



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller  
Chairperson  
Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

March 2, 2021

### Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

#### Transportation Committee Members Present

Sheila Lewandowski  
Thomas Mituzas  
Osman Chowdhury  
Jake DeGroot  
Kristen McGowan  
Steven Raga  
Mary Torres

#### Transportation Committee Members Absent

Jordan Levine  
John Vaichunas

#### CB 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager  
MaryAnn Gurrado

#### Elected Officials/Representatives

Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Aileen Sheil, Representing Council Member Van Bramer

#### NYC Department of Transportation

Gretha Suarez  
Irene Figueroa-Ortiz  
Samantha Dolgoff

### **Guests**

Patricia Dunphy, Rockrose  
Paul Januszewski, Rockrose  
Madeline Levin, LIC Partnership  
Seth Slade

Mr. Mituzas welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Department of Transportation provided the following update. It has been reported that majority of the DOT projects are on hold and will be revisited once the City and the State reopen due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION:**

Presentation on Public Space from LIC workshops, to present design proposals for two sites: Hunter St (44th Rd to Crescent St) and Jackson Avenue (44th Dr to 43rd Ave).

Irene Figueroa-Ortiz, DOT, reported that she was spearheading and overseeing the development of Public Space and Safety Improvements in Court Square on behalf DOT Public Space. She provided a presentation on Public Space designs based upon the virtual LIC workshops for the Hunter Street (44<sup>th</sup> Rd. to Crescent St. and Jackson Avenue (44<sup>th</sup> Dr. to 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave.), two Court Square sites in this neighborhood.

Patricia Dunphy and Paul Januszewski representing Rockrose, and Madeline Levin from LIC Partnership were present and in support of this project.

Mr. Mituzas thanked Gretha Suarez, DOT, and the DOT team for their work with the workshops, stating that they were absolutely excellent.

A copy of the proposal is attached. See Attachment 1 – Safety & Public Space Improvements in Court Square – Public Space Unit – March 2021.

Highlights include:

Examples of Proposed designs during the Pandemic:

- Proposed DOT Public Space Areas
- Proposed DOT 2020 Recovery Efforts
- Proposed DOT & The Public Realm in LIC
- Proposed DOT's Public Space Toolkit

The Proposal was divided into 4 Proposed Sections:

Section 1 dealt with: Proposed Court Square & The Public Realm:

Various areas that needed to provide:

- Proposed Industrial and Pedestrian Activities.
- Proposed relief to significant north-south bound pedestrian traffic
- Proposed Sufficient bike infrastructure.
- Proposed connected public spaces.
- Proposed pedestrian infrastructure that responds to desired paths.

Section 2 dealt with Community Conversations and Proposed Lessons Learned:

2019 On-Street Outreach:

Proposed Top Safety Concerns Reported:

1. Vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians.
2. Heavy vehicular traffic.
3. Speeding vehicles.
4. Vehicles illegally parked.

Proposed Top Improvements Requested:

1. More pedestrian circulation space.
2. More seating.
3. More bike amenities.

The virtual workshops held December 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 provided Workshop Summary.

The virtual workshops held February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 provided

- Proposed Workshop Summary.
- Proposed Areas of Improvement.
- Proposed Community Assets.
- Project Ideas Proposed at the December Workshops.

Section 3 dealt with Proposed Street Design Proposals:

- Proposed Hunter Street.
- Proposed Jackson Avenue.
- Proposed DOT's Toolkit: Operational Projects.
- Proposed Street Design Proposals: Maintenance Partner – ROCKROSE.

#### Section 4 Provided Hopeful Proposed Next Steps:

- CB 2 Transportation Committee presentation.
- Letters of Support from businesses and local organizations.
- Finalize DOT technical review.
- Implementation and maintenance by Rockrose.
- Installation of interim improvements planned for May-June 2021.
- NYC DOT will continue working on requested safety improvements in these two locations to build off the safety benefits provided by these public realm projects.
- NYC DOT plans to present additional public realm proposals in the near future.

Questions were entertained.

Ms. Suarez stated that DOT hoped to get feedback as well as concerns from CB 2 and the Transportation Committee so that they could move forward with the proposal and the project.

Mr. Mituzas stated that one observation he had was that before CB 2 provided letters of support, they would like more firmness around some of the proposed items identified and discussed at this meeting.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that this is a great opportunity for good things.

Mr. Mituzas thanked Ms. Suarez and the DOT team, and Ms. Figueroa-Ortiz for the detailed and informative presentation.

See Attachment 1 – Safety & Public Space Improvements in Court Square – Public Space Unit - March 2021

#### **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES** - Follow-up on DOT Issues

##### **Blissville**

Blissville Flagpole continue discussion – next steps

- CB2 is Requesting an open Street in Blissville at 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Bradley Avenue and Starr Avenue or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice Starr Avenue between Greenpoint Avenue and Review Avenue.

Ms. Suarez stated that DOT had no updates at this time.

A discussion occurred regarding this issue:

Mr. Mituzas stated that he is requesting that we refer to this Blissville Flagpole as it really is – A Veteran’s Memorial, not a flagpole, and that as such it should be treated and given the honor it really deserves.

Mr. Mituzas reported that he had learned that there are resources from DOT available for underserved communities.



Mr. Mituzas also stated that a community does not know who is responsible for the land – Parks or DOT. CB 2 only sees it as a Veteran’s Memorial. Mr. Mituzas suggested that if it is Parks that gets the money perhaps DOT should turn over the land to Parks.

Ms. Lewandowski said that they could make the area into a public park and lauded the suggestion.

Ms. Suarez stated that she would look into that suggestion.

Ms. Sheil stated that Council Member Van Bramer’s Office is looking into this option.

Mr. Mituzas stated that he had investigated that if neither the City or State wants to take responsibility there may be an option to pursue having the Federal Govt. take over the land, and make it a Federal Park.

Ms. Sheil stated that no options were off the table.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that she wanted to be sure that they add to the next or future Transportation Committee Meeting Agenda - for DOT to present the ??? Plaza Equity Program.

- The Blissville Greenway from K bridge to G bridge along review avenue connecting Laurel Hill and Blissville and the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Councilman Van Bramer has written a letter of support for this community inspired project that is also contained in the CB2s “Top 10” budget priorities. DOT-484255-K7Q6

Ms. Suarez stated that the Bikes Unit is interested in this project and they are working on many bike projects citywide, and they are looking into a bike connection in Queens. Ms. Suarez stated that she hoped to be providing updates to the Transportation Committee as they are available.

- Discussion of wrong One-way conversion of 37<sup>th</sup> Street Review Avenue and Bradley Avenue.

Ms. Suarez stated that in connection with this a study would need to be conducted to see if a change is feasible, and also to be addressing safety concerns i.e. if it is near a school, improving the traffic situation, etc. A letter from the Community Board would be helpful to examine the aspects and concerns and determine what would be helpful and safe and improve the situation.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that what had brought CB 2 to examine this issue was the drag racing. Ms. Lewandowski stated that traffic calming was the motivation in this issue, and the quick turn on to 37<sup>th</sup> St. would end up being one-way so that you don’t have people coming in both directions.

### Court Square

- Ramps Project (DOT Property)- DOT is awaiting an update.

Ms. Suarez reported that there was an architect hired to work on the design. No further information was provided on this project at this time. Ms. Suarez will provide updates as they are received.

Update Court Square site visit with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards.

Ms. Suarez stated that this should tie in with the presentation given at today’s Transportation Committee Meeting.

Mr. Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, stated that Queens Borough President Richards was meeting with Queens DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia tomorrow. On the Agenda is Blissville, Court Square and the Bridge.

Ms. Lewandowski requested that the Center Blvd.by 47<sup>th</sup> Road issue ??? be placed on that Agenda, as well.

### **Sunnyside**

#### **Sunnyside Speed Reducers**

- Request for Speed Reducer at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street between 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Barnett Avenue (DOT-469476-D3L8) Please provide installation date. (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Awaiting marking update.

Ms. Suarez stated that installation was scheduled to be installed mid-February. Back to back snowstorms impacted installation. DOT is looking to reschedule and will advise.

### **Woodside**

- One-way conversion of 59<sup>th</sup> Street from Roosevelt Avenue to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue as part of the pedestrian safety improvements the area of Woodside Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue. CB2 submitted letter. Please provide an additional update on conversion timing of the next construction season.

No update was provided at this time.

- Request for signal at Woodside Avenue and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street (intersection near LIRR entrance) DOT-438539-K3C0. According to DOT this signal investigation is on hold please provide an additional update? Traffic signals still on hold.

No update was provided at this time. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- Request to DOT for a One-Way Street conversion on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue Between 65<sup>th</sup> Place and 61<sup>st</sup> Street. Provide an update. (DOT-464313-T7R8) Open and being evaluated, please provide an update?

No update was provided at this time. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- Request for feasibility study for a one-way conversion on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 69<sup>th</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Place. (DOT-483019-P9P2).

No update was provided at this time. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- Request for traffic control study at 67<sup>th</sup> Street and Garfield Avenue. Did not meet conditions provide an update.

Ms. Suarez is following-up and will advise.

#### **Woodside Speed Reducers**

- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> Ave to Woodside Ave. (DOT- 433629-RSM3)  
– Please provide update DOT states this is still an active study.

This is still an active study.

- Speed Cushion request on 58<sup>th</sup> Place between Laurel Hill Blvd and 52<sup>Nd</sup> Avenue (DOT-297802-W3Y6) – This is Approved. (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.

No update was provided at this time.

- Speed Reducer request on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets (DOT-427192-D0P9 (DOT -430484-Z2V7). Approved (10/9 DOT informed CB2 this is prioritized). Please provide installation date.

No update was provided at this time.

#### **Long Island City**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Borden Avenue under the Pulaski Bridge Entrance and Exit to midtown tunnel requesting a left turn signal.

Ms. Suarez reported that DOT is looking to make improvements at this intersection. Updates will be shared as they become available.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that she wanted to make sure that DOT had the request for this improvement correctly. Ms. Suarez requested a letter from CB 2 reiterating the request.

There was a discussion regarding this issue.

- Request for the return of parking spots on the south side of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Vernon Blvd. and 11<sup>th</sup> Street – DOT442293J7J6. There is one ‘No Standing’ sign up is this an error? CB 2 sent letter (DOT-487825-L9M1).

Ms. Suarez stated that this is still an open case. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- 46<sup>th</sup> Road and Jackson Avenue – no left turn request (DOT 434607-G9J4) – Study due at the end of January. CB 2 sent a letter requesting a new study (DOT-487770-W4N0).

Ms. Suarez stated that this study was submitted for a traffic signal and is active. Ms. Suarez will follow-up.

- Center Blvd north of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue transfer of property from State to City. Please continue to provide update.

Ms. Suarez stated that no update was available at this time. This is still being worked on. She will follow up.

Ms. Sheil stated that she is also following up on this issue.

- Provide an update on the Vernon Blvd Bulkhead at 54th Avenue and Vernon Blvd.

Ms. Suarez stated that no further update was available at this time. DOT is working towards implementation and when a construction time-line is available she will provide that, and all other updates, as well.

There was a discussion regarding this issue:

Ms. Lewandowski stated that CB 2 has also had meetings and follow-up meetings regarding this project. Ms. Lewandowski stated that in those meetings they discussed making sure that there would be waterfront access whereas what was heard here was that they will try. She stated that there are serious concerns that construction is moving ahead, and that regarding the wall, once it is constructed, it will close off opportunities to make sure that there is waterfront access now or ever. While it is understood that this is an emergency repair the construction and the design stands as it is today which is why CB 2 and the Transportation Committee has not prepared a letter in support of that design, Council Member Van Bramer's Office is in support of CB 2, as well.

