



160 Street and 109 Avenue, Jamaica

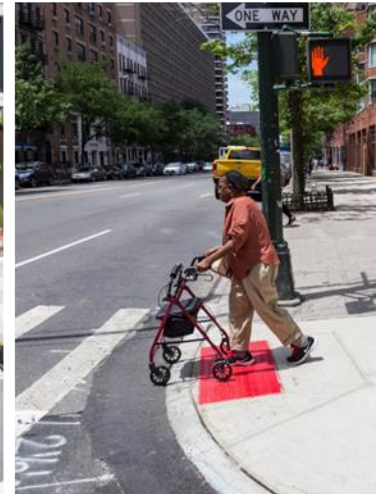
Traffic Calming & Connectivity

Presented to Queens Community Board 12 on June 11, 2024



Outline

1. Background
2. Existing Conditions & Opportunities
3. Proposal
4. Next Steps



Background

1

Project Area

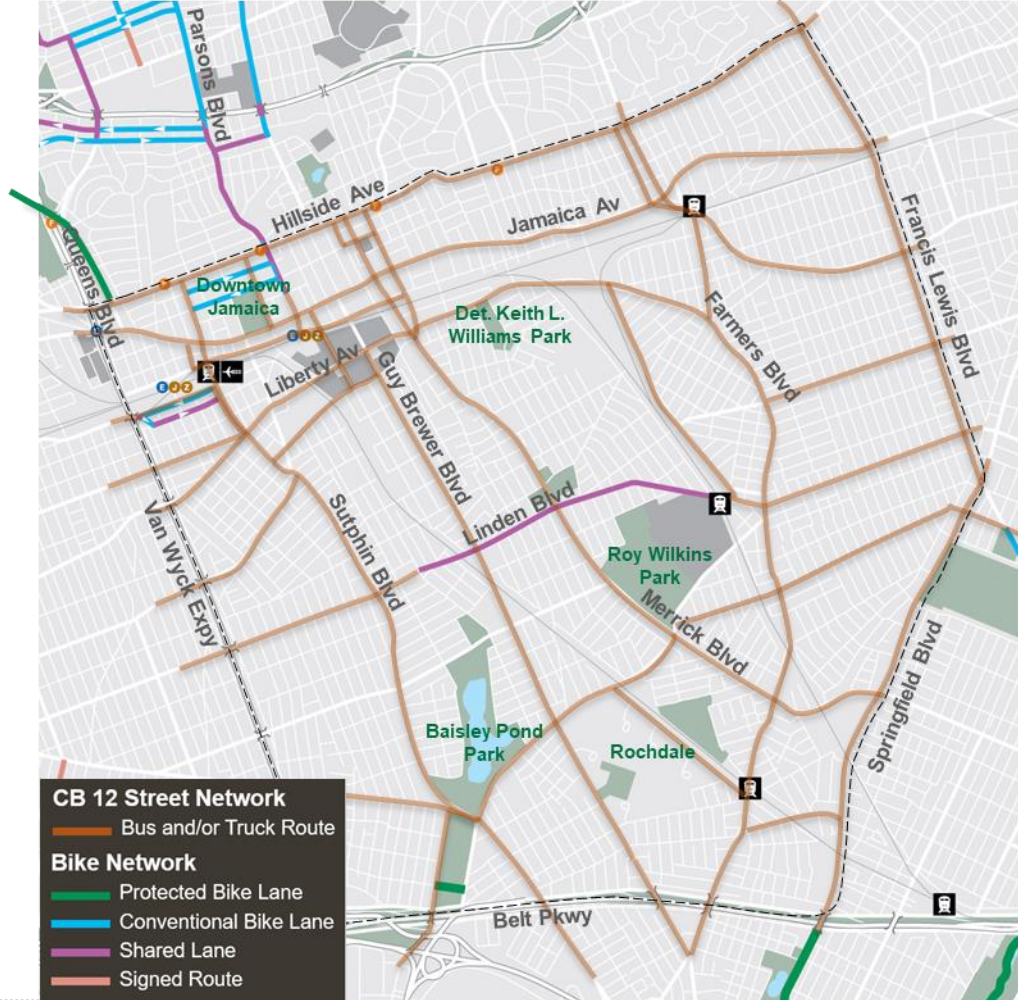
Major corridors, shown in brown, serve as truck and bus routes

Irregular street grid; limited opportunities to cross train tracks and highways

- Underpasses connecting downtown are narrow and heavily used
- Pedestrian underpasses at 108 and 109 Avenues near South Jamaica Houses

Past Work:

- Merrick Blvd/168 St Bus Lanes (2020-2021)
- Jamaica & Archer Ave Busways (2021)
- Jamaica Ave Street Seats (2023)
- Homelawn St & Grand Central Pkwy Pedestrian Improvements (2022)
- Open Streets: 156 St, 141 St (Jamrock Jerk), 110 Ave, Murdock Ave
- Few bike lanes are disconnected from the larger bike network

