

ESCR CAG) Meeting -- May 25, 2023
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Ayo Harrington Martin Barrett Richard Heitler Frank Avila Goldman Michael Marino Wendy Brawer Dianne Lake

DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Hiring Compliance
 - A. We tabled a job fair event with various partners, including GOLES, at Henry Street Settlement today.
 - B. We're collaborating with DDC on a panel discussion and job fair on July 24 at 9 am. More information and a flyer a forthcoming.

- II. Construction Progress / Approach
 - A. Overview of contracts
 - 1. Much has stayed the same for PA1, PA2, and Parallel Conveyance (PC)
 - a) E. Houston Street retaining wall added to PA1
 - b) Gates 13 and 17 were installed in PA2 in April
 - c) Water main replacement is in progress as part of PC
 - B. Project Area 1 Construction Updates
 - 1. Import of the fill starts in mid-June and will be by barge. There are always questions about the fill, but we won't cover that today. We'll focus on that at CB 3 or the next CAG meeting. Questions about the fill can also be sent.
 - 2. E. Houston Street new retaining wall will support the soil for the raised park. We'll be working on it for the rest of the project (*see slide 8 for illustration*).
 - a) May 2023: started removal of southern portion of ramp and sidewalk
 - b) June 2023: pile install in southern area
 - c) Q1 2024: Build new south retaining wall
 - d) Q3 2024: Removal of northern portion of ramp and sidewalk and start pile install

(1) The circulation as it is right now will continue to next year. We've been actively monitoring that area and have taken back the questions we got on the signage and how to make the circulation better. It's a tricky area, so please know that we're working on it with all parties involved.

e) Q3 2025: Build new north retaining wall

f) 2026: Final restoration of E. Houston Street

C. Project Area 1 What We've Heard

1. E. 10th Street Construction activities: see CB3 presentation for more info:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/presentations.page>

2. Pedestrian Signage: Delancey Street pedestrian lane along FDR Service Road is not possible currently due to the existing construction

3. CAG Meeting Agenda: we'll have it for the CAG meetings moving forward

D. Project Area 1 Construction Approach Update / PA1 Phasing review

1. Accomplishments 2022 – 2023

a) Averaged 52% Open Space

b) Removal of Corlears Hook & Delancey Street Pedestrian Bridges

c) Construction of Corlears Hook Temporary Bridge

d) 85% of Phase 1 Deep Sewer work completed

e) 100% of Phase I and Phase II Stone Column work completed

f) Maintained limited public access on Shared Use Path

(1) We originally anticipated having to close it completely.

(2) The Community Construction Liaisons noticed some potholes from the winter weather (freezing and thawing) and are working with our contractors to fix up the paths.

g) Ongoing coordination with Parks on material salvaging

h) Maintained Corlears Hook Ferry Access

i) Parks/EDC opened Pier 42 Deck

2. Project status

a) The ESCR Program is on schedule to finish in 2026.

b) The team continues to evaluate the schedule and available work areas to ensure timely completion while maintaining 42% open space access to the community.

c) The updated phasing approach:

(1) Maintains the two-phase approach; however, for Phase I, the contractor is working north to south, instead of south to north as originally anticipated

(2) This approach prioritizes higher risk and/or long duration operations

(a) The northern portion of Phase 1 is where the majority of the deep sewer work is, and that's the area where there is the most fill. Fill settlement time is unknown and based on soil conditions.

(3) This prioritization reduces the likelihood of schedule slip.

- (4) Opening dates for Phase I shift slightly; however, the phasing realigns in Summer of 2024
- d) ESCR Work Prioritization & Acceleration
 - (1) The October 2021, Preliminary Phasing was a guide to the approach. As work is progressing, there are opportunities to accelerate long duration operations to ensure timely construction completion.
 - (2) Phase 1 - Work North to South – In progress – Prioritization
 - (a) Why: To complete deep sewer utility work for fill operations to begin – period of fill settlement is unknown
 - (b) How: Prioritizing Phase I northern work operations
 - (c) Result: To complete work operations in parallel instead of linearly by completing southern work operations while fill to the north is settling
 - (3) Phase II – Ballfield #3 Stone Column Installation & Sewer Bypass – Completed - Acceleration
 - (a) Why: To complete Phase I utility operations to not delay park openings. Complete stone column work for Phase I & Phase II
 - (b) How: Temporary closure of Phase II Ballfield #3 to accelerate operations
 - (c) Result: Minimized impact of Phase II work on Phase I
- e) Summer 2022
 - (1) We were able to keep parts of the Shared Use Path open
 - (a) The Con Ed parks project was in Reach J, and we kept the connection between PA1.
- f) Summer 2023
 - (1) This is where we see the first change in the openings
 - (a) We had originally anticipated being able to start opening Reach C and D, but in order to prioritize the utility and fill operations in the north portion of Phase 1, there will be a slight shift.
 - (2) Pending the archaeology which we hope to hear about soon, Corlears Hook Park is on target for completion at the end of 2023.
 - (3) We'll still be able to keep the areas north of Stanton Street open.
 - (a) We'll maintain the 42% minimum of the park open, and right now it's at about 50%.
- g) Early Summer 2024
 - (1) Reach C and Reach D will open
 - (2) Corlears Hook bridge will be open

(3) Only when the contractor is able to give back open space will they take open space. They will move to the northern reaches in Phase 2.

h) Winter 2024

(1) We become realigned with where we had originally anticipated being: Phase 1 being fully open.

i) Summer 2025

(1) Will remain the same as in the October 2021 preliminary phasing

j) Summer 2026

(1) We'll see the opening of Reaches G and J

k) Late 2026: project completion (as originally anticipated)

l) PA1 Updated Schedule

(1) When it's ready, we'll share an updated schedule that includes what was originally anticipated for comparison purposes (on one graphic).