Ms. Suarez stated that while DOT understands that this is not what the Community Board is asking for, DOT wants to get the critical repairs completed.

Mr. Mituzas provided an observation: The Brooklyn side of the Bridge has a fabulous park while the Queens side of the Bridge is getting a brick wall. The Queens side of Newtown Creek is not being treated fairly.

#### **Long Island City Speed Reducers**

- CB 2 sent a letter of request for a feasibility study for a slow zone sign and a speed reducer on 38<sup>th</sup> Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Greenpoint Avenue (10/14/ 2020) Neighborhood slow zone (DOT-478719-Q9P4) Speed Reducer (DOT-478711-P8D2 Please provide an update.

Ms. Suarez stated that this is an active that was submitted at the end of 2020 and are still active studies. No further updates were provided at this time.

#### **CB2 District Wide Initiatives**

- CB 2 sent letter of support for the Queensboro bridge pedestrian cyclist lane. Please provide an update.

Ms. Suarez reported no further updates regarding this issue.

Mr. Joe Nocierino, representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards reported that last week he had walked the entire length of the Bridge with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and Queens DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia to gather information and see first hand some of the concerns of Community Board 2 and Council Member Van Bramer.

- Continue to follow up requests to review regulation changes for all 12/14-hour meters to 4 hours within CB 2. (DOT-481113-J7B9).

Discussion continued regarding this issue. Ms. Suarez stated that she had invited a representative from the Parking Unit to attend a Community Board 2 Transportation Meeting to address their issues and concerns.

- Continue to provide an update on the Open Streets.

Discussions continue regarding the Open Streets Program.

Ms. Suarez reported that DOT received a presentation from the Public Safety Unit that manages the Open Streets Program. They are looking to open up the applications in March 2021 or in the spring of 2021. They are finalizing the program and will be providing more support to the local partners and working more with the local partners. Ms. Suarez will advise CB 2 as soon as it becomes available.

Ms. Suarez reported that DOT has no further updates on Open Streets at this time.

Ms. Lewandowski inquired regarding the Open Culture Program.

Ms. Suarez reported that the Open Culture Program began March 1, 2021 and is already up on the website. It has been approved now so that any cultural institution and art institution can apply to that and there is more flexibility with the SAPO Permit so that applicants can begin to and have a chance to apply for any of the selected sites that are up on the website. Any issues or questions noted can be referred to Ms. Suarez or Ms. Sheil.

Ms. Lewandowski thanked Ms. Suarez for her updates.

Ms. Lewandowski and Mr. Mituzas thanked everyone for attending the Transportation Committee Meeting,

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

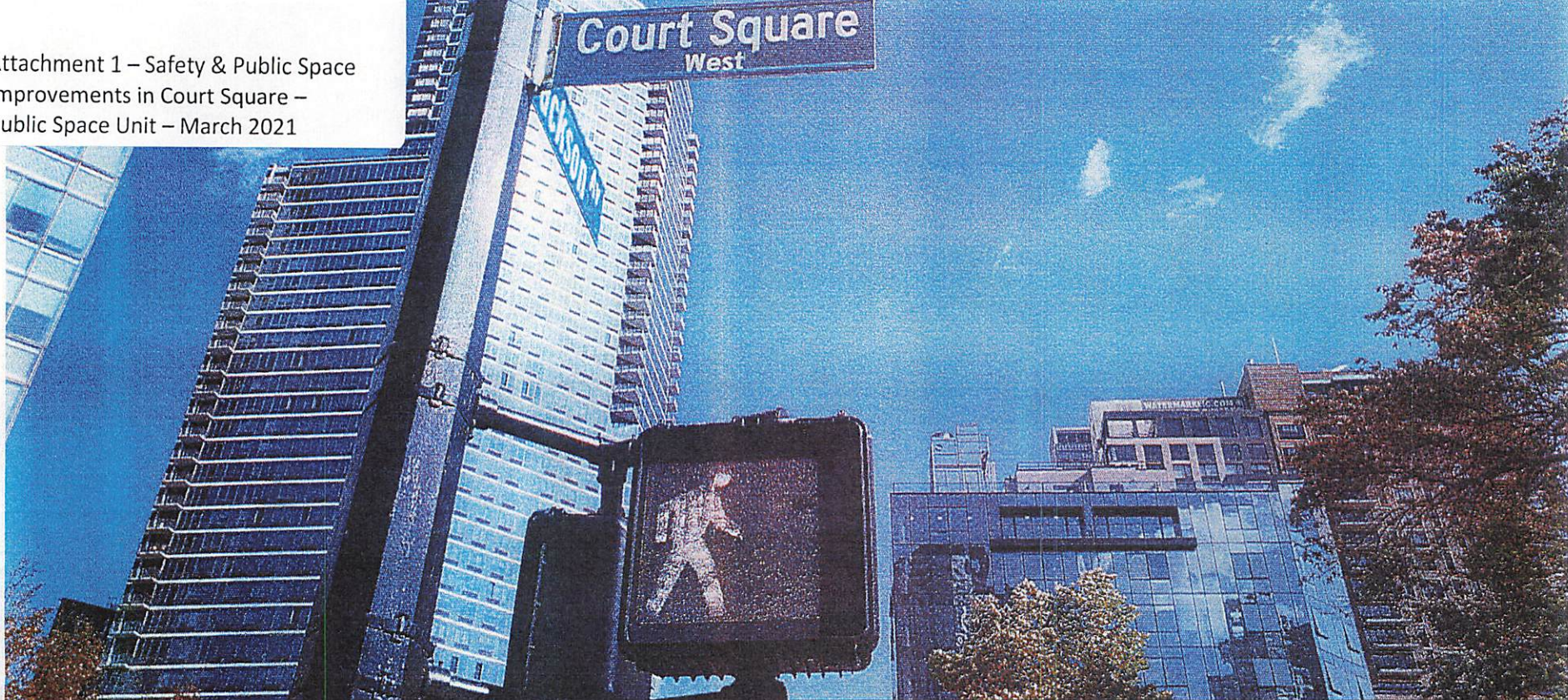
Respectfully submitted by:

Joan Bergman for Debbie Markell Kleinert

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Attachment 1 – Safety & Public Space Improvements in Court Square – Public Space Unit – March 2021





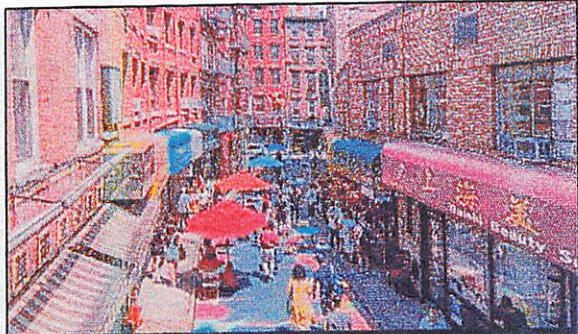
# SAFETY & PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS IN COURT SQUARE