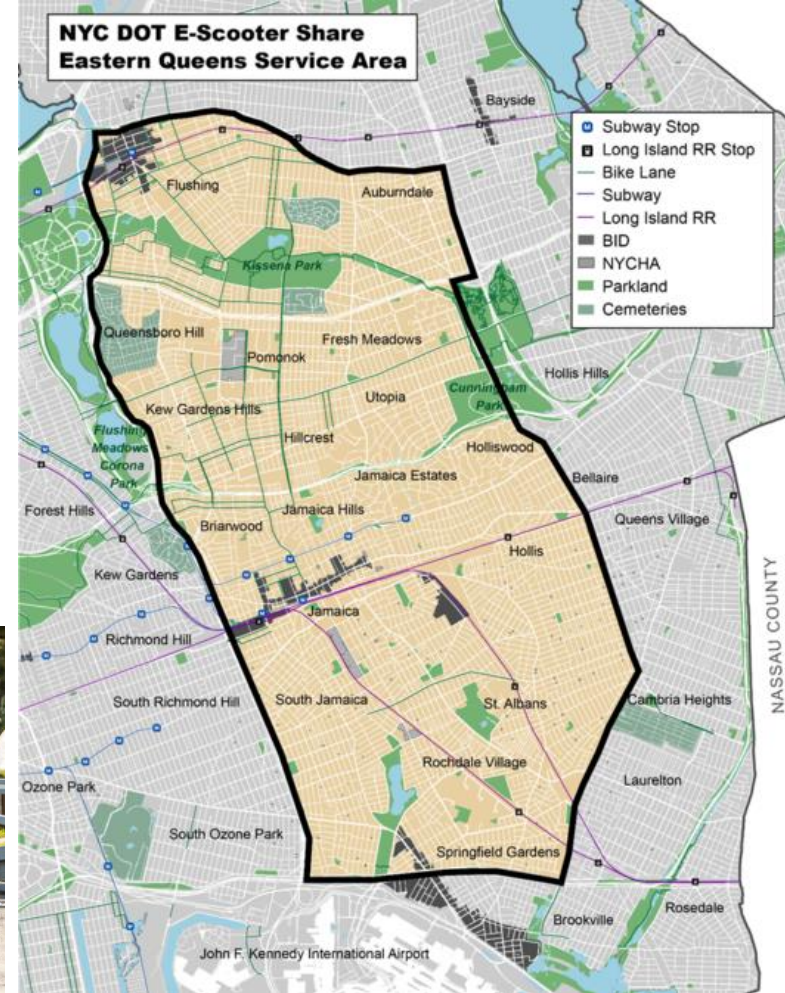


E-Scooter Share

- **E-Scooter expansion** in Eastern Queens in 2024: Bird, Lime, Veo
- **Ongoing community outreach**; feedback portal [launched](#)

Increased mobility

- Additional transportation option
- Convenient for trips that are too far to walk, but too short for the subway or a car
- Connections to transit
- Builds on successful East Bronx e-scooter pilot



Safety

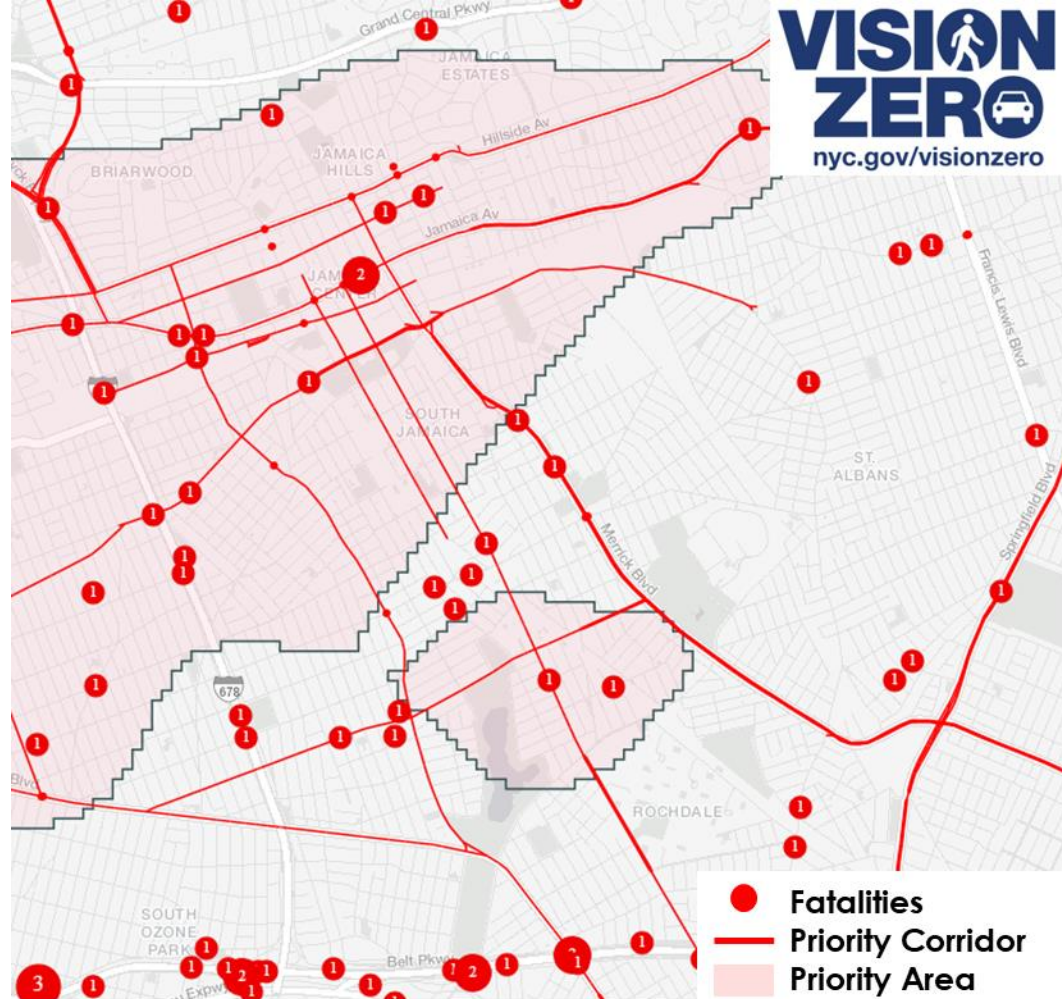
Queens Community District 12

Injury Summary, 2019-2023 (5 years)

| | Total Injuries | Severe Injuries | Fatalities | KSI |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-----|
| Pedestrian | 1,518 | 155 | 19 | 174 |
| Bicyclists | 393 | 35 | 1 | 36 |
| Motor Vehicle Occupant | 7,585 | 325 | 17 | 342 |
| Other Motorized | 138 | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Total | 9,634 | 530 | 38 | 568 |

