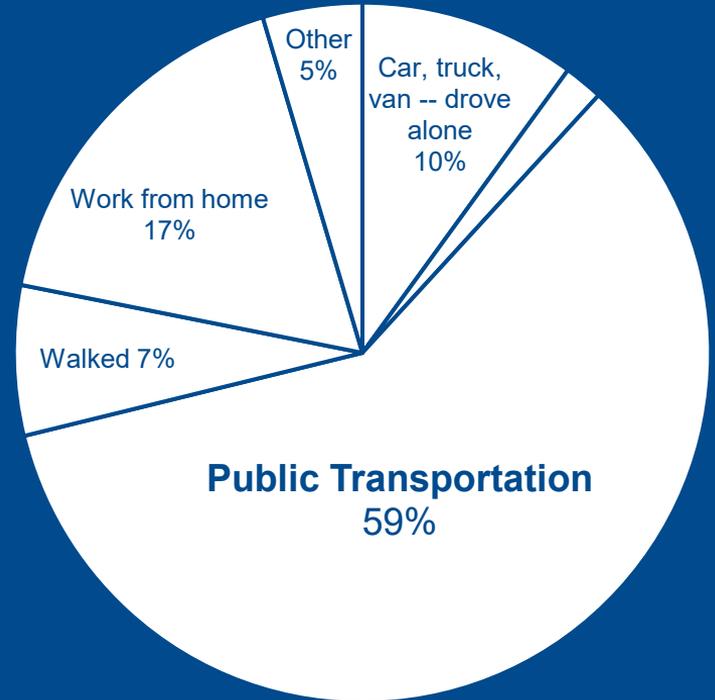
Race & Hispanic Origin



Population Age (Median Age 36)



COMMUTE TO WORK (MEAN TRAVEL TIME: 42 MINS)



Grand Army Plaza

Nov 2022 Virtual Workshop

- Approx. 270 members of public attended, 72% of them were residents in Park Slope or Prospect Heights
- Identified need for additional outreach to other neighborhoods

Highlights from participant feedback on CPSD Study:

- Broader view of effects to surrounding communities
- Study of park space in addition to roadway space
- Comprehensive outreach strategy to stakeholders



Fall/Winter 2022 Online Survey

- 2,077 people participated in the Grand Army Plaza Public Realm survey.
- Most respondents (over 91%) who participated in this survey were residents of Brooklyn, approximately **73% of respondents live within 1.5 miles of Grand Army Plaza**

Key findings:

- The most selected item (**78%**) that respondents want to see implemented in Grand Army plaza is **additional protected pedestrian space**
- The most identified item (**78%**) that respondents do not like about Grand Army Plaza is the **interaction points with vehicles**
- A majority of respondents (**87%**) **walk** to Grand Army Plaza. Most cycle (63%) or take public transit (55%)
- A majority of respondents (79%) like the current programming in the plaza (i.e. Green Market)

Vanderbilt Ave + Underhill Ave

Feb – May 2021 | Community feedback survey

- 1,468 responses
- Majority (86%) of respondents wanted to see permanent changes to make Prospect Heights Open Streets pedestrian and/or cycling priority corridors.
- Strolling (94%) and outdoor dining (84%) were the top activities respondents wanted to use Prospect Heights Open Streets for

Sept 2021 | 3 Community Workshops

- Pedestrian plaza (49%), traffic diverters (43%) and shared streets (38%) were the top public space toolkit items the public wanted to see implemented

Nov 2021 | Virtual Visioning Workshop

- Identifying ideas and opportunities in the long term for Underhill Ave

May 2022 | 2 Community Workshops

Underhill Ave key takeaways:

- Strong desire to see design solutions that codify bike and pedestrian priority
- Need for dedicated loading and delivery space on the corridor
- Positive feedback on removing metal barriers as a tool kit solution

Vanderbilt Ave key takeaways:

- Strong desire to see design solutions that reflect full closure operations on weekends
- Need for dedicated loading and delivery space on the corridor
- Positive feedback on improving Atlantic & Vanderbilt intersection



May 2023 | Community Workshop

2021 – 2023 | CB Presentations + other focused engagement

Fall 2023 | Post-implementation Underhill community outreach

A New Public Realm Vision

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A New Public Realm Vision

Goals for Capital Design

1. Create world class public space
2. Improve pedestrian connections around and through Grand Army Plaza
3. Reinforce and support Open Street and Bike Boulevard operations on Vanderbilt Ave and Underhill Ave
4. Improve and strengthen bicycle connections
5. Speed up bus operations
6. Simplify traffic operations and maintain vehicular access