Public Space Unit . March 2021

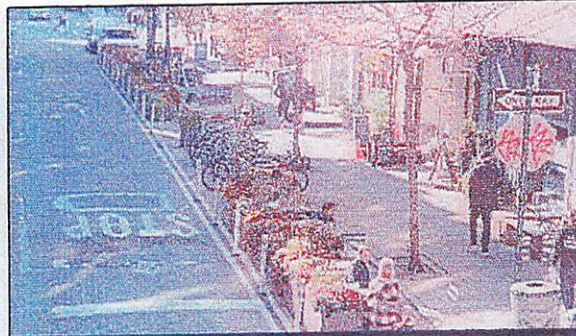




# DOT Public Space



Seasonal Streets



StreetSeats



Plaza Program



CityBench



29-Day Concessions



BikeCorrals



# DOT Public Space: 2020 Recovery Efforts



Open Streets



Open Restaurants



Open Streets: Restaurants



Open Streets: Plazas



Open Streets: Play



Emergency BikeCorrals



# NYC DOT & the Public Realm in LIC



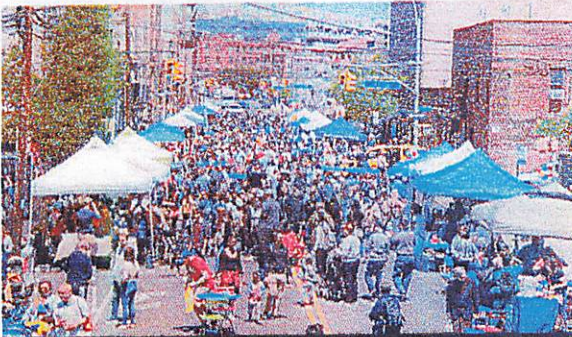
L-Space: Dutch Kills



44<sup>th</sup> Dr. StreetSeat



12<sup>th</sup> StreetSeat



Weekend Walks: Vernon Blvd



2020 Open Streets



NYC Open Restaurants



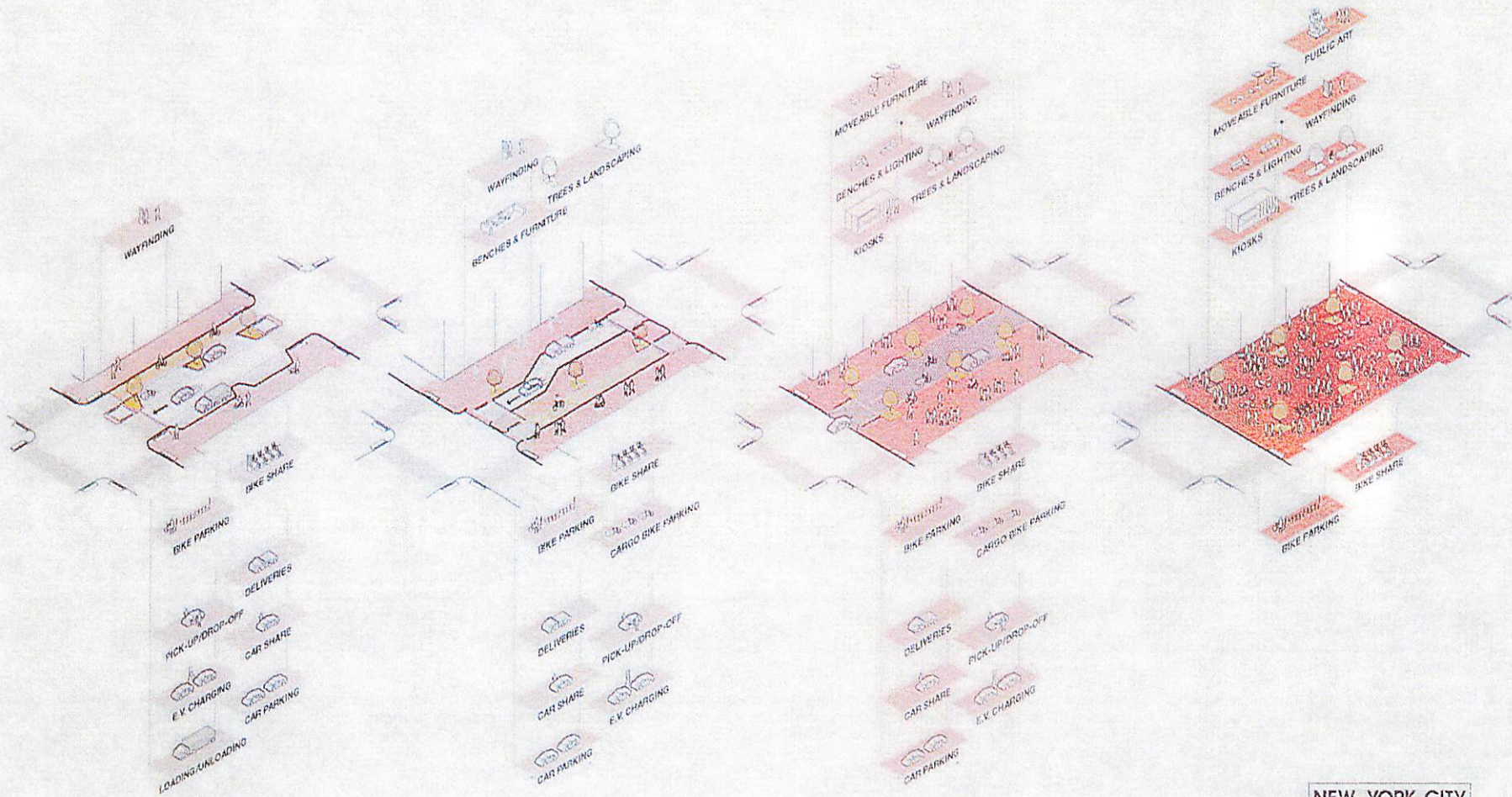
# DOT's Public Space Toolkit

BASE BLOCK

SLOW BLOCK

SHARED BLOCK

PLAZA BLOCK





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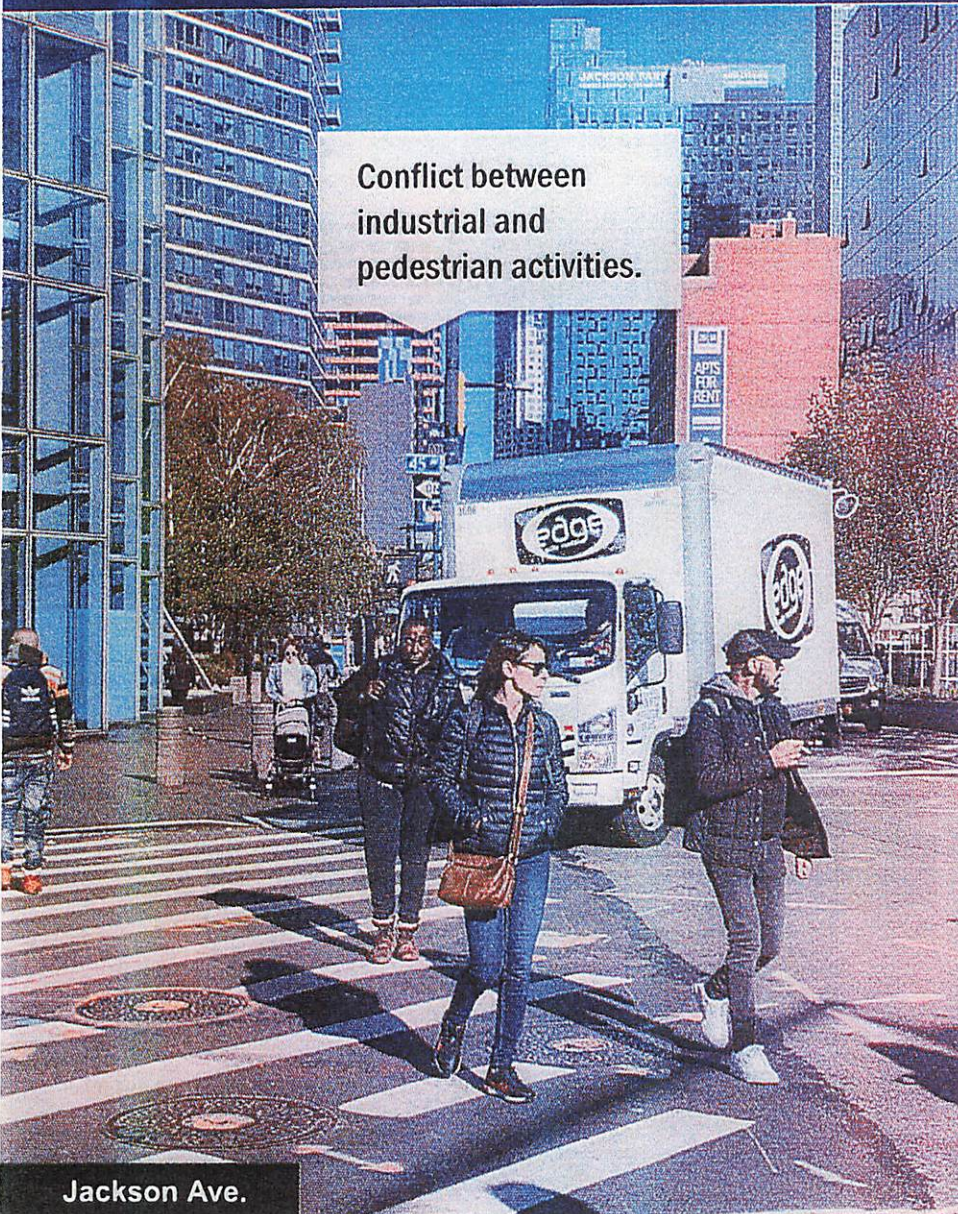
# Court Square & the Public Realm

# 1



# Court Square & the Public Realm

Conflict between  
industrial and  
pedestrian activities.



Jackson Ave.

Significant  
north-south bound  
pedestrian traffic

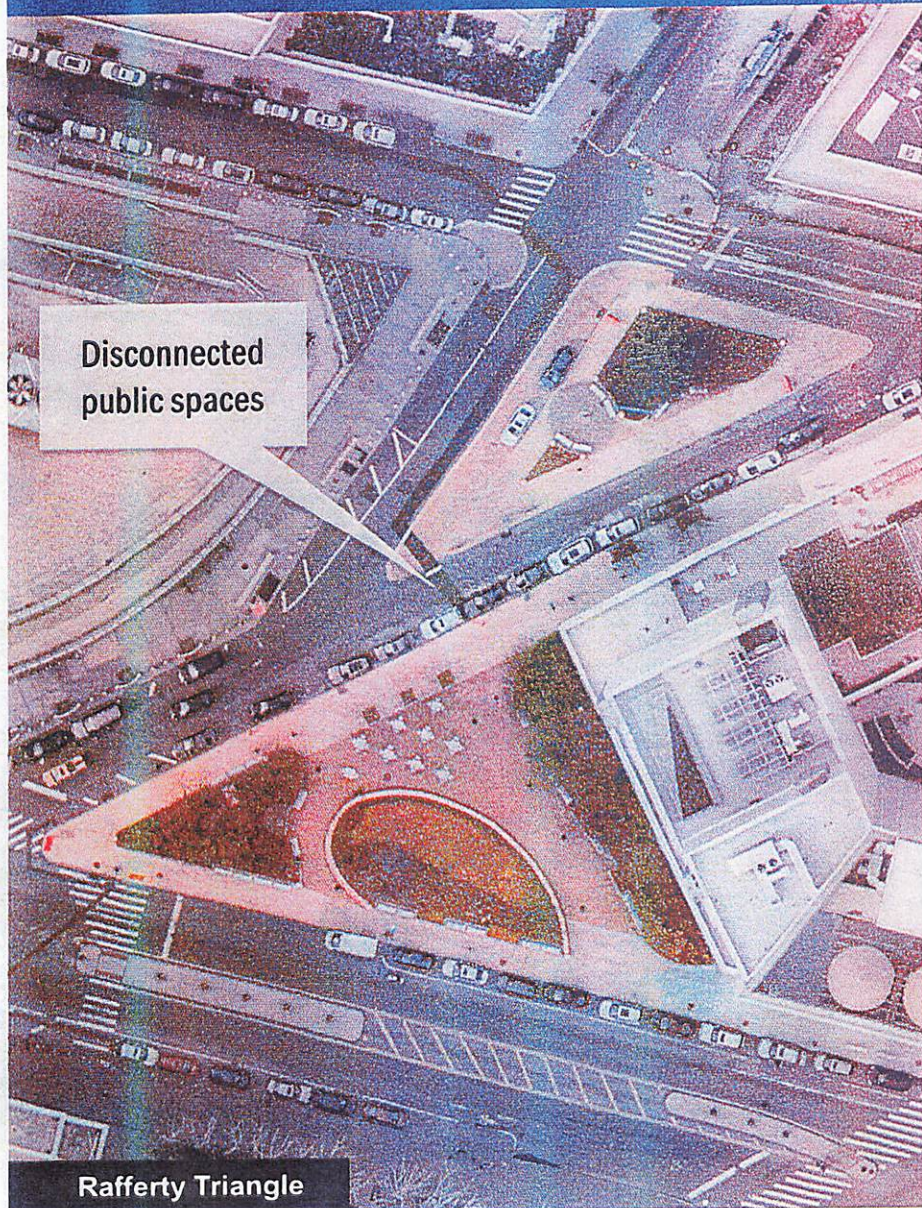


Insufficient bike  
infrastructure

Jackson Ave. (facing Court Sq. West)



# Court Square & the Public Realm





# Community Conversations

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## Lessons Learned

# 2



# 2019 On-street Outreach

53 interactions

2 deployments on October 23 & 30, 2019



## \_\_\_\_ Top Safety Concerns Reported \_\_\_\_

1. Vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians
2. Heavy vehicular traffic
3. Speeding vehicles
3. Vehicles illegally parked



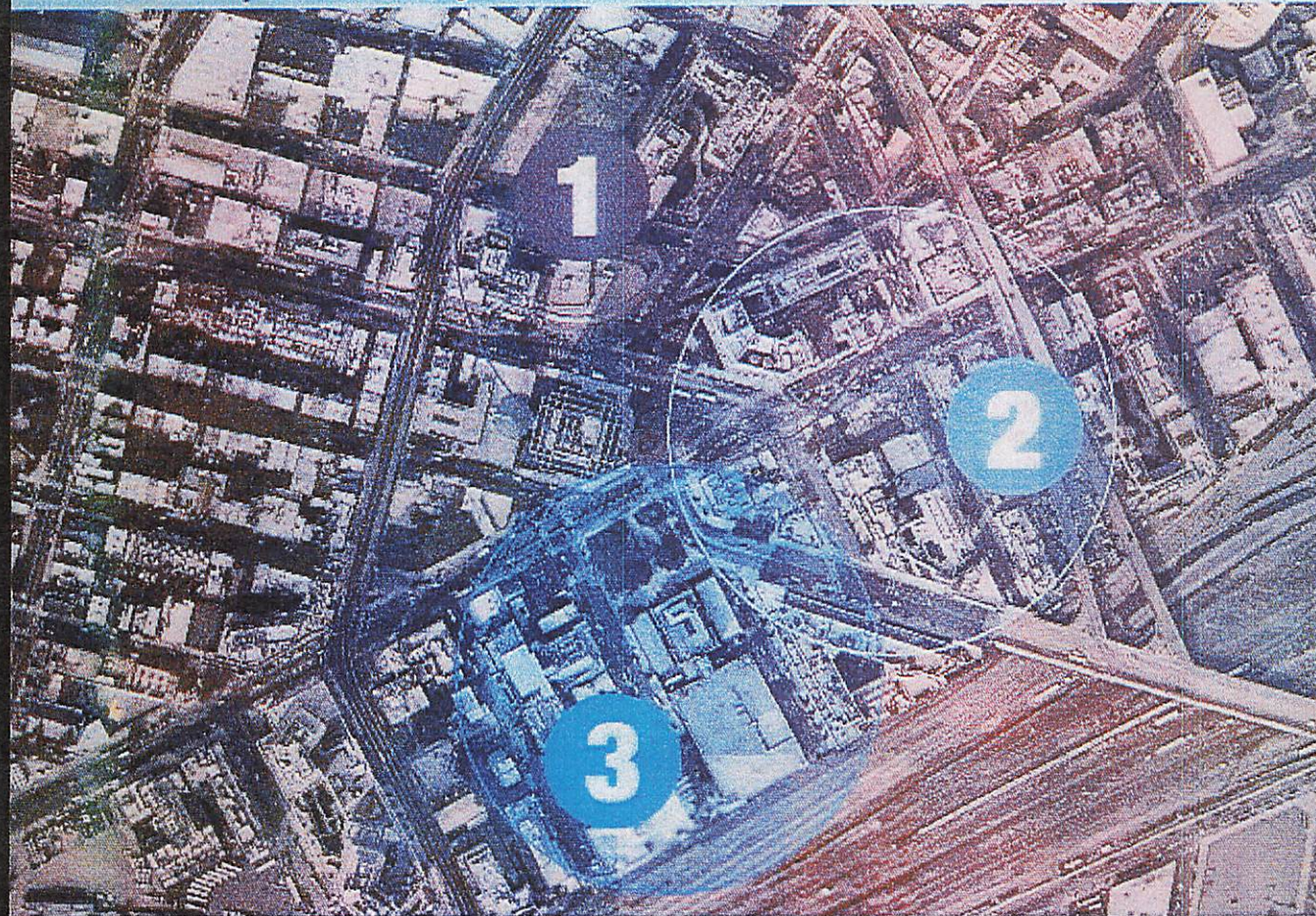
## \_\_\_\_ Top Improvements Requested \_\_\_\_