Vision Zero Priority Area

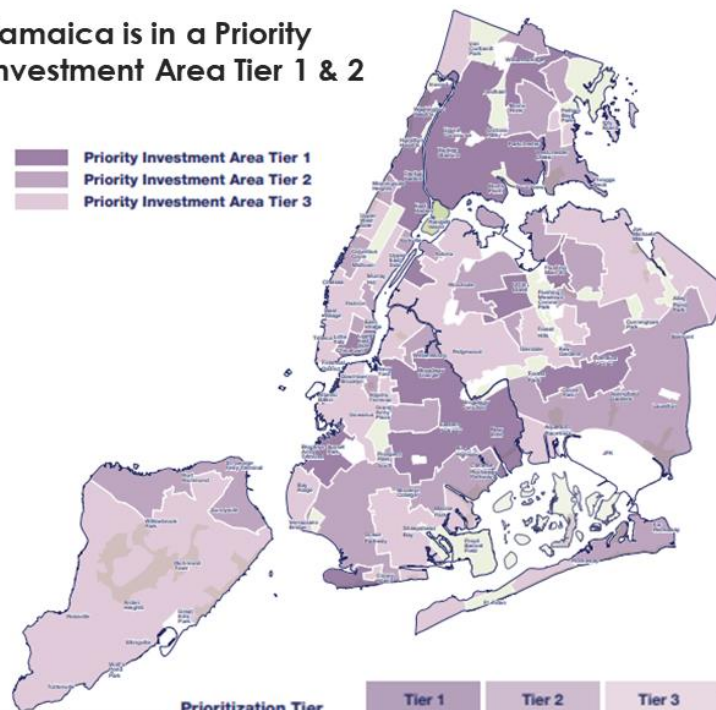
In the last five years: 38 pedestrians, bicyclists, and e-mobility users have been killed, 205 seriously injured.



Goals

- Ensure the delivery of Community Board 12 share of NY Streets Plan commitment through thoughtful community engagement
- Address Elected Official and community **requests for traffic calming, safety improvements in the area**
- Context sensitive pedestrian and bike network expansion to better connect local destinations and Downtown Jamaica
- Provide more convenient, affordable and comfortable transportation options by accommodating multimodal options

Jamaica is in a Priority Investment Area Tier 1 & 2



| Prioritization Tier | Tier 1 33% | Tier 2 33% | Tier 3 33% |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Population | 3.15 mil | 2.70 mil | 2.56 mil |
| Total Jobs | 740,000 | 825,000 | 2.5 mil |
| Avg % Non-White | 90% | 74% | 38% |
| Avg % Low Income | 27% | 14% | 10% |

Existing Conditions & Opportunities

2

Street Improvement Projects

Street Improvement Projects (SIPs) are **low-cost, quickly implemented**, and use semi-permanent materials that can be used to **enhance safety, mobility and livability**.



Calm Corridors

Traffic calming projects **address vehicular speeding and cut-through traffic** on neighborhood streets

Reduce speeds and vehicular volumes to create a low-stress environment for pedestrians and micromobility users

Speeds can be reduced along corridors along traffic calming design elements



Walking & Cycling Connectivity

SIPs address barriers to walking and cycling by improving safety at intersections and creating new connections.

Redesign intersections; curb extensions and asphalt art



Raised crosswalks **slow vehicle movements at intersections**



Concrete build-outs **create new shared-use connections**



Proposal

3

Calm Corridors

Leveraging low volume streets to create a network of calm corridors

Route Opportunities ↔

160 St

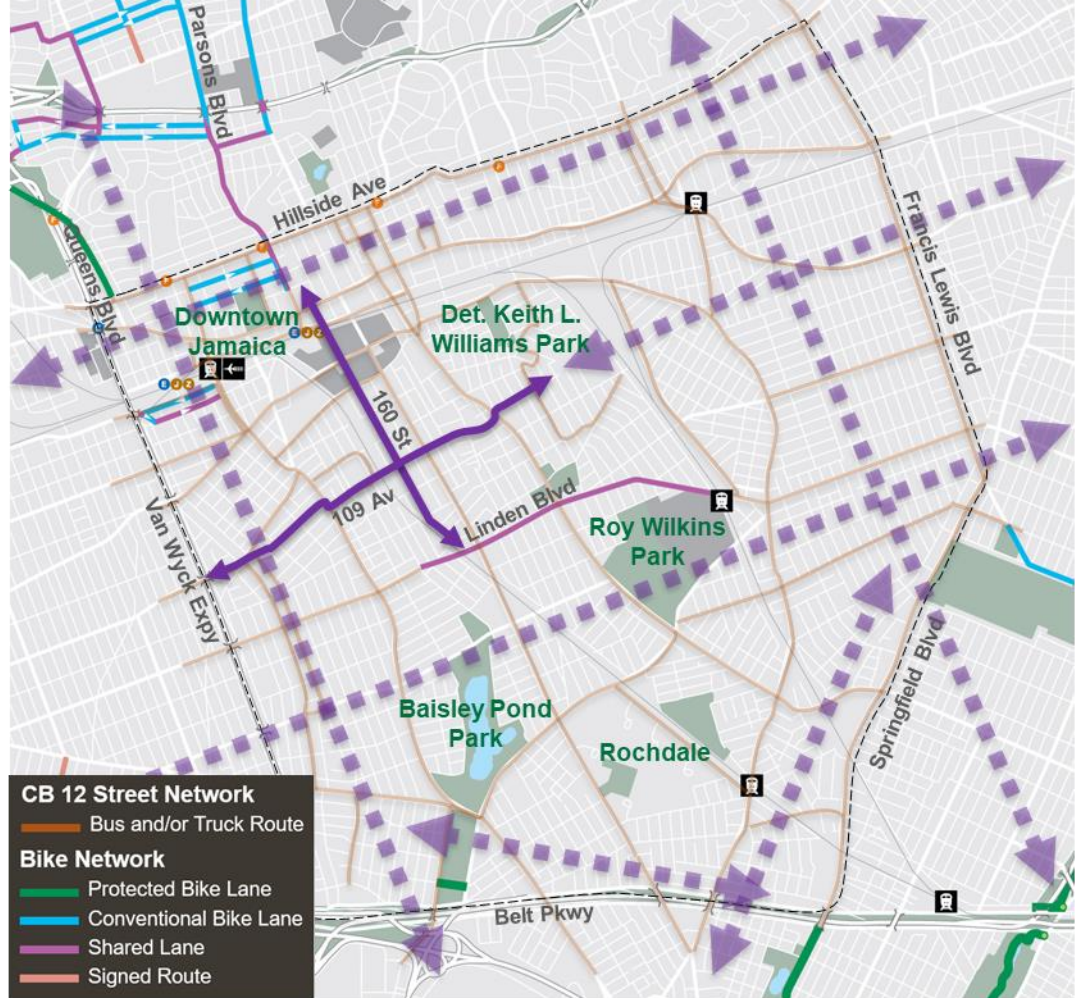
- North-South spine connecting South Jamaica to Downtown Jamaica through underpass

