

Central Park Drives Traffic Management

Overview

Spring
2015



Existing Traffic Management

From Labor Day thru Last Day of
NYC Public School:

8-10 AM weekdays (Southbound)

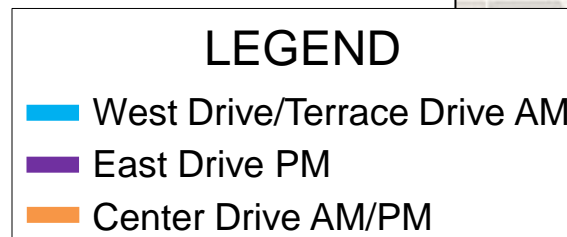
- West Drive (HOV 2+)
- 72nd Street/Terrace Drive
- Center Drive

3-7 PM weekdays (Northbound)

- East Drive, Center Drive

7 AM - 7 PM weekdays (Northbound)

- Center Drive



Existing Traffic Management

From Last Day of NYC Public Schools thru Labor Day (Summer)

Car Free

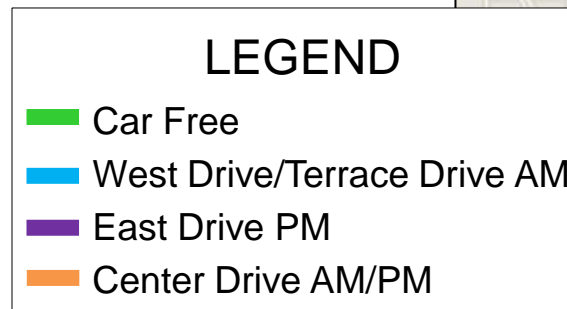
- East and West Drive above 72nd Street

8-10 AM weekdays (Southbound)

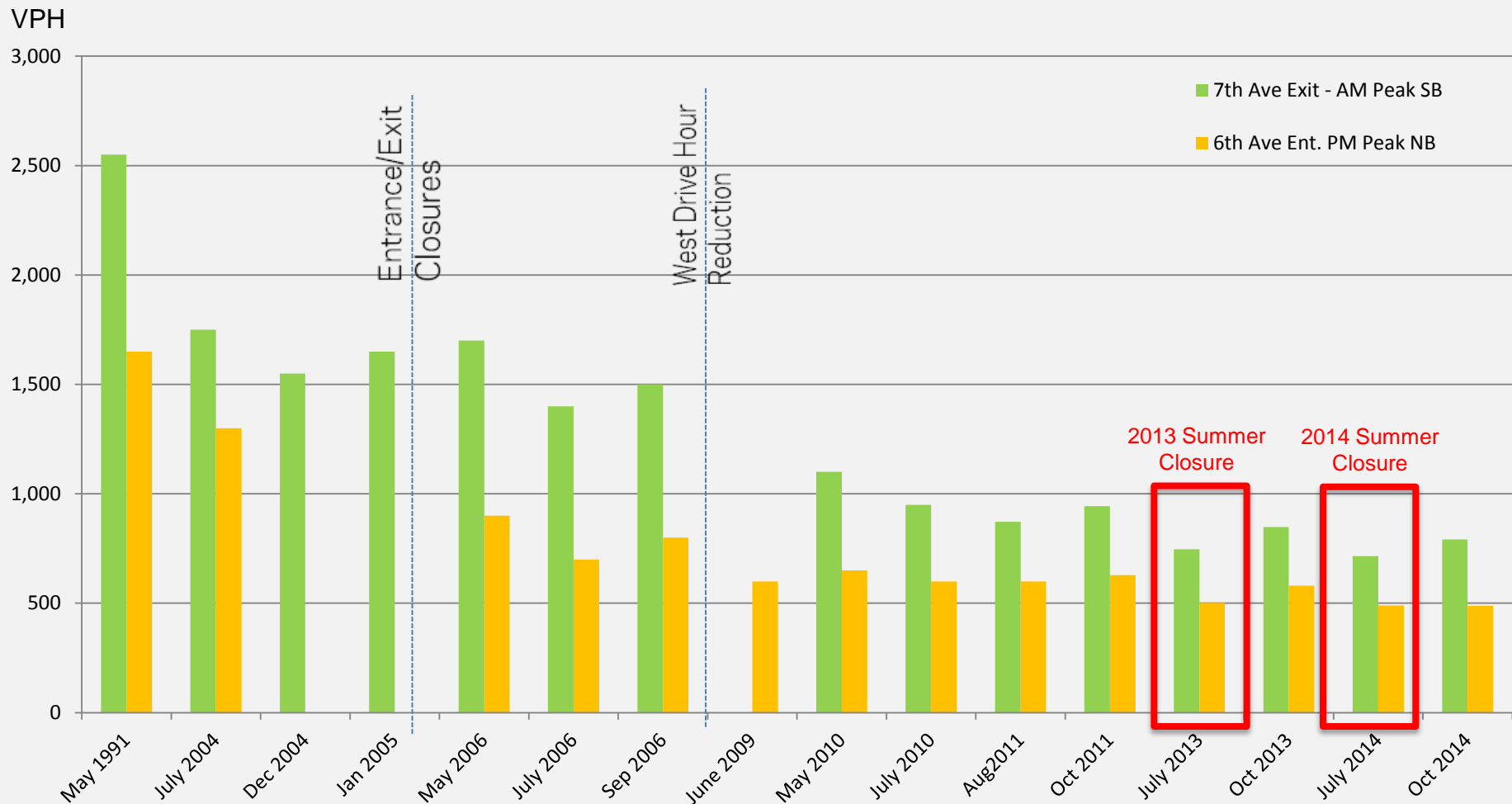
- West Drive (HOV 2+)
- 72nd Street/Terrace Drive
- Center Drive

