



Department of  
Design and  
Construction

OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
AND NOTIFICATION

# Roadways

Improving  
city streets for  
everyone



IN NEW YORK CITY, OVER 6,000 miles of streets and highways connect neighborhoods and link the city to surrounding areas, a vital network maintained by the NYC Department of Transportation. Beneath these roads are thousands of miles of underground sewers and water mains, managed by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Sometimes city roadways need comprehensive reconstruction due to aging infrastructure, neighborhood rezoning, street conditions, or community concerns. The NYC Department of Design and Construction manages the roadway rebuilding process to ensure new streets are as safe as possible, the underground infrastructure will continue to serve everyone, and that the result will last for decades.

Installing  
underground  
infrastructure,  
the Bronx



# Reconstructing a Roadway

THE NYC DEPARTMENT of Design and Construction actively seeks approval and input from the community as we begin to redesign the street to better serve the neighborhood's current needs. We make formal presentations to community boards, and submit plans and drawings.



ENGINEERS WILL INSPECT every element, from underground infrastructure to sidewalks. For example, to check sewers for cracks, leaks, and breaks, remote-controlled cameras are sent down into each sewer. After a comprehensive check of every component of the infrastructure system, these experts determine the best possible way to rebuild the street for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It will be designed to meet the needs of the community and improve the quality of life for all residents.

*Left: An infrastructure survey, Brooklyn  
Below: Street flooding before work begins, Southeast Queens*





## BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

begins, community construction liaisons notify residents and businesses of the upcoming project. Community meetings and workshops are held to keep everyone informed. Comprehensive plans are developed to maintain traffic flow and pedestrian access. Street trees are pruned and protected. Storage areas are set up near the worksite for easy access to construction materials.



WE MAY HAVE TO do a preliminary dig into the roadway to check conditions before proceeding with the main excavation. Any underground utilities that interfere with reconstruction are relocated, which requires coordinating with utility companies.

*Left:*  
A Community  
Construction  
Liaison in  
Far Rockaway,  
Queens  
*Below:* A test  
pit, Manhattan





**OLD WATER MAINS** are removed and replaced with new pipes that will last for decades, built to avoid breaks and cracks. The sanitary sewer, which carries human waste, is upgraded to better serve the community's needs. Storm sewers are replaced to improve stormwater management and reduce street flooding.



**CATCH BASINS**, which direct stormwater out of city streets for improved safety and quality of life, are installed and connected to storm sewers. Curbs and sidewalks are rebuilt. We may install sustainable infrastructure elements that help manage stormwater. Pedestrian ramps are rebuilt to improve accessibility so all residents can get around safely.



*Left:*  
Removing old  
water mains,  
Manhattan  
*Below, clockwise  
from top left:*  
A catch basin,  
new sidewalk,  
a crosswalk,  
a rain garden



**THE ROADWAY** is constructed and paved. Bus and bike lanes are placed. Crosswalks are marked for pedestrians. The new street will ensure safety for everyone, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

**NEW STREET TREES** are planted along the roadway for shade and greenery. Medians may be placed as well, sometimes with hardy grasses. New LED street lights are installed, which are more energy efficiency than older models. Improved traffic signals may be installed that better manage traffic flow. Accessible pedestrian signals are often installed as well, to assist visually impaired pedestrians in crossing the street.

*Below:  
Tillary Street,  
Brooklyn*





Roadway reconstruction projects take years because numerous elements are upgraded and extensive coordination is necessary. Reconstruction requires cooperation between city agencies, working together to provide the best possible roads for the least amount of public funds. Each project considers the particular neighborhood and works to minimize construction impact in the community. The City of New York is committed to providing safe roadways for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Extensive investments in our city's streets include Vision Zero, which works to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries, and Great Streets, which prioritizes certain roadways for safety and infrastructure improvements.

For more information about the NYC Department of Transportation, visit [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot)

To learn more about the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, visit [nyc.gov/dep](http://nyc.gov/dep)

For information about the NYC Department of Design and Construction, visit [nyc.gov/ddc](http://nyc.gov/ddc)