109 Av

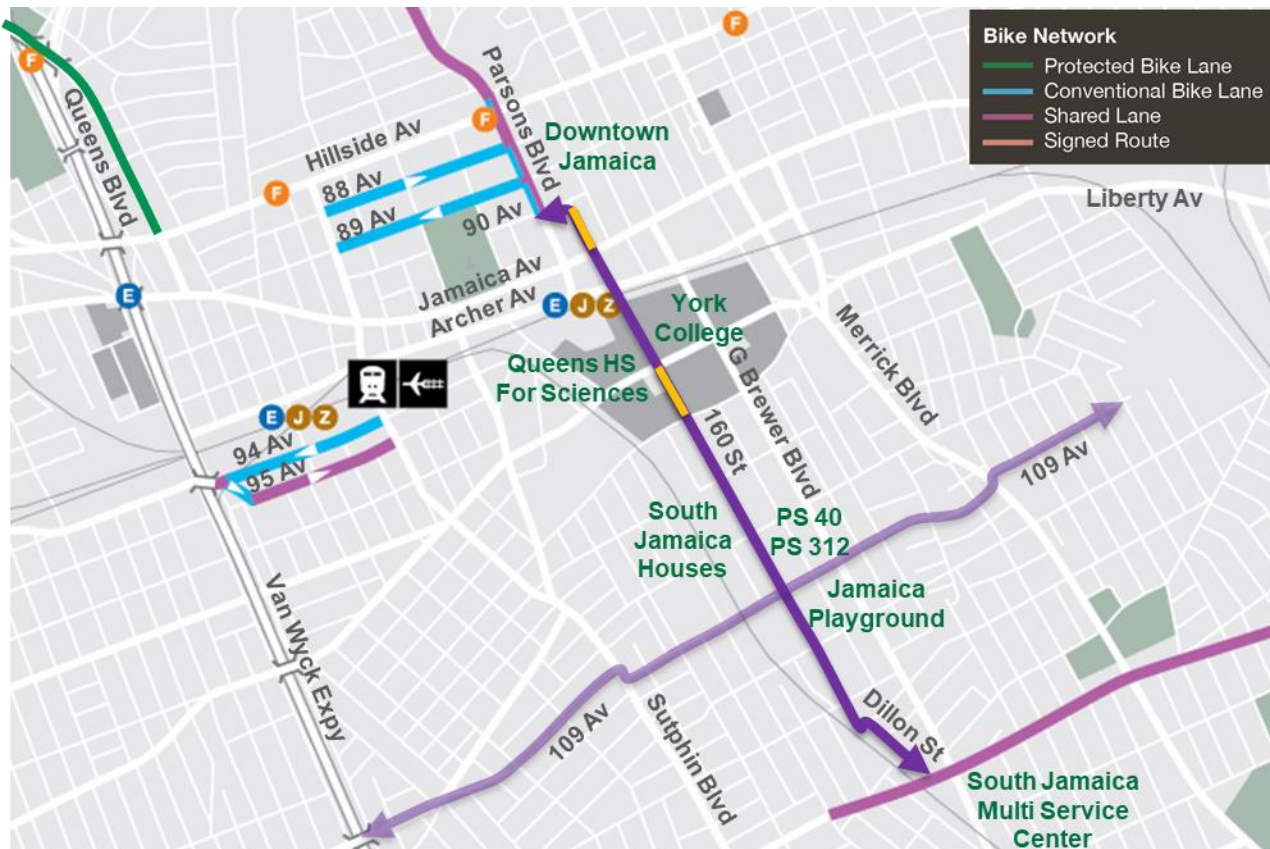
- East-West connection across Van Wyck Expwy to Bricktown
- Leverages existing pedestrian underpass across LIRR tracks
- Several schools along route