7 AM - 7 PM weekdays (Northbound)

- Center Drive



Declining Motor Vehicle Traffic Over Time

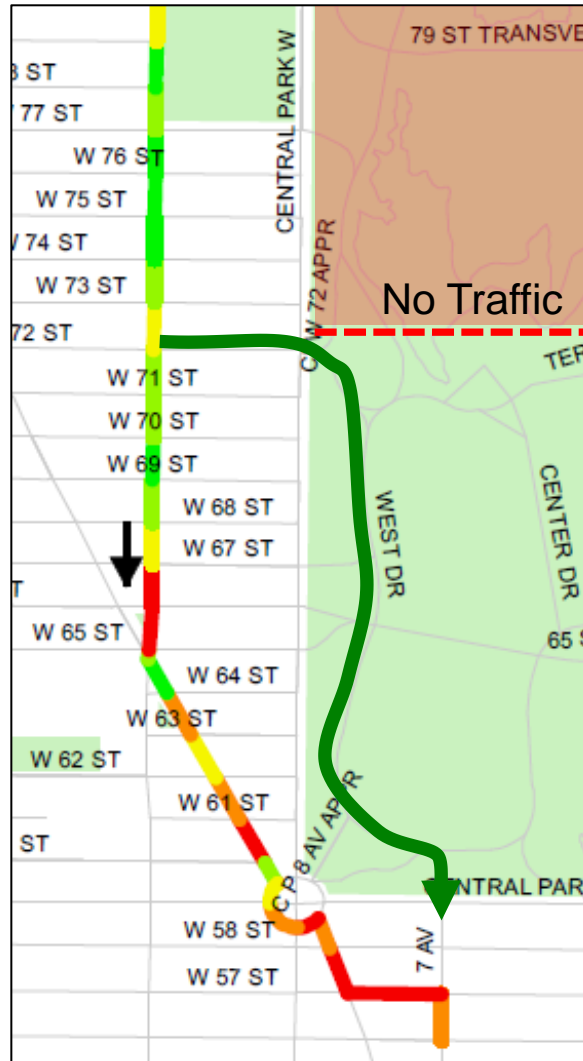


- Declines correlate with entrance/exit closures, off-peak closures, and summer closures