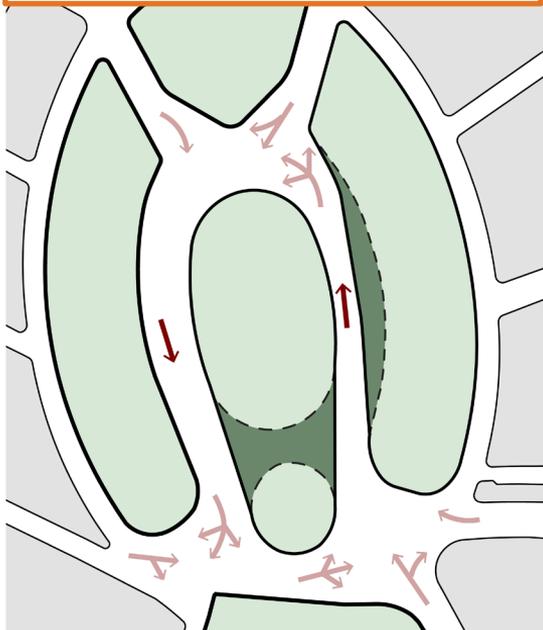


Spectrum of Ideas (Grand Army)

← “As Is”

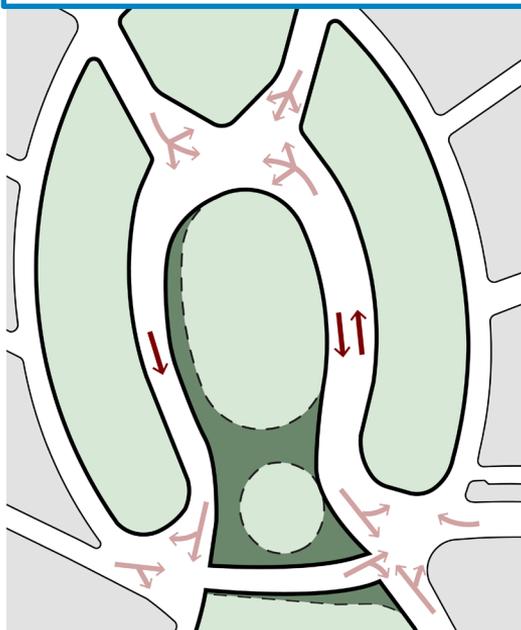
Big Changes →

Build Out Existing Painted Spaces



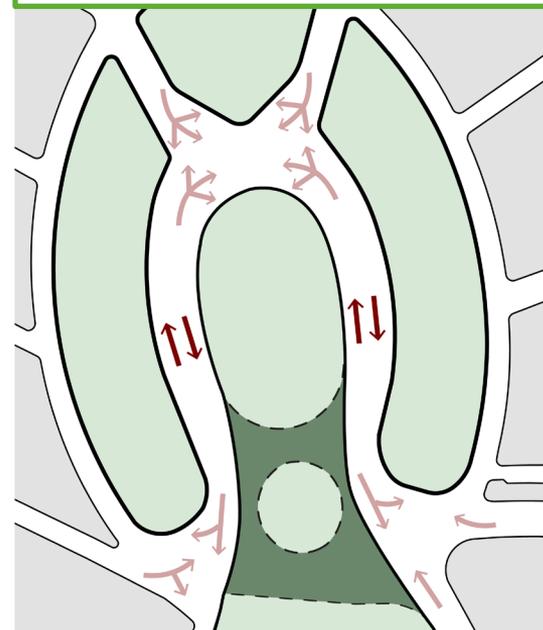
- No changes to traffic operations
- No changes to open spaces

Consolidate Flatbush Traffic



- SB Flatbush traffic shifted to east side of plaza
- Direct Union-to-Eastern Pkwy connection maintained