1. More pedestrian circulation space
2. More seating
2. More bike amenities



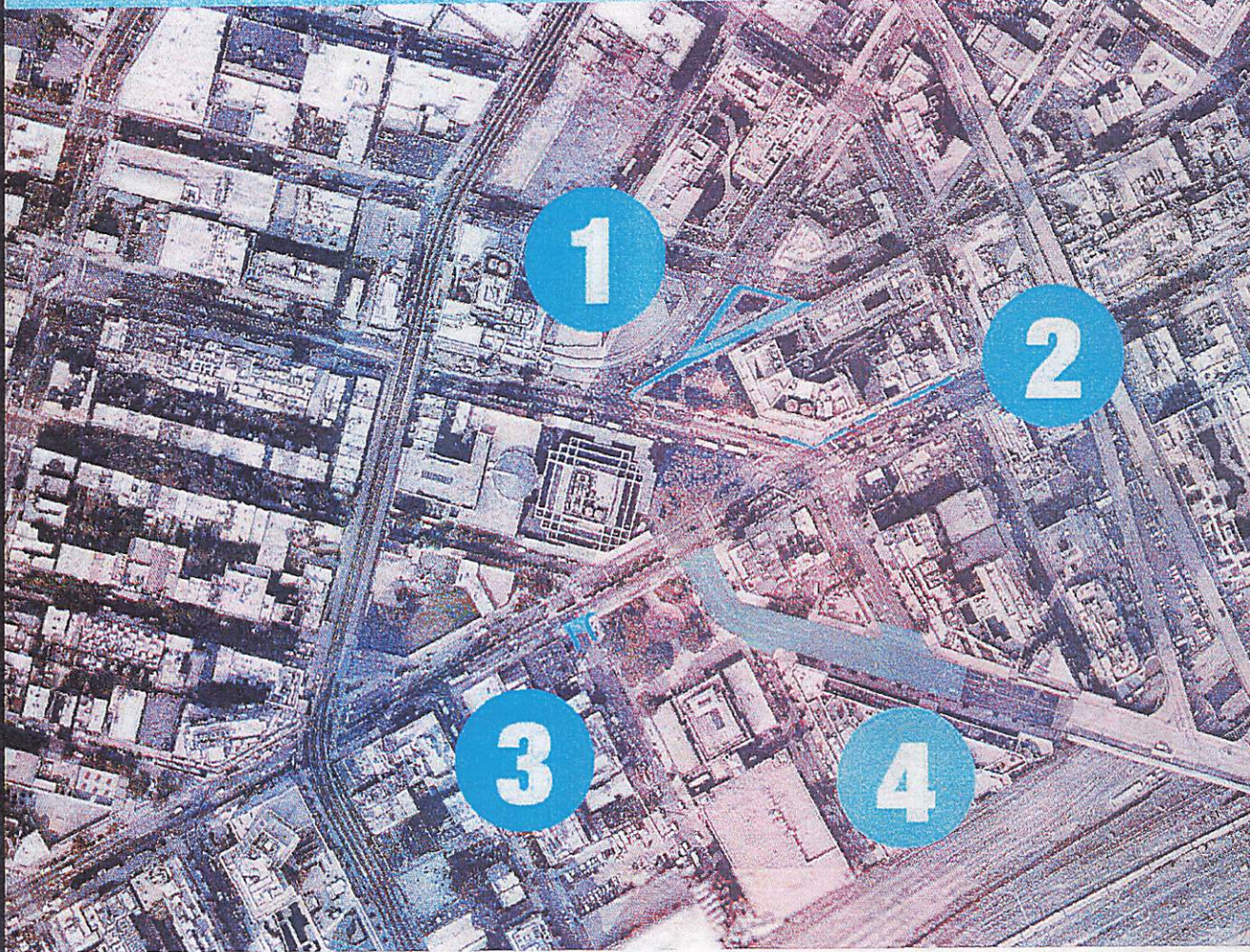


## Workshop Summary





## Workshop Summary





# Areas of Improvement

Poor pedestrian connections

Lack of crosswalks or sidewalk

Issues with double parking

Median on Jackson Ave





# Community Assets

All green spaces such as Rafferty Triangle and Court Square Park

Businesses on Jackson Ave and Crescent St

Public space activations such as the 44<sup>th</sup> Dr StreetSeat and L-Space

Local cultural institutions





# Project Ideas Proposed at December Workshops

- Expanding the public space around Court Sq. Park

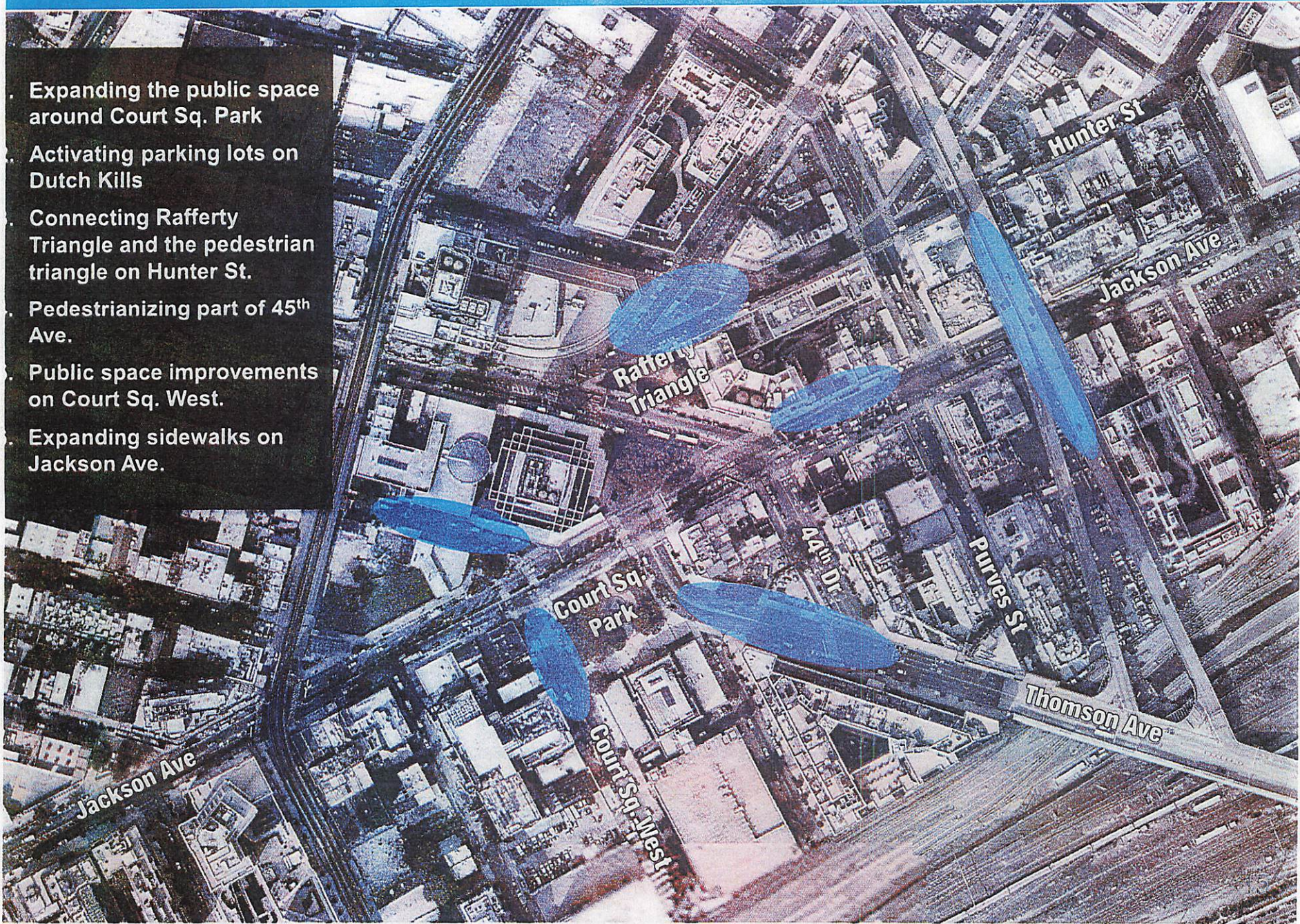
- Activating parking lots on Dutch Kills

- Connecting Rafferty Triangle and the pedestrian triangle on Hunter St.

- Pedestrianizing part of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave.

- Public space improvements on Court Sq. West.

- Expanding sidewalks on Jackson Ave.