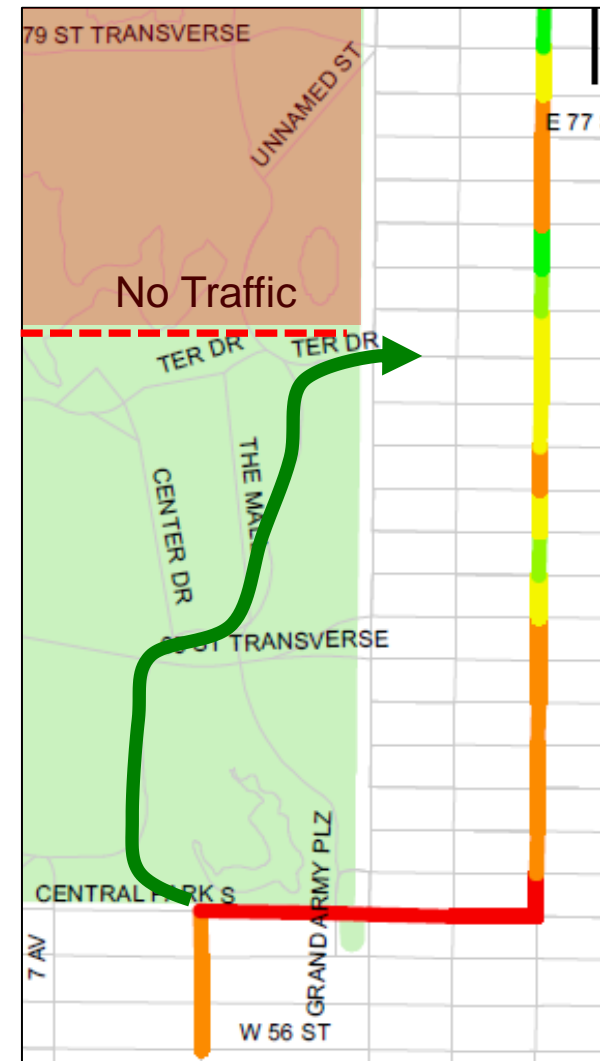
Travel Times on Alternate Routes

- During summer closures, the Park Drives below 72nd St provided critical alternate routes to congested adjacent roadways, where speeds are much slower

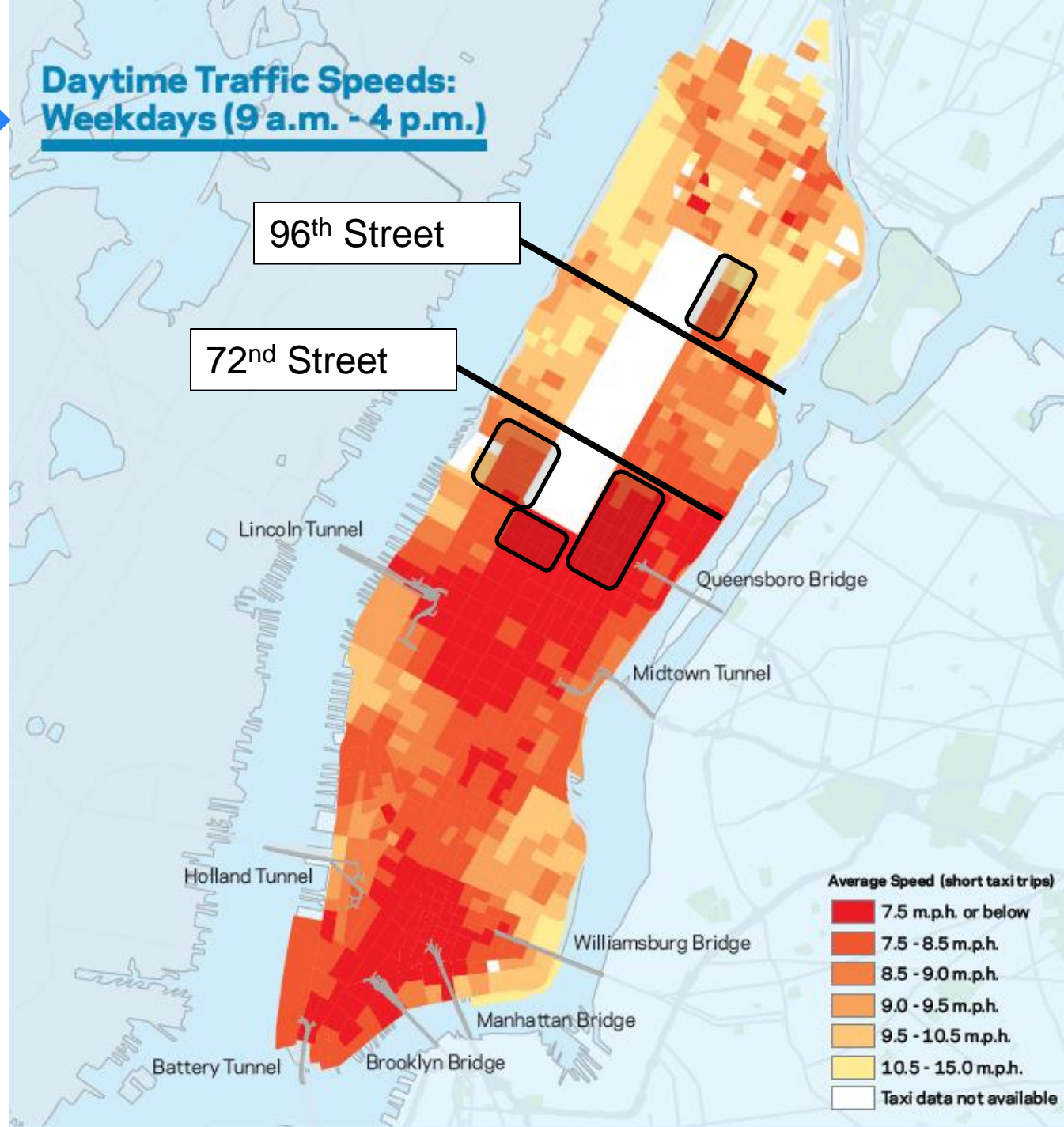
July 2014, Southbound AM
Average Speed (8-10am)