Unify Public Spaces



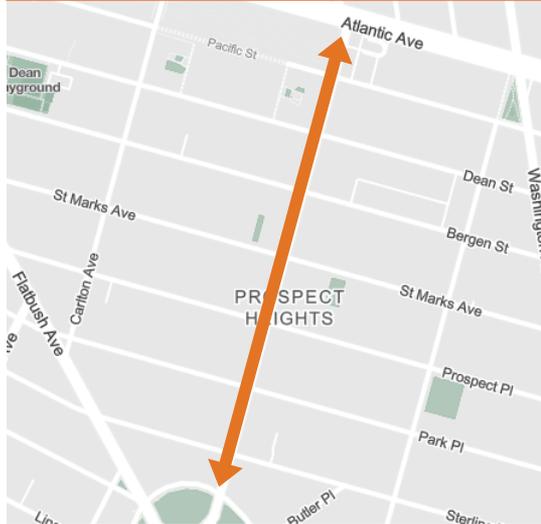
- SB Flatbush traffic shifted to east side of plaza
- Union St traffic diverted around north side of plaza, unifying open spaces

Spectrum of Ideas (Vanderbilt Ave)

← Less Change,
More Management

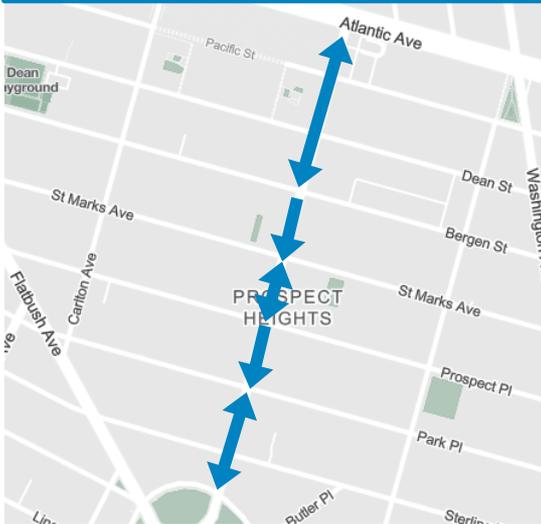
More Change, Less Management →

Maintain Two-Way Travel



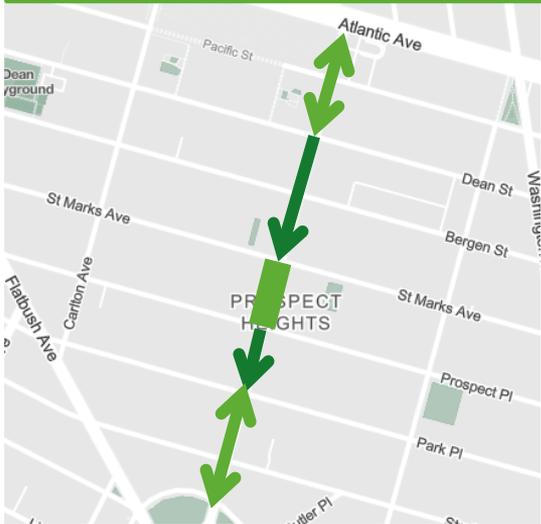
- **Narrow roadway and maintain flexible curb lane**
- **Capital improvements to facilitate open street, i.e. better barriers/gateway treatments**

Continuous One-Way Southbound



- **Segments of two-way operations for circulation**
- **Capital improvements to facilitate open street, i.e. better barriers/gateway treatments**

Conversion to Slow Streets

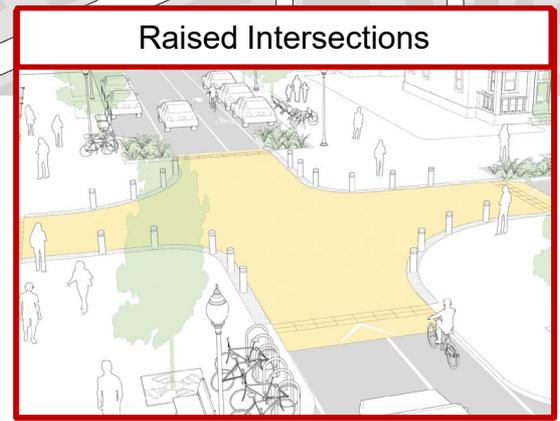


- **Volume reduction to facilitate slow/shared streets**
- **Combination of two-way travel or one way travel with contraflow bus**

Safety, Pedestrian, and Cyclist Improvements (Underhill Ave)



-  Potential raised intersections
-  Potential location for traffic calming elements
-  Underhill Plaza (to be constructed under separate project)



What comes next?

Spring 2024

- Restart community engagement (April)
- In-person workshops
- Preliminary design

Summer/Fall 2024

- Community presentation of initial designs
- Refine design

Fall/Winter 2024

- Final concepts presentation to community
- Conclude study + complete report
- Identify paths for construction funding



Thank You!



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