(2) We'll answer additional questions about this as they arise, and we'll be at the June CB 3 meeting and back here at the end of June.

E. PA2 Construction Progress (See 5/22/2023 CB6 Meeting Presentation: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/presentations.page>)

1. Asser Levy Playground

a) Opened to public

b) Floodwall and floodgate #18 installed

2. E. 23rd St. Intersection:

a) Floodwall, curb and sidewalk construction ongoing

b) Gate 17 installed

3. Stuyvesant Cove Park north of E. 20th St.

a) Greenway open

b) landscape iron rail fabrication in process

c) Gate 13 installed

d) Scheduled to reopen May 26, 2023

4. Stuyvesant Cove Park south of E. 20 St.

a) Ongoing floodwall construction

b) Ongoing Greenway construction; anticipated to reopen in June 2023

c) Ferry access will remain open

d) Scheduled to reopen June 2023; we've been coordinating with EDC and Solar One. Plantings will follow in the fall.

5. E. 18th Street & SB FDR entrance ramp

a) Floodwall construction ongoing

6. Murphy Brothers Playground

a) Floodwall construction and pile installation

7. E. 15th Street between Ave C and FDR Dr. within Con Edison

a) Sewer replacement & test pits

8. Southbound shoulder of E. 16th Street
 - a) Sewer work continues

III. Environmental Reporting Update

- A. We added monitors 15 and 16 close to Jackson Street to monitor the flood wall work that was happening there.
- B. PA1 AQM April 2023 update
 1. We had some alerts that were a little bit longer than the typical 15-minute ones we've had, primarily in the Montgomery to Jackson Street area.
 - a) We're working with the contractor and the other projects to address those.
 - b) Some was due to vehicular traffic; some was due to offsite construction.
 - c) Dust suppression techniques were applied.
 2. We did not surpass the PEL for this month.
- C. We moved a monitor from E. 23rd Street to Murphy Brothers Playground since dust-inducing construction activity is over at the former.
- D. PA1 AQM April 2023 update
 1. There were no alerts in the Solar One/Stuy Cove Park area.
 2. There were some alerts in the Murphy Brothers Playground area; a third-party source is assumed responsible because there was no construction taking place at the time.

IV. PC Construction Update

- A. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Water St.
 1. Water main replacement in progress on Water Street
 2. To begin utility relocation
 3. We've been coordinating with the residents in that area on the water main shut offs and the full water main shutdowns.
- B. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St.
 1. Test pit operations
- C. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St.
 1. Test pit operations
- D. Location 4 – Houston & Avenue D
 1. Test pit operations
- E. Location 5 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
 1. Project area survey
- F. Typical construction sequencing for PC
 1. Locations without tide gate chamber buildings
 - a) Mobilization & Protection
 - b) Test Pits and Site Survey
 - c) Utility relocation and upgrades
 - d) Install parallel conveyance sewer lines
 - e) Final restoration

2. Locations with interceptor gate chamber buildings
 - a) Mobilization & Protection
 - b) Test Pits and Site Survey
 - c) Utility relocation and upgrades
 - d) Excavation for Interceptor Gate Chambers
 - e) Install parallel conveyance sewer lines
 - f) Final restoration

V. Q & A

- A. Frank: There was a box on the floor from Miramax Engineering that said “monitoring in progress” at the PC work on Water Street. Do you know if that’s related to the PC work?
 1. Desiree: That’s a vibration monitor for the PC work.
- B. Frank: How long will Water Street be closed?
 1. Desiree: Approximately three weeks. We can put together a slide that shows what the ongoing operations in Location 1 will be.
 - a) Frank: That would be really helpful so we can understand when we can use the street for storage and various activities for the Gouverneur Gardens capital improvement plan.
- C. Frank and Desiree talk and clarify that FDR and vehicle traffic are considered to be part of the baseline monitoring.
 1. Frank: Looking at the Montgomery to Jackson Street location, the exceedances are in bold?
 2. Desiree: The bolded ones are *net exceedances*, meaning that the difference of two monitors—such as the downwind monitor had a higher reading than the upwind monitor. The non-bolded dates are single exceedances, or just one monitor.
 3. Frank: I feel it’s hard to figure out with all these air quality monitors where the exceedances are coming from, for example, because Pier 42 construction is right there also. When you say off-site vehicle traffic, does this mean the FDR? Or something else?
 4. Desiree: Anything that says on-site is something in the ESCR project limits. Anything that is off-site would be, for example, like Pier 42 construction.
 5. Frank: Does this also accurately reflect non-construction traffic, like on the FDR?
 6. Desiree: The FDR is traffic in the background, and I don’t know all the terminologies, but that is a constant.
 7. Frank: I know last year there was controversy about an air monitor being near a bus stop. So that was an example where it was not construction related.
 8. Desiree: Similar to PA2 on the chart when there was an all-day exceedance and it was outside the construction time there wasn’t any dust there, that is something where it was from an outside source. So if there is a consistent

exceedance reading, we can observe an outside condition affecting the baseline and respond accordingly.