# Street Design Proposals

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3



# Street Design Proposals

Hunter Street

Jackson Ave

Rafferty Triangle

44th Rd

44th Dr

45th Ave

Jackson Ave

Court Sq. Park  
Court Sq. West

Pearson St

Crescent St

Hunter St

43rd Ave

Hunter St

Jackson Ave

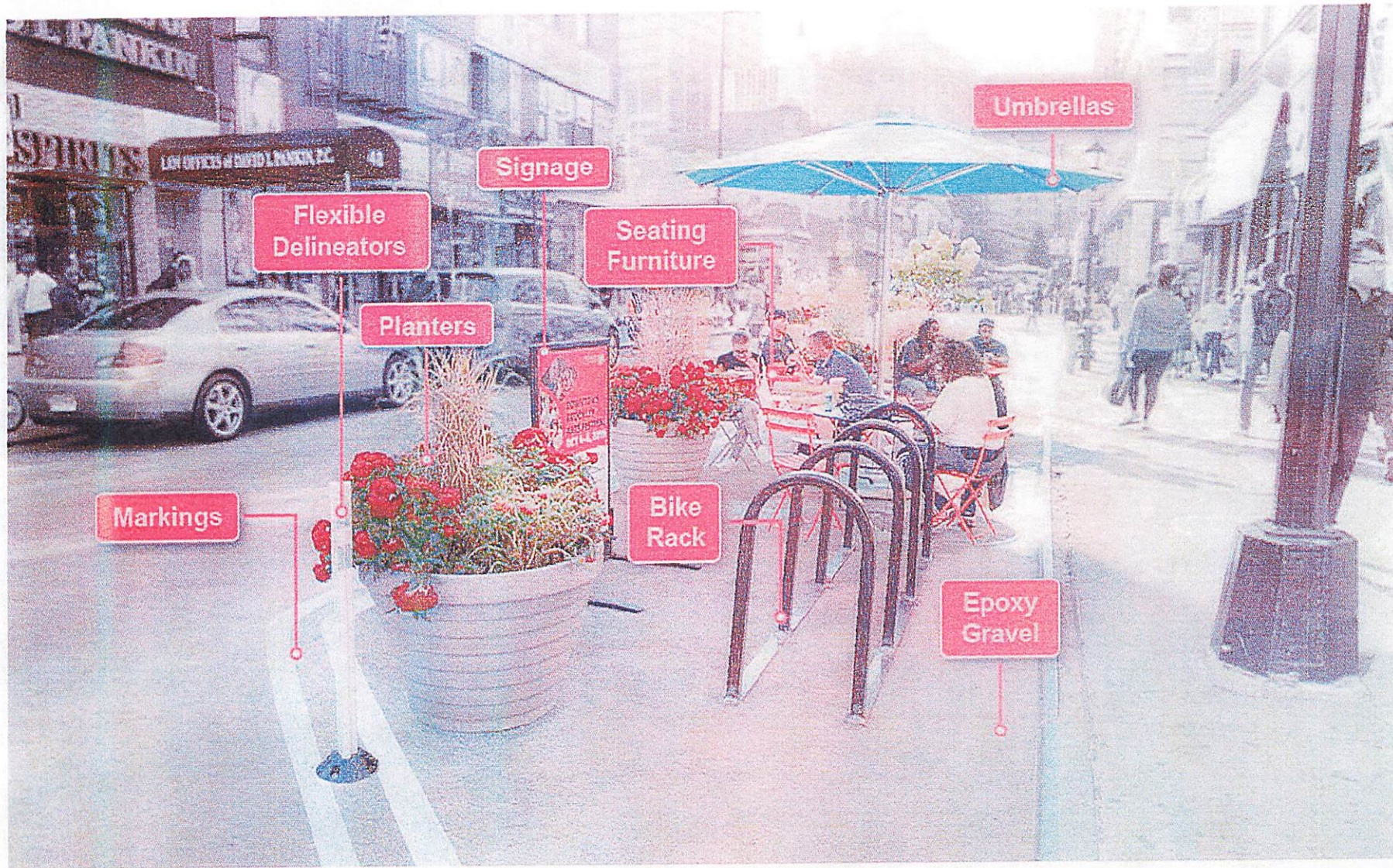
44th Dr

Thomson Ave

Purves St



# DOT's Toolkit: Operational Projects



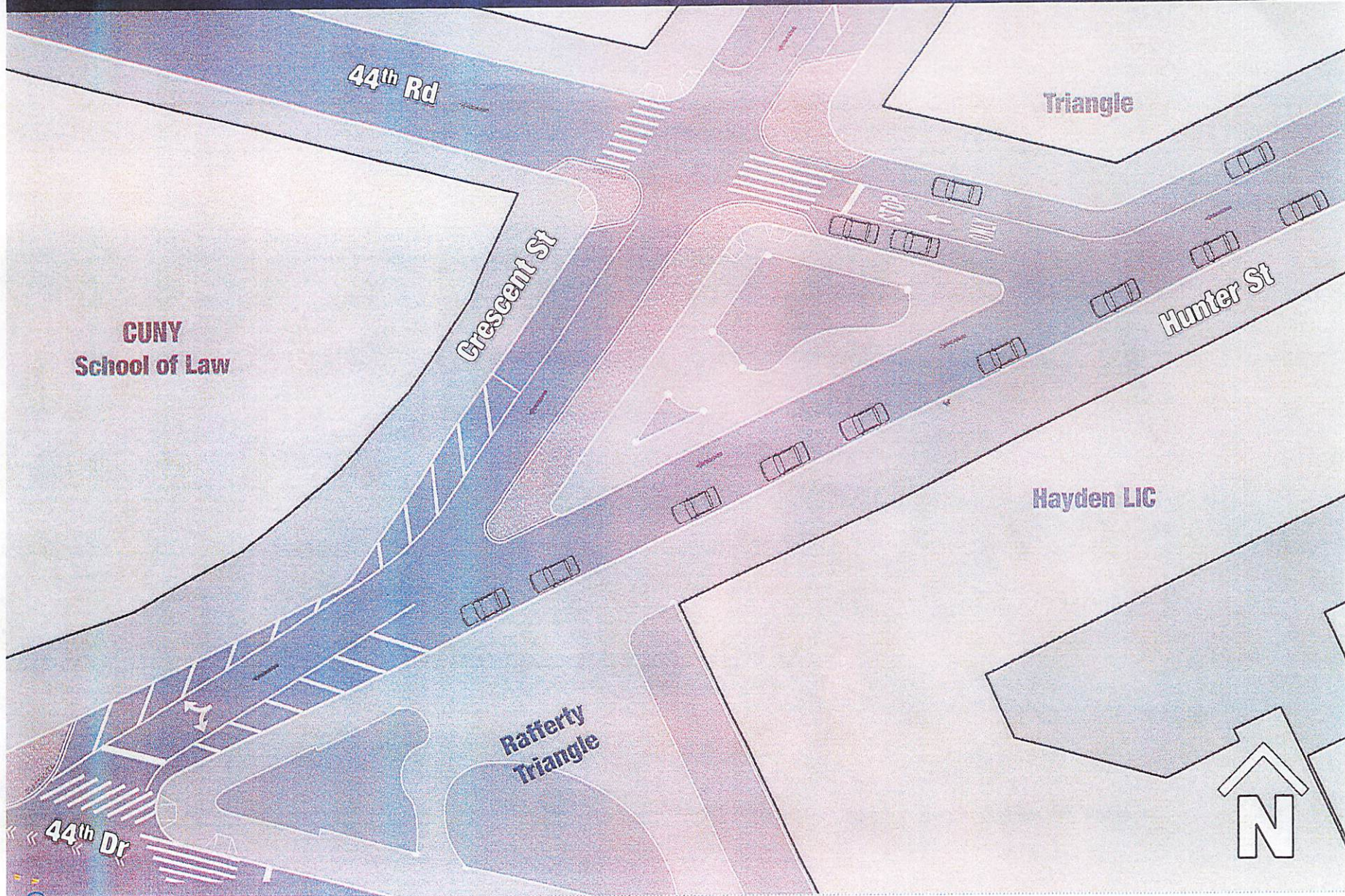




44<sup>th</sup> Dr StreetSeat (2019)