July 2014, Northbound PM
Average Speed (3-7pm)

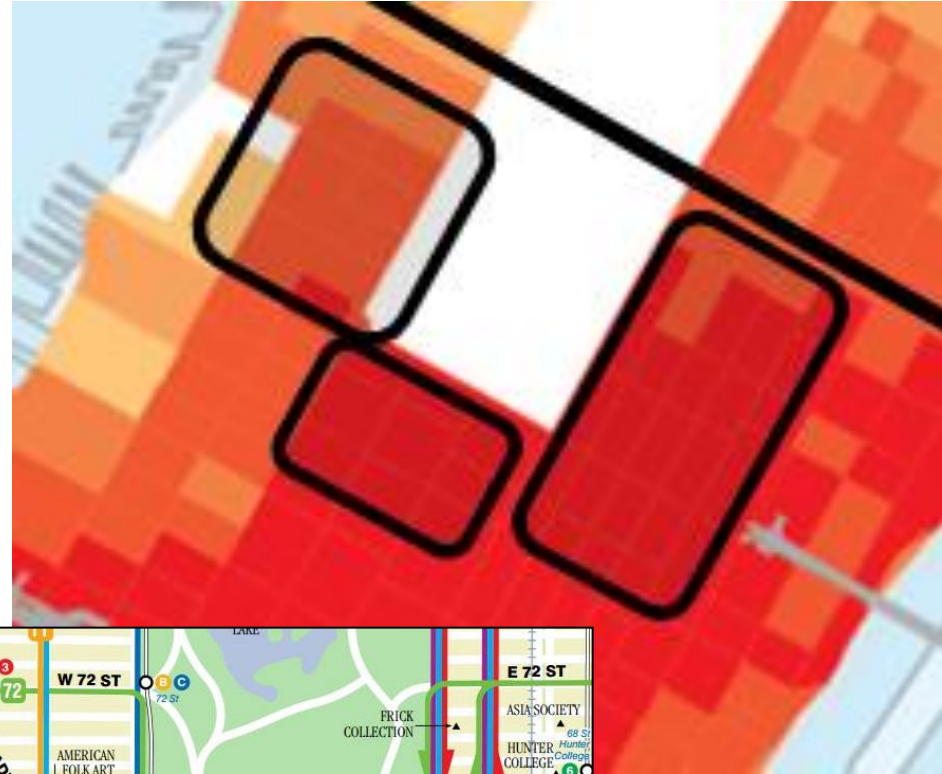


Areas of Concern



Role of Park Drives South of 72nd Street

- Relieves demand on overburdened intersections in high-pedestrian areas
- Prevents excessive delays for transit passengers, taxis, and motorists:
 - Allows important bus routes (M5, M7, M104) to maintain operations without additional delays
 - Routes have combined 51,000 average weekday ridership
 - 109 Buses in Peak Hr
- Eases goods movement in Midtown