Potential Additional Connections ◀ ◻ ▶

- Hollis, Cambria Heights, Springfield Gardens and beyond



160 St/Dillon St, 90 Ave – Linden Blvd



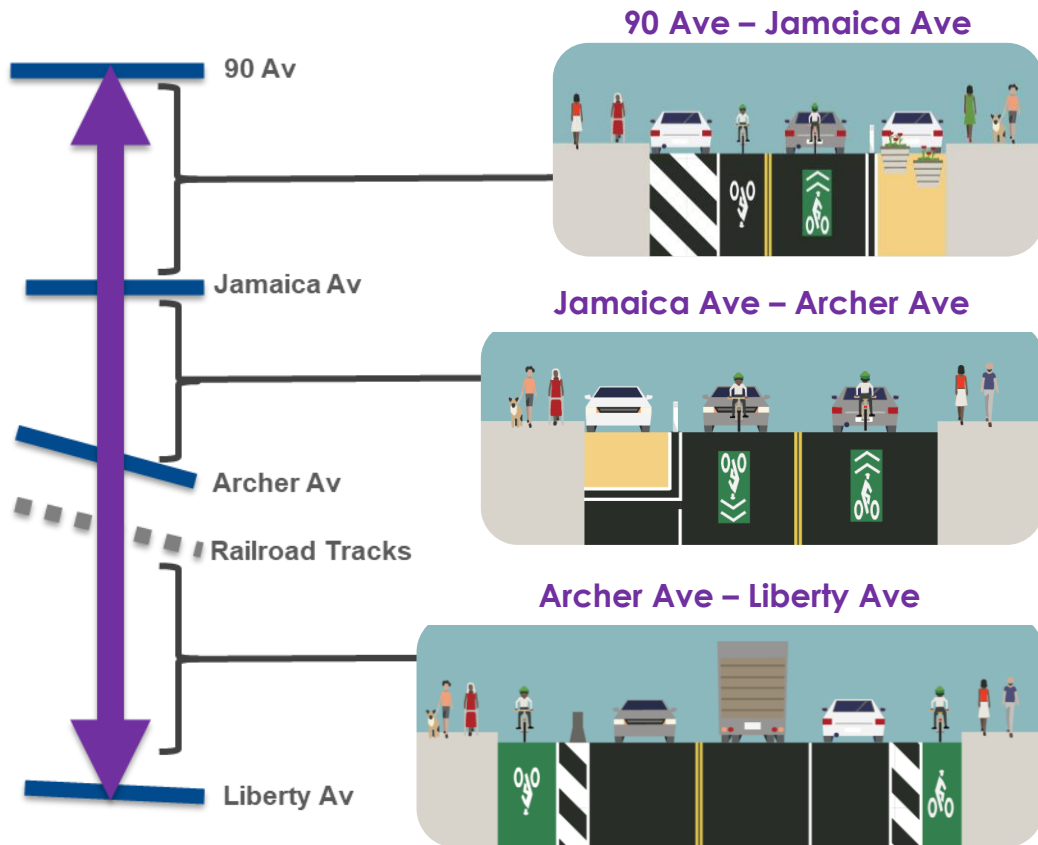
North-South corridor provides access to Downtown Jamaica

- Estimated average daily traffic (AADT) of less than 10,000 vehicles, making it a good candidate for traffic calming measures

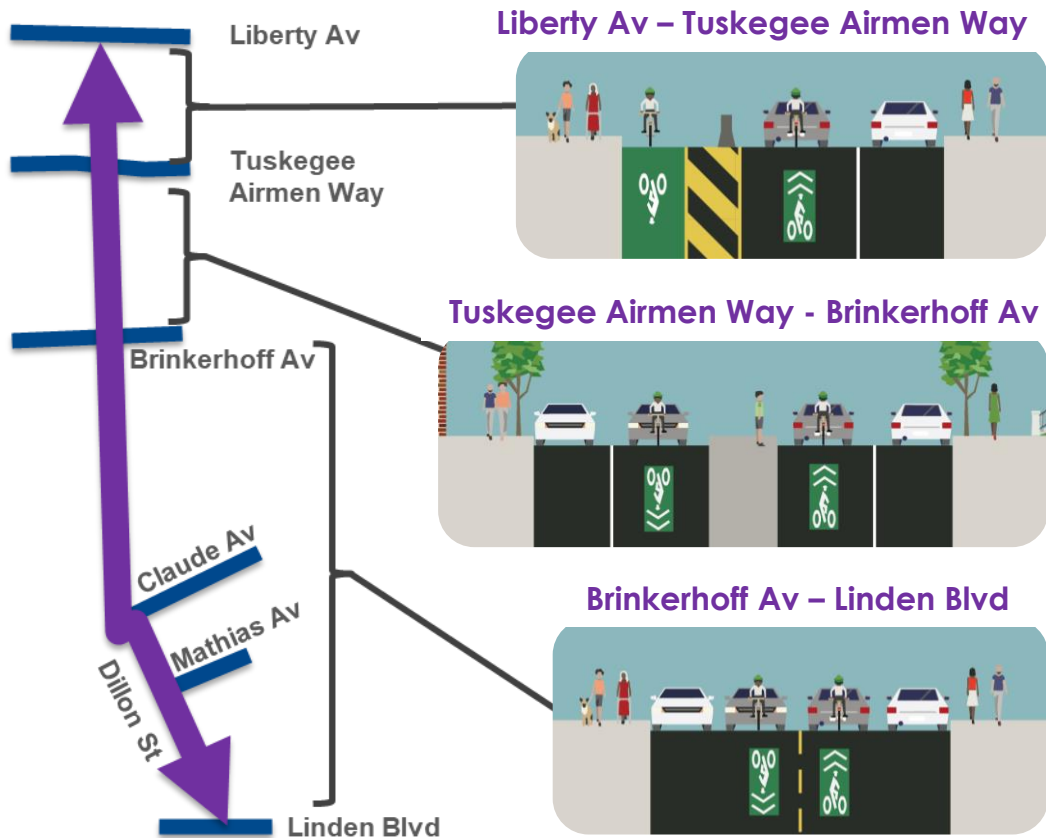
Existing Vehicular Diverters

- Archer Av-Jamaica Av: One-way Northbound vehicular traffic
- Liberty Av - Tuskegee Airmen Way: One-way Northbound vehicular traffic