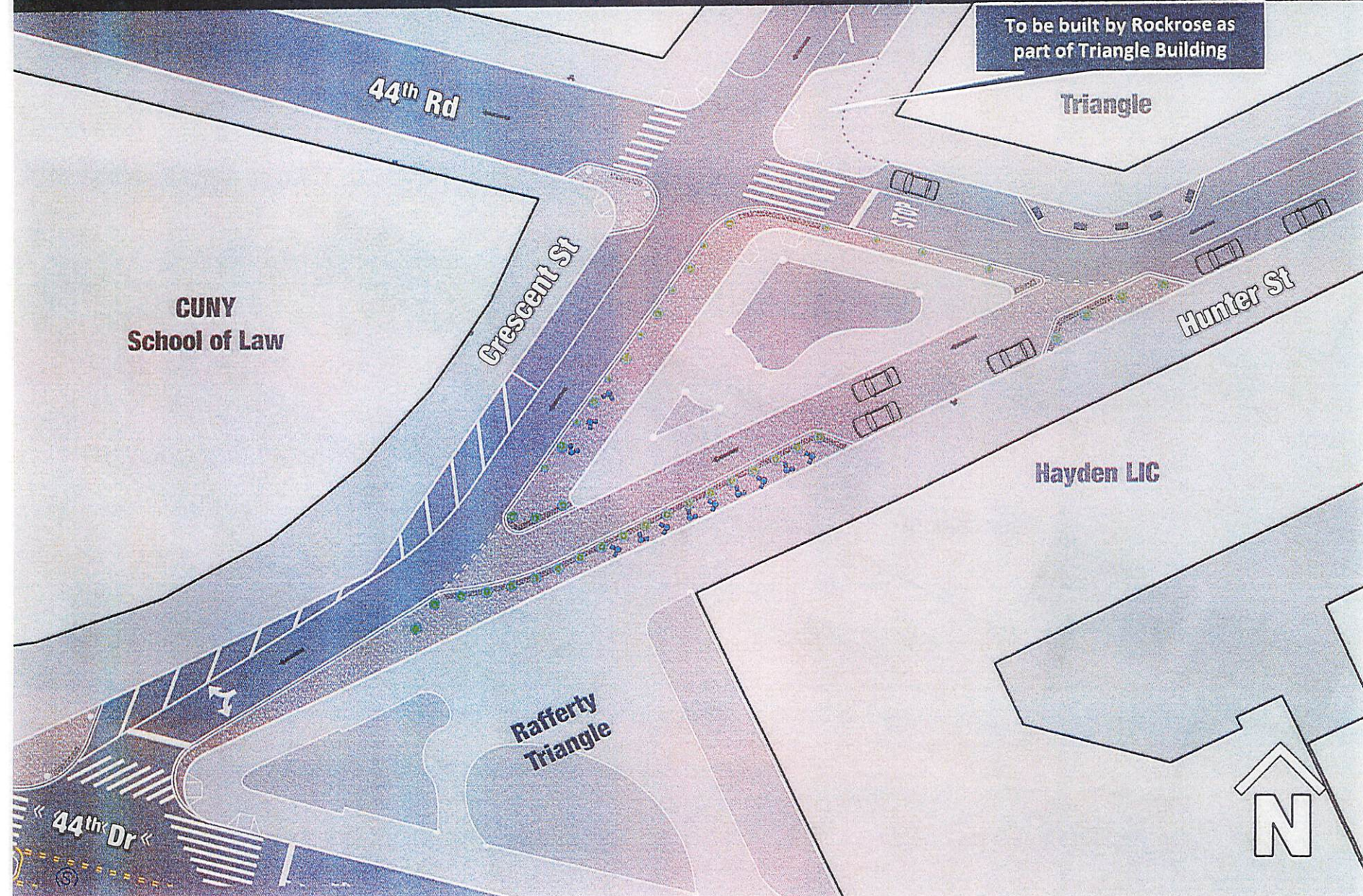


# Hunter Shared Street: Existing Conditions



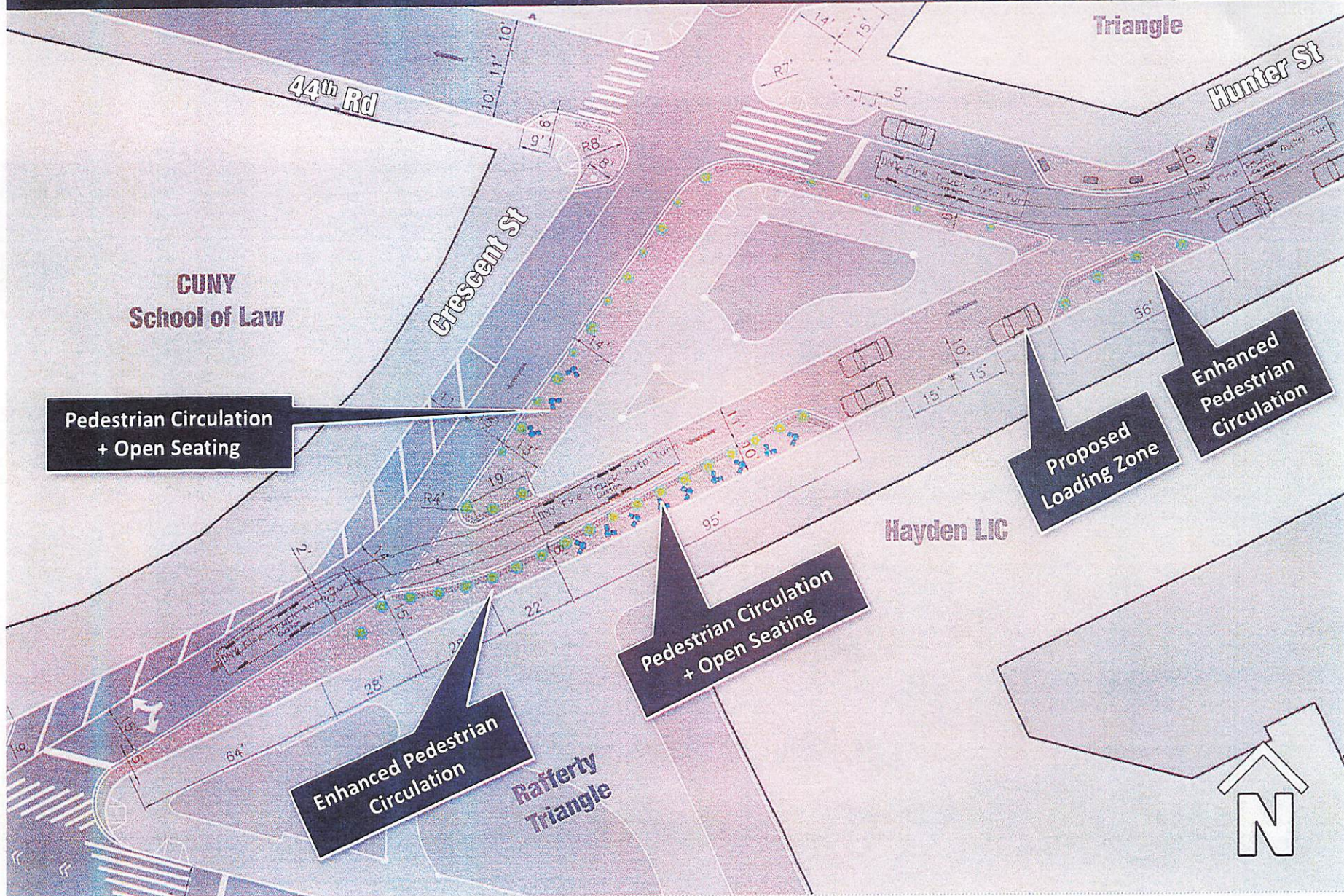


# Hunter Shared Street: Proposed Design



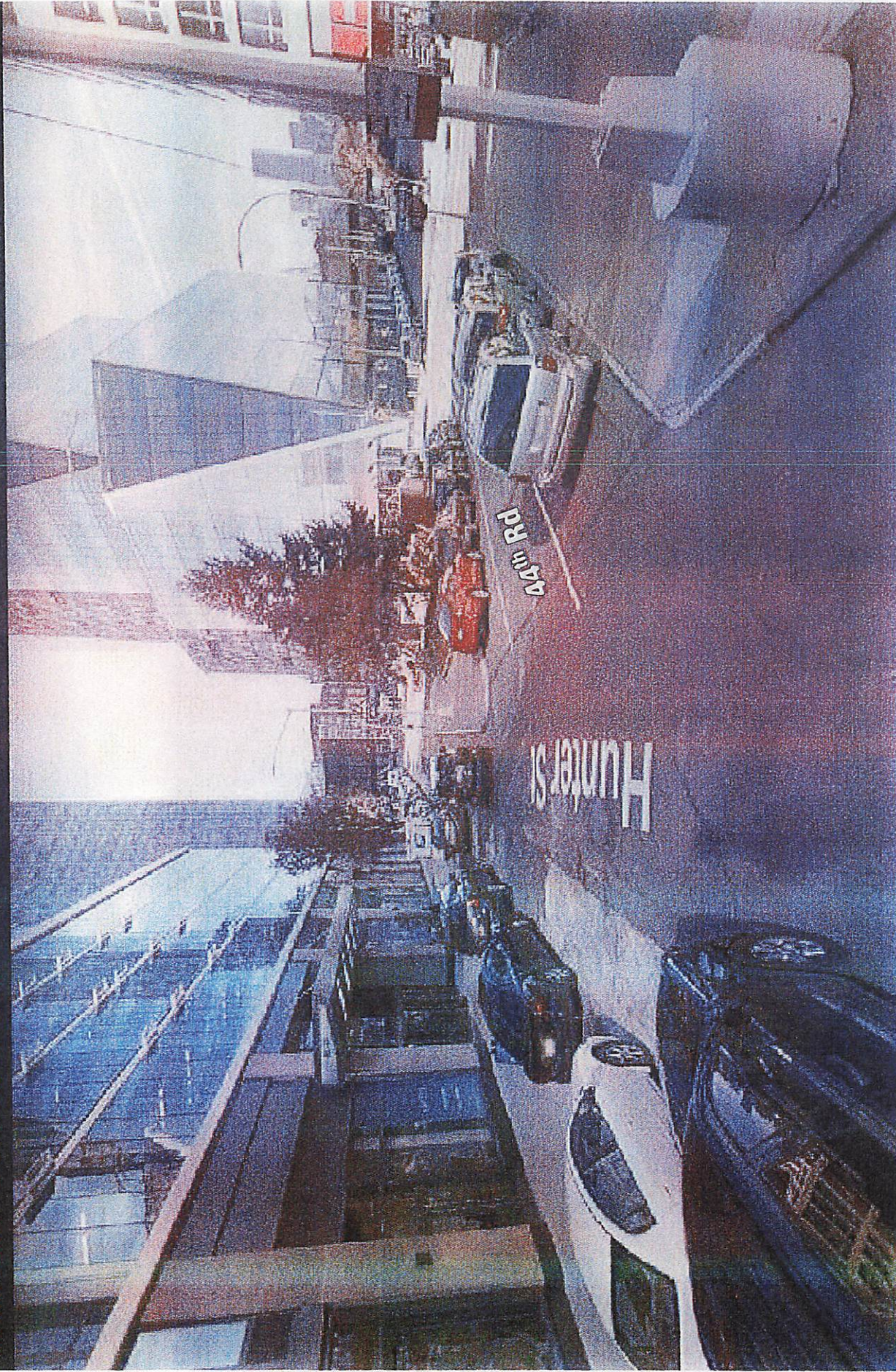


# Hunter Shared Street: Proposed Programming



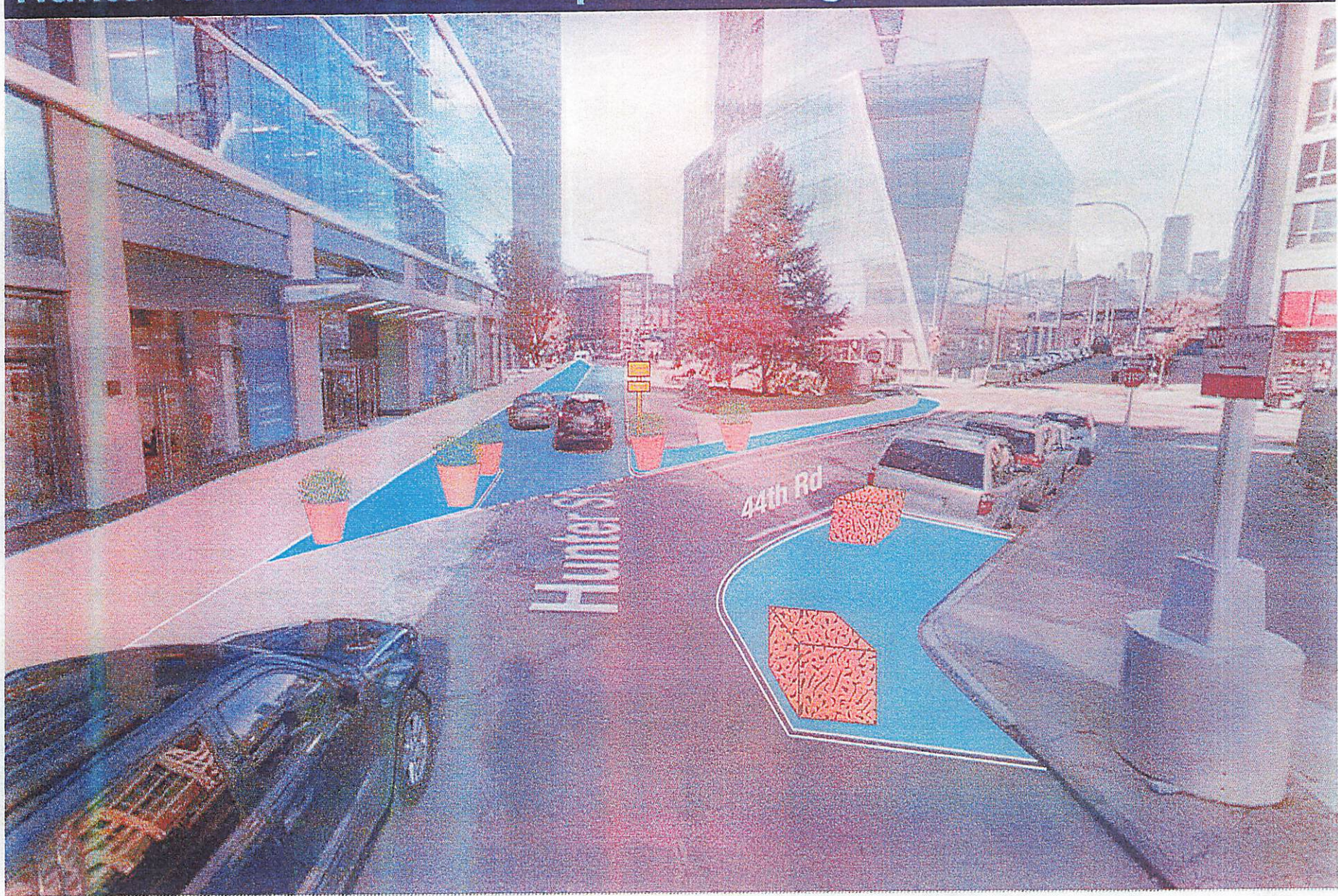


# Hunter Shared Street: Current Conditions





# Hunter Shared Street: Proposed Design





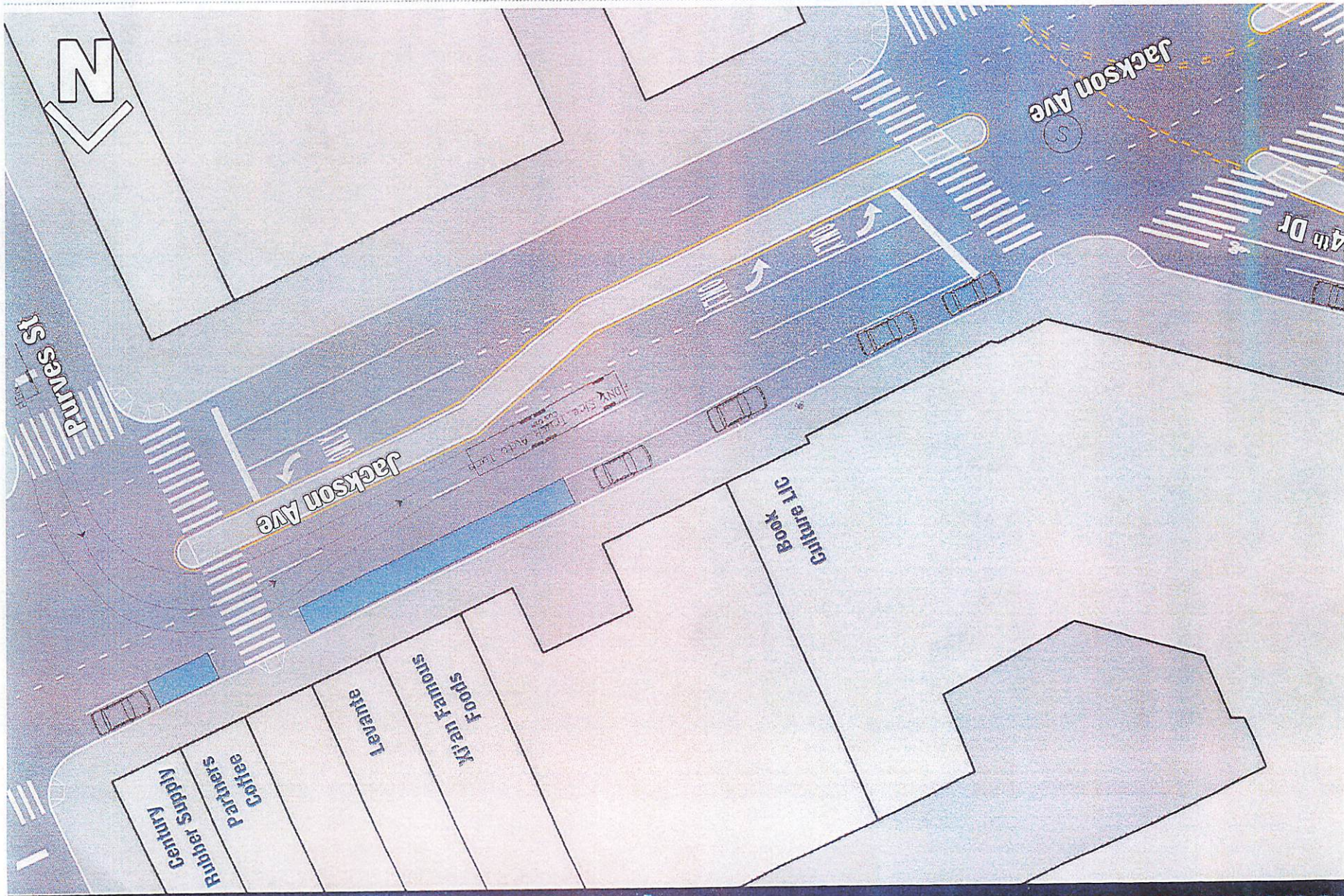


**Shared Street**  
Broadway, Flatiron (MN)

©NYC DOT

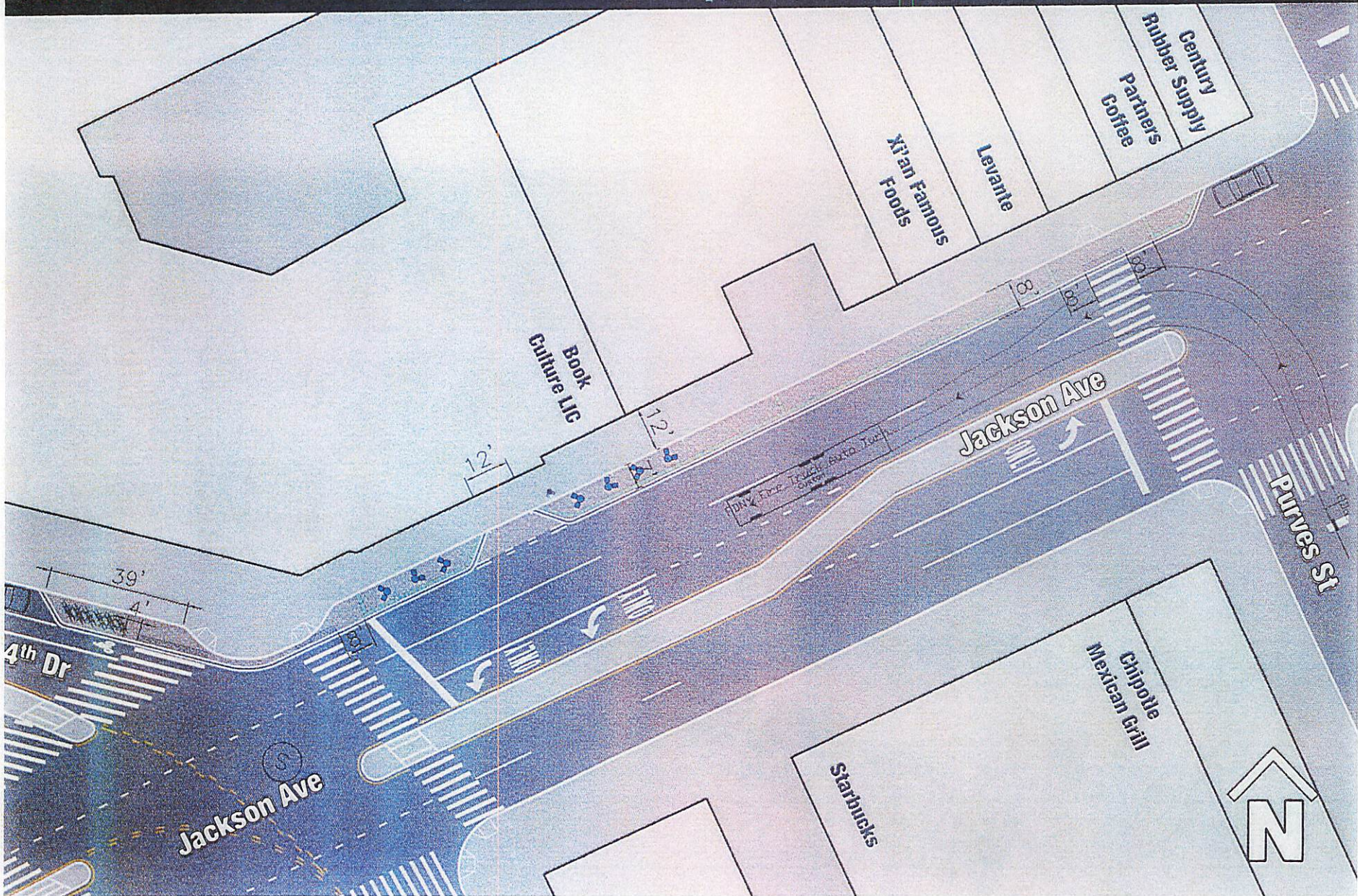