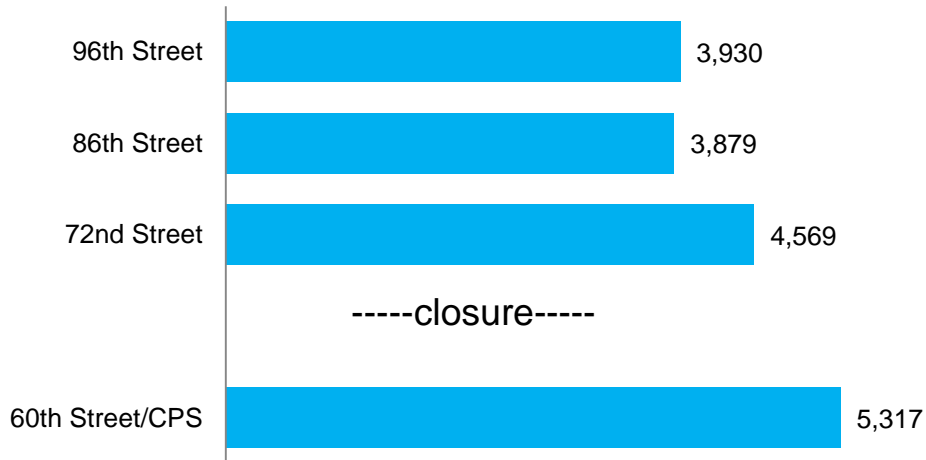
Multiple bus routes impacted by added volume south of 72nd St

Traffic Volume Around the Park

- Traffic volumes increase significantly south of 72nd Street

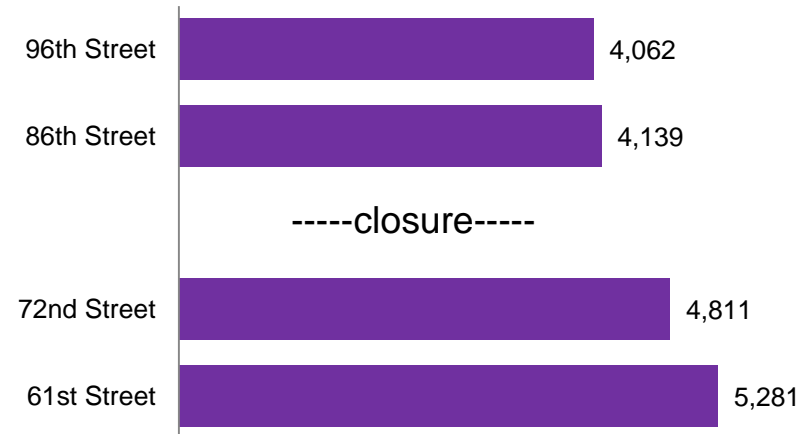
Southbound AM
Avenues & Central Park
July 2014