160 St Design Concepts



160 St Design Concepts

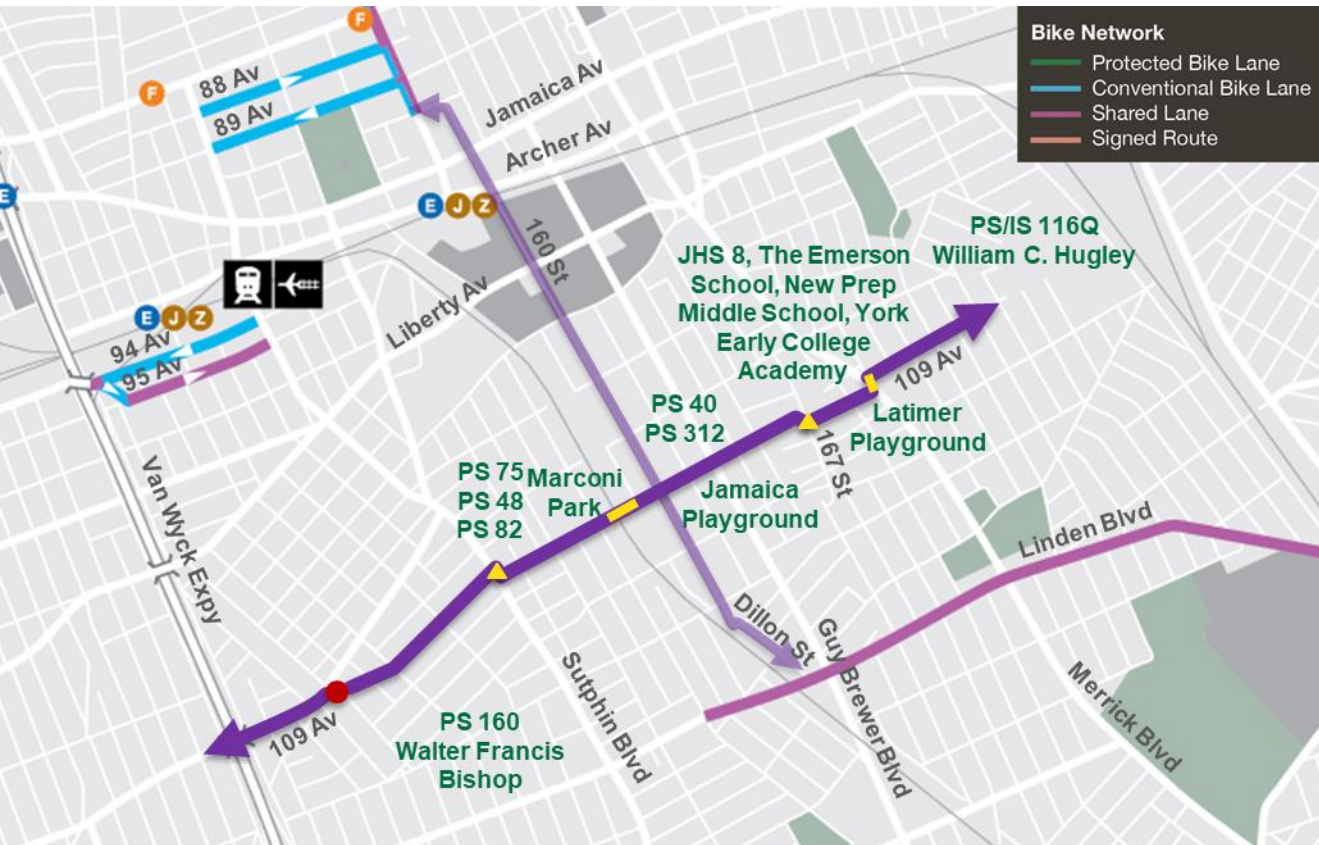


- **Existing:** 28', one-way northbound travel lane, parking along east curb
- **Proposed:** maintained vehicular access, **install daylighting/pedestrian space, and two-way bike access**

- **Existing:** 44', two-way vehicular traffic, parking along both curbs
- **Proposed:** maintained vehicular access, **median islands where feasible, and two-way bike access**

- **Existing:** 30-32', two-way vehicular traffic, parking along both curbs
- **Proposed:** maintained vehicular access, **traffic calming at intersections, and two-way bike access**

109 Ave, Van Wyck Expwy – 176 St



East-west corridor connecting parks and schools

Existing Vehicular Diversers:

- Track Underpass
- Merrick Blvd

Potential location for additional diversers:

- Lakewood Ave at 109 Ave (slip lane)
- Merrick Blvd at 171 St (slip lane)

Potential locations for new/enhanced pedestrian crossings:

- Sutphin Blvd
- 167 St

109 Ave Design Concepts

Crossing Van Wyck Expy

Gateway with neckdowns



Lakewood Av

Slip lane closure



Railroad Track Underpass

New shared-use connection



Guy Brewer Blvd

Add daylighting, slow turns



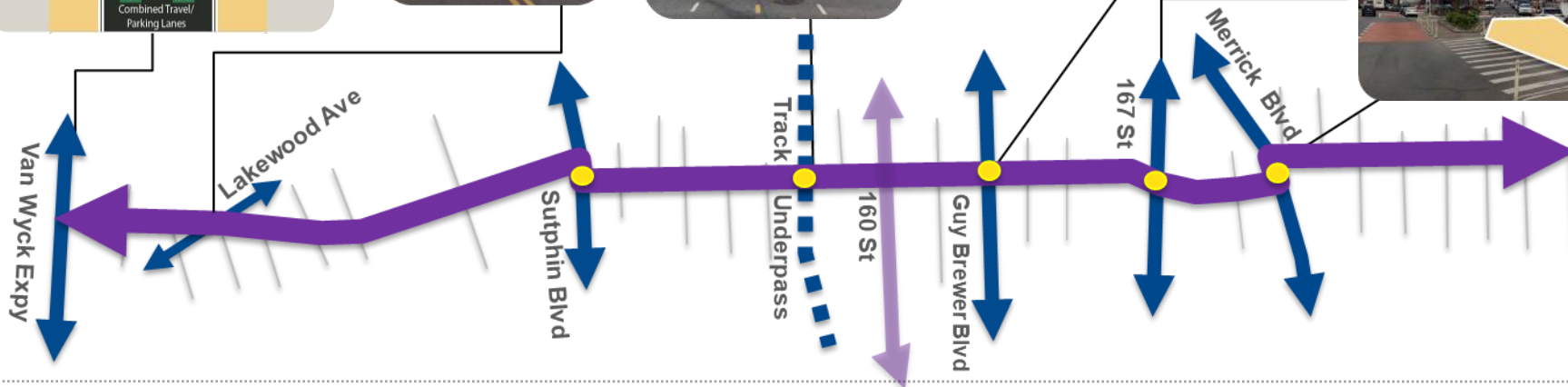
167 St

Shorten pedestrian crossing distance



Merrick Blvd

Close slip lane, simplify crossing



Connecting to the Jamaica Core

Proposed

- 160 St, 90 Ave – Linden Blvd
- 109 Av, Van Wyck Expwy – 176 St

Planned Project

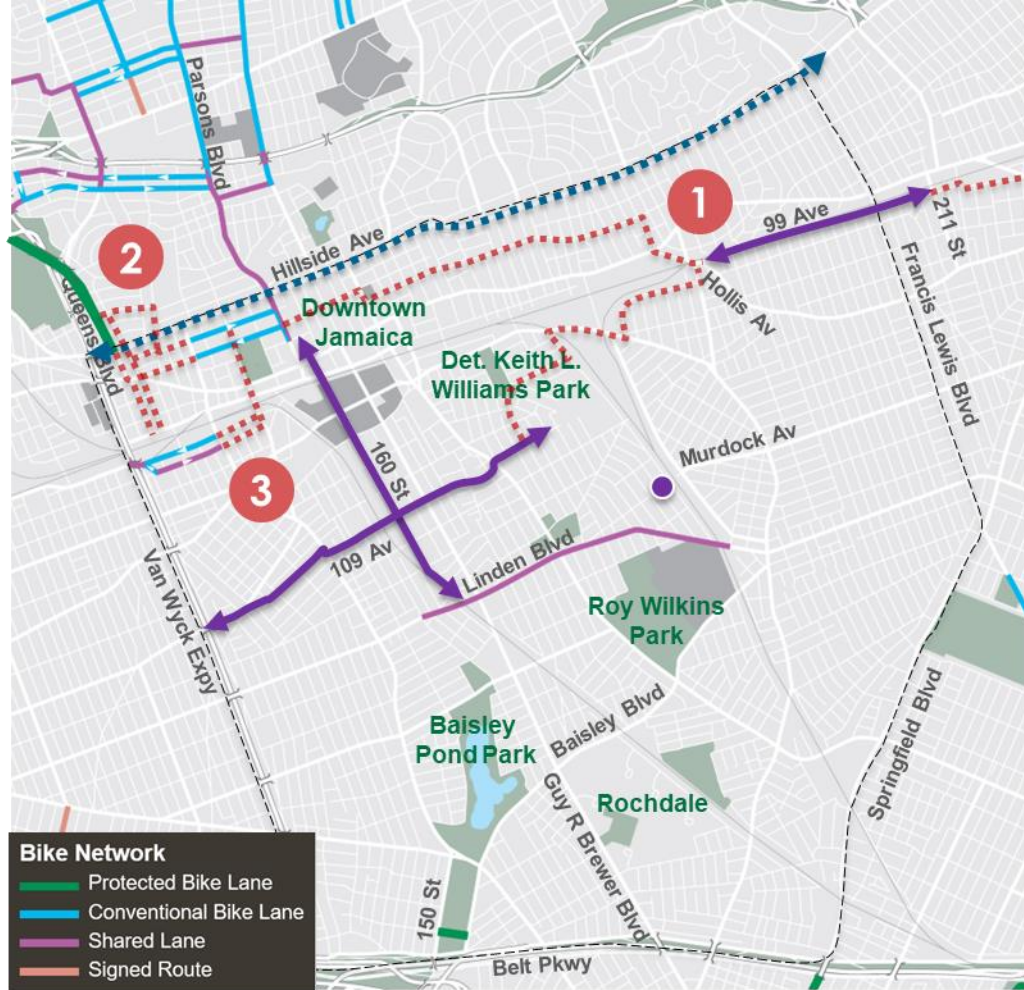
- Murdock Ave Plaza

Potential Future Bike Route Projects

1. 99 Ave (CM request) with connections to Downtown and South Jamaica
2. Queens Blvd Connections
3. 94 Ave, Atlantic Ave Connections

Other Potential SIPs

- Hillside Ave Bus Priority

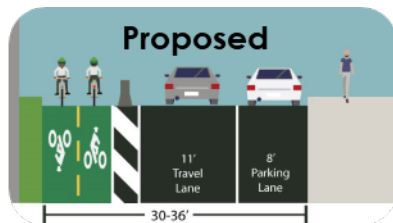
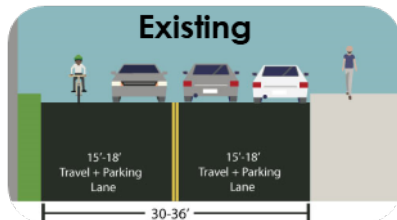