- D. Frank: Back to the vibration monitor for PC; is that standard?
1. Desiree: It's standard; there are noise, vibration, and air monitors.
 2. Frank: And the vibration monitors for ESCR can't be used for PC because they're different contracts?
 3. Desiree: The vibration monitor is just to ensure that vibrations aren't impacting the structures in any way. The monitors in your building would pick up any type of vibration that might be an issue—even if it were Gouverneur Gardens' capital improvement project.
- E. Dianne: Do you have more detail on the esplanade demolition and how pedestrian access around the ballfields will be maintained in Summer 2024? I'm having trouble envisioning where this pedestrian path will be.
1. Desiree: Will do.
- F. Dianne: When will the connector path between Stuy Cove Park and East River Park reopen?
1. Desiree: It's scheduled to open in June. As long as they can move forward with completing the gate work they have to do in that area, they should be able to open it.
- G. Dianne: When does the contractor expect to have a clearer picture of the fill settlement plan?
1. Desiree: It is somewhat of an unknown, dependent on site and weather conditions. The first round of fill is a small amount of the total—we need to level off areas where we did excavation. We'll have a better idea once the process starts and we'll give more detail about fill at the next CB 3 and at the June CAG meeting.
 - a) Dianne: It would be helpful to explain these reasons at CB 3.
- H. Wendy: Once there's grass on the fill, is there any guarantee about it settling further/in the coming years?
1. Desiree: The compaction of the fill is tested throughout the settlement period; once the appropriate rate of compaction is achieved in the full area, it can be built upon.
- I. Wendy: The Deltares report said three barges a day for 3 ½ years; is that still the schedule?
1. Desiree: I'd have to check on that. As I said, I'm not prepared today to answer all fill-related questions. You can send your questions over, and I'll address them at the next CB 3 meeting.
- J. Wendy: Is the fill coming by barge?
1. Desiree: Yes.
- K. Wendy: Can we see the report from the vibration monitors?
1. Desiree: That would need to be FOILED.
- L. Wendy: For the E. Houston St. retaining wall, in the proposed conditions where's the bike lane?

1. Desiree: You can see it here on page 18, from when we presented at the June 2022 CAG meeting: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/project-updates/community-advisory-group.page>
- M. Wendy: Why isn't the whole sidewalk at Houston St. open, and you just close the gate to the south? Let people cross over and then put the gate there instead of closing off that whole section.
1. Desiree: It was said that part of the sidewalk needed to remain closed for the safety of pedestrians due to the proximity to the construction activities. But we can bring that back.
 2. Wendy: I do think that people are still crossing through traffic there. This seems very important to try to prevent accidents.
 3. Desiree: We are actively monitoring that intersection and entrance to work on how to make it better. We also really need the community to follow the detour signs.
- N. Wendy: What happened to the pinch point bridge? It wasn't mentioned here in the schedule.
1. Desiree: That's a separate project that's currently under design with DDC, and we can provide an update in the interim or the next CAG meeting.

VI. CAG-only Portion

- A. Tara: We're trying to schedule a local hiring meeting among a sub-set of CAG members.
- B. Dianne: The fill situation is a wild card. We should ask some more specific questions in an organized way regarding fill and compaction rates so we can better understand how this project can be completed by 2026.
1. Tara: Since they're supposed to present more detailed information at CB 3, do you want to wait until then to organize your questions, or do you want to start now?
 - a) Dianne: I think we should do it now because she might be able to get some answers before CB 3, and the fill discussion might be a little bit more detailed.
- C. Martin: It's likely that my time on the CAG will be limited since the Stuy Cove Park area is opening. You should really insist on things you want for the park -- such as design of benches -- now. The park was done pretty much done in the timeframe they said it would be, and I'm pleased. We're still trying to get call boxes through.
1. Tara: Is the councilmember aware the desire for call boxes?
 - a) Martin: We've told everybody.
- D. Wendy: We also asked for a call box in PA1 near the track where it's very dark and never got a response. Regarding fill, I'd like to know more about the process, including vibrations and if they'll be pounding all day and night. Is it guaranteed? What happens if divots form in five years? Is there already a contract for that fill? What size are the granules? My other questions are about the bike lane. How wide is it going to be? Will there be a line of trees separating it and the FDR?
1. Tara: We'll send this question to DDC.

- E. Tara: We'll send today's presentation to the CAG and ask for people's fill-related questions to compile and send to DDC.
- F. Wendy: I suggest that links that Desiree mentions during a presentation can be put in the chat.