# Jackson Ave Curbside Public Space: Current Conditions



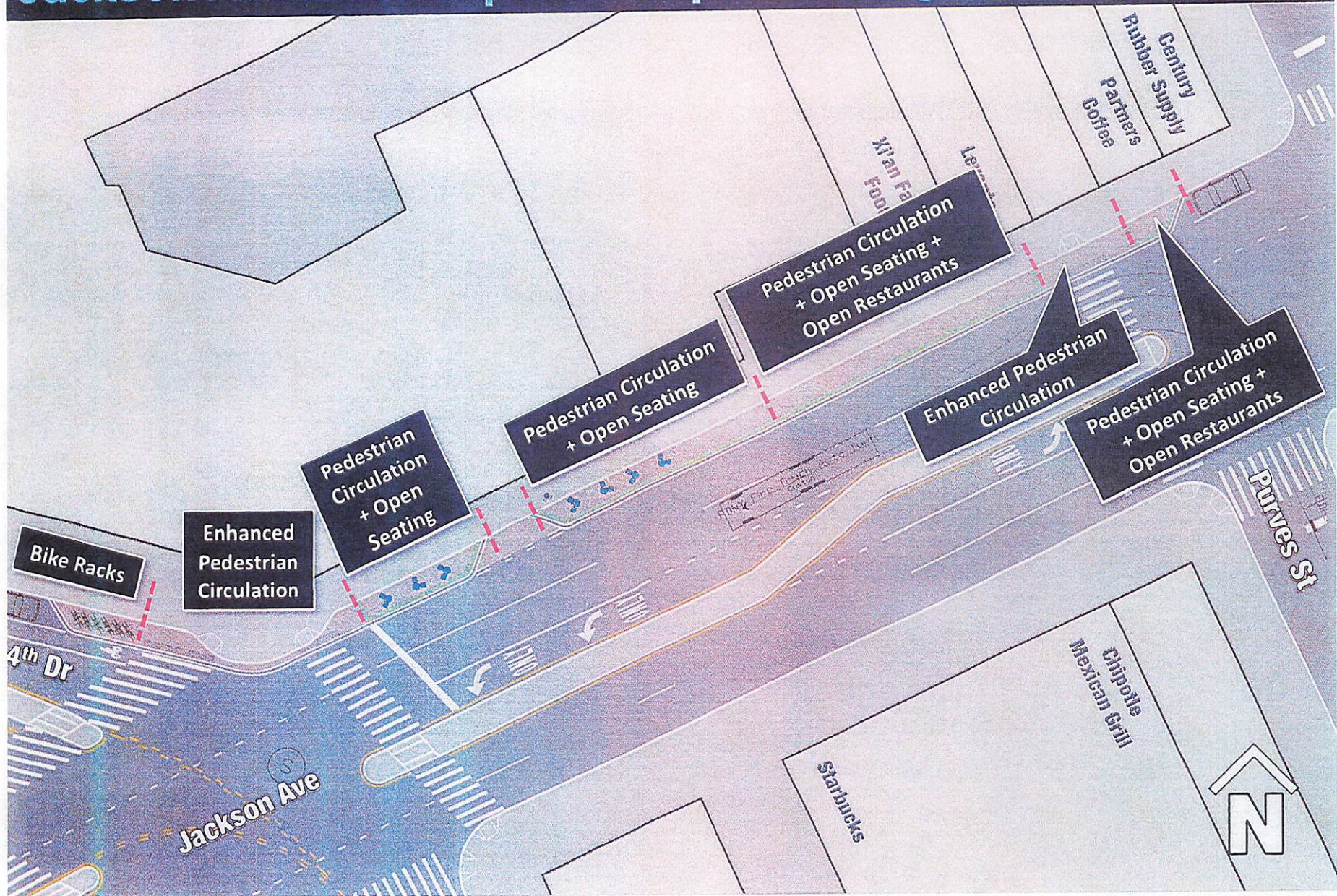


# Jackson Ave Curbside Public Space: Proposed Design



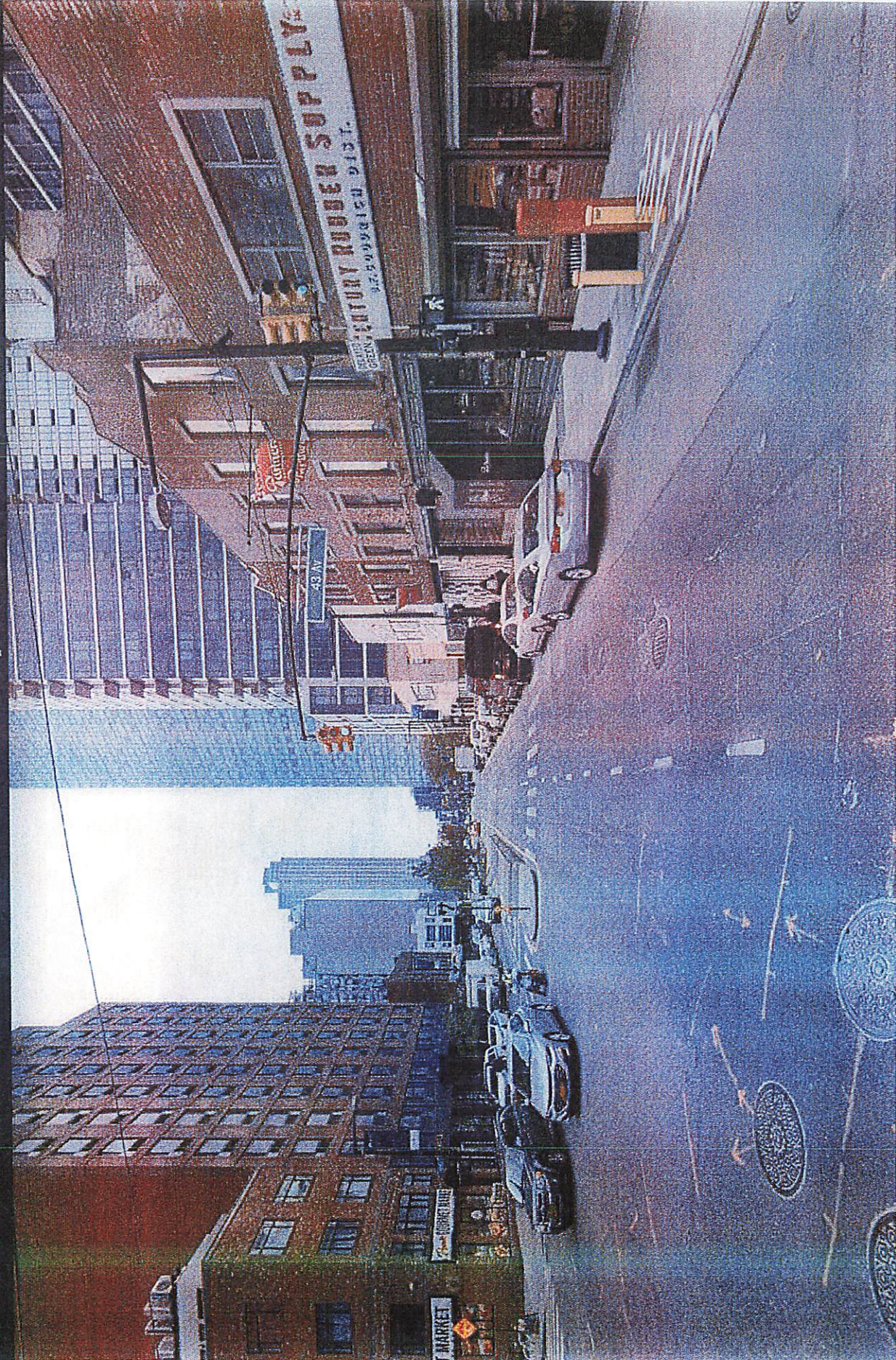


# Jackson Ave Public Space: Proposed Programming





# Jackson Ave Curbside Public Space: Before





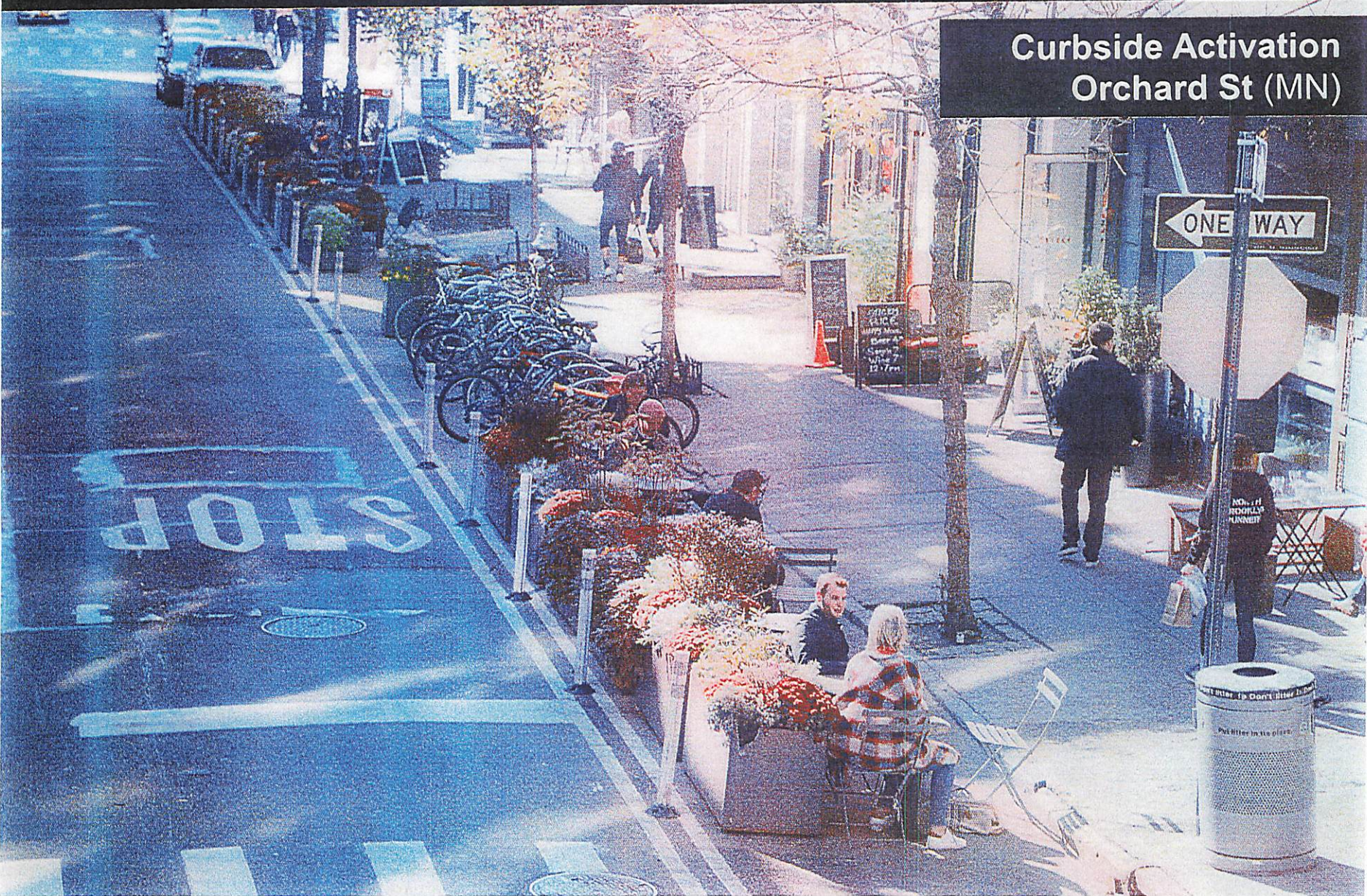
# Jackson Ave Curbside Public Space: After





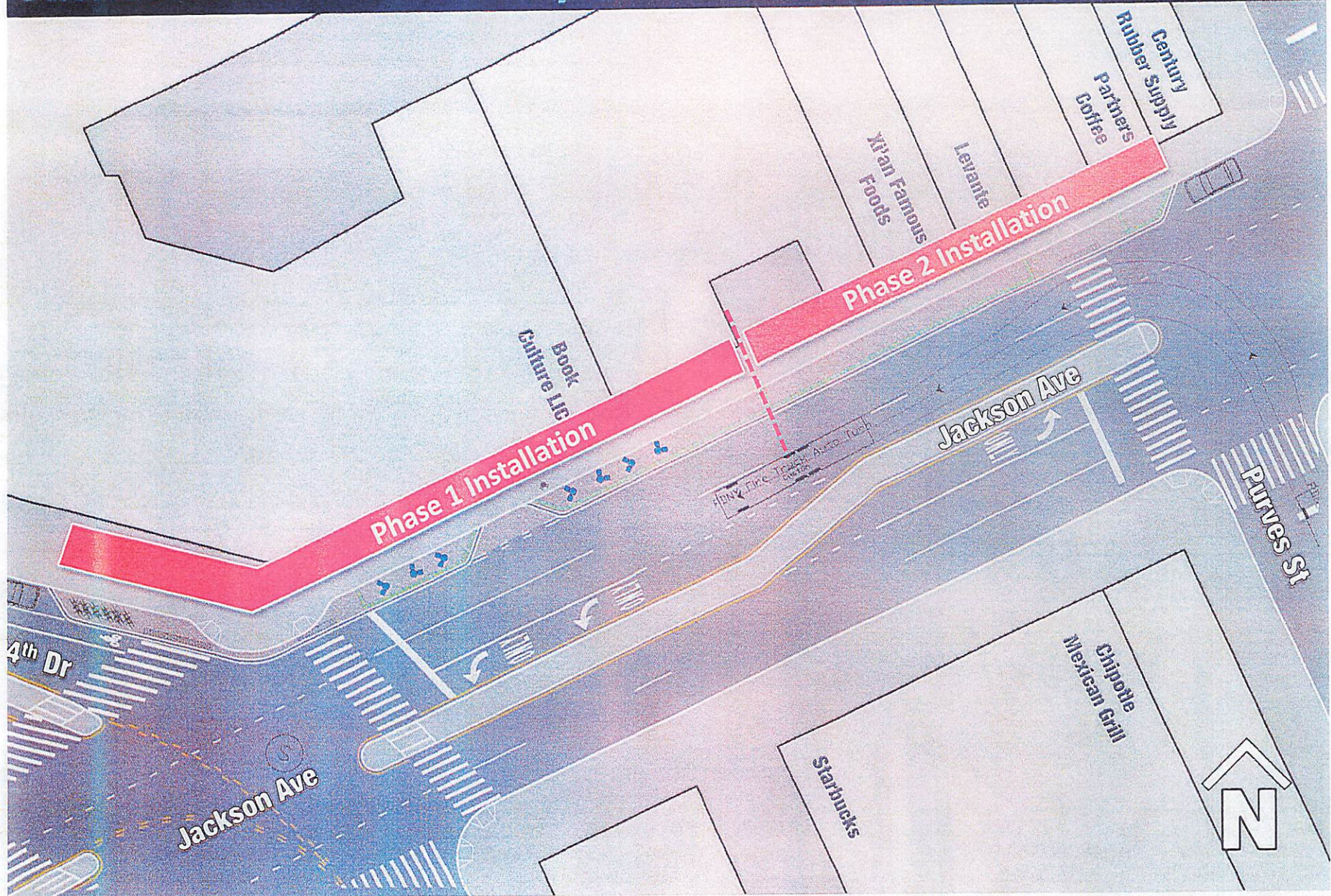
# Jackson Ave Curbside Public Space: Precedent

## Curbside Activation Orchard St (MN)





# Jackson Ave : Phased Implementation





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Next Steps

4



# Next Steps

- CB2 Transportation Committee presentation
- Letters of Support from businesses and local organizations
- Finalize DOT technical review
- Implementation and maintenance by Rockrose
- Installation of interim improvements planned for May-June 2021
- NYC DOT will continue working on requested safety improvements in these 2 locations to build off the safety benefits provided by these public realm projects
- NYC DOT plans to present additional public realm proposals in the near future



# Thank you!



NYC DOT



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