Next Steps

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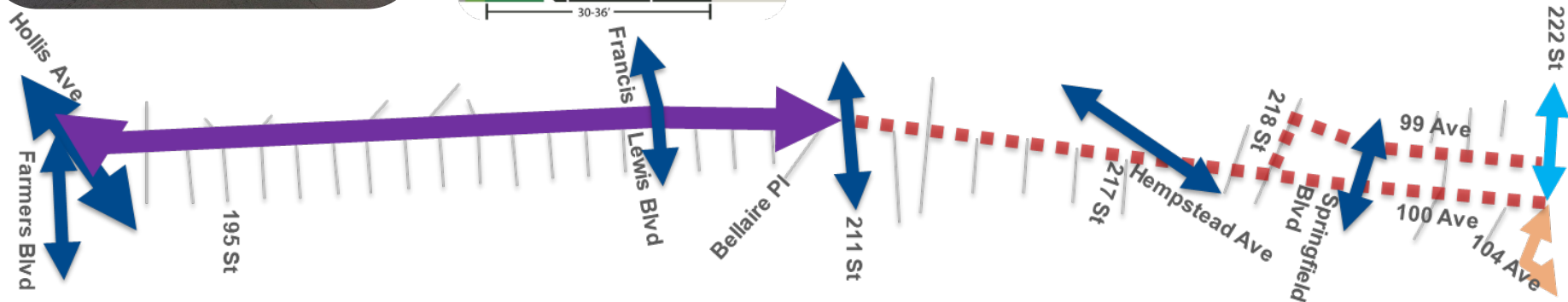
99 Ave, Hollis Ave-211 St Design Concepts

99 Ave at 195 St



99 Ave, Hollis Ave-211 St

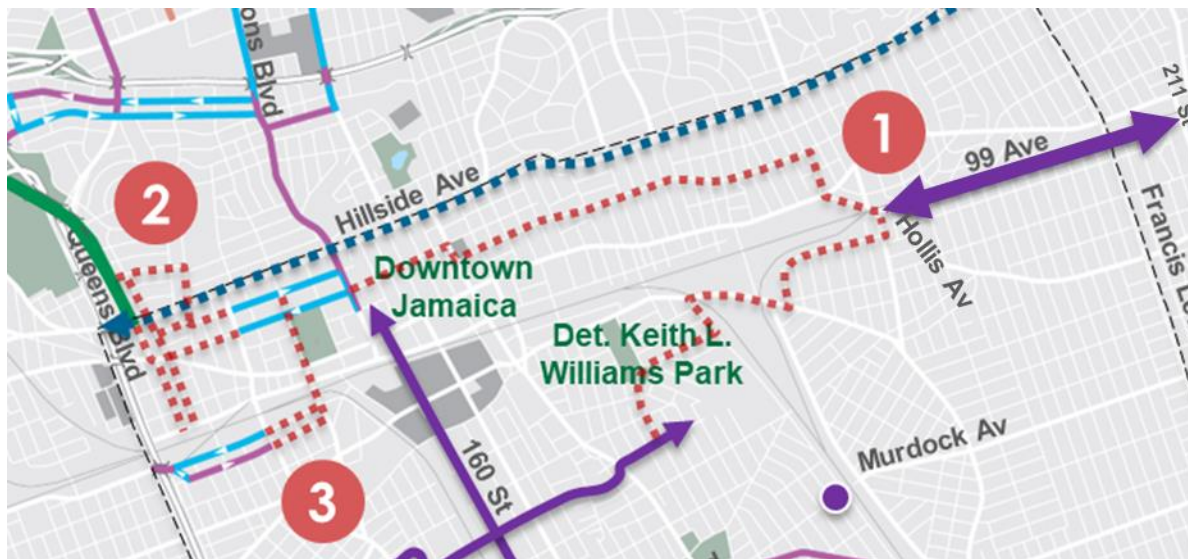
- One-way conversion with two-way protected bike lane adjacent to LIRR tracks
- Retain parking on south side
- Remove all parking on north side



Potential Future Connections

Bike Network Connections: conventional and shared lanes provide wayfinding for cyclist with traffic calming benefits

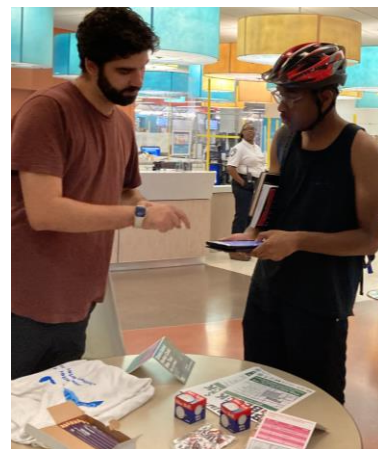
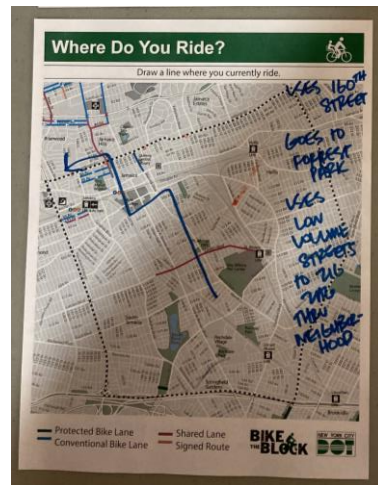
1. 99 Ave (Elected Official request)
2. Queens Blvd
3. 94 Ave, Atlantic Ave



Outreach Events

Bike the Block is a program to increase bike access and ridership through a series of temporary street closures and partner-led bike programming exploring bike infrastructure, safety education, learn to ride, bike repair and arts and culture.

- **2 Bike the Block** events held in **Downtown Jamaica** in partnership with the **Queens Public Library** and **165 Mall BID** in 2022
- **Bike the Block** event held **Saturday September 9, 2023 at Queens Public Library**
 - 200 Jamaica residents shared preferred bike routes and destinations with NYC DOT planners, took a survey on bicycle use, or received safety literature
- **Bike the Block Year 3 Back to School** with **Queens Central Library** in **September 2024**



Timeline & Next Steps

Upcoming:

Spring/Summer 2024:

- Present to Community Board 12 on June 11

Summer/Fall 2024:

- Project implementation

Ongoing:

- Continued outreach at Bike the Block
- Presentations of future projects to CB12



Thank You!

Questions?



NYCDOT



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