Average Traffic Volumes 8-10 am



Northbound PM
Avenues & Central Park
July 2014

Average Traffic Volumes 3-7 pm

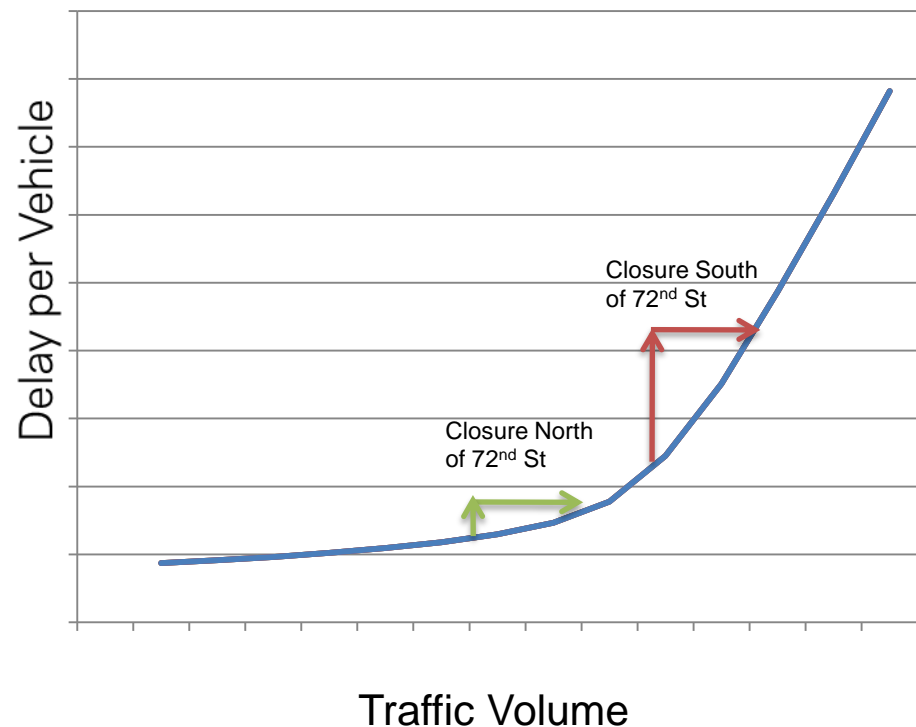


Counts from July 2014. For southbound, total is the sum of the average AM volume (8-10 am) on Broadway, Columbus Ave, Central Park West, the West Drive of Central Park, 5th Ave and Park Ave. For northbound, total is the sum of the AM average PM volume (3-7pm) on Broadway, Amsterdam Ave, Central Park West, the East Drive of Central Park, Madison Ave, and Park Ave.

Incremental Effects on Delay

- Effects of an increase in volume depend on proximity to capacity
- Below capacity, adding volume does not substantially increase delay
- When a roadway nears capacity, additional volume adds longer delays

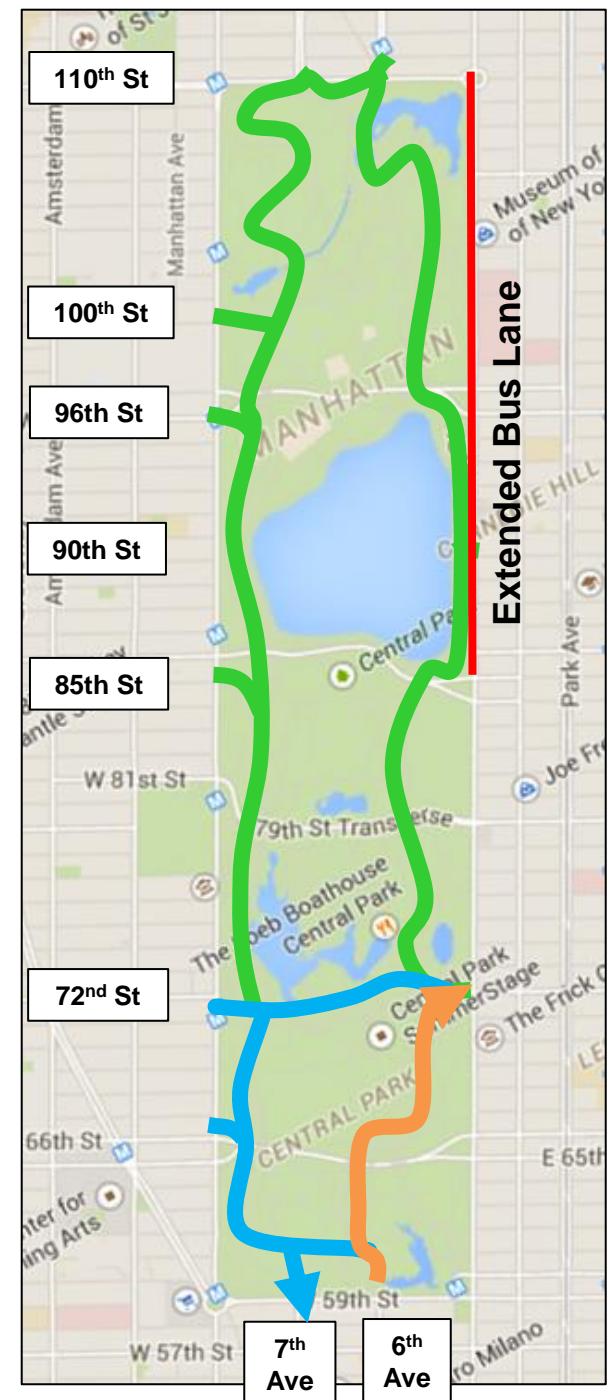
Conceptual Effects of Closures on Delay



Recommendation

Close Central Park Drives permanently north of 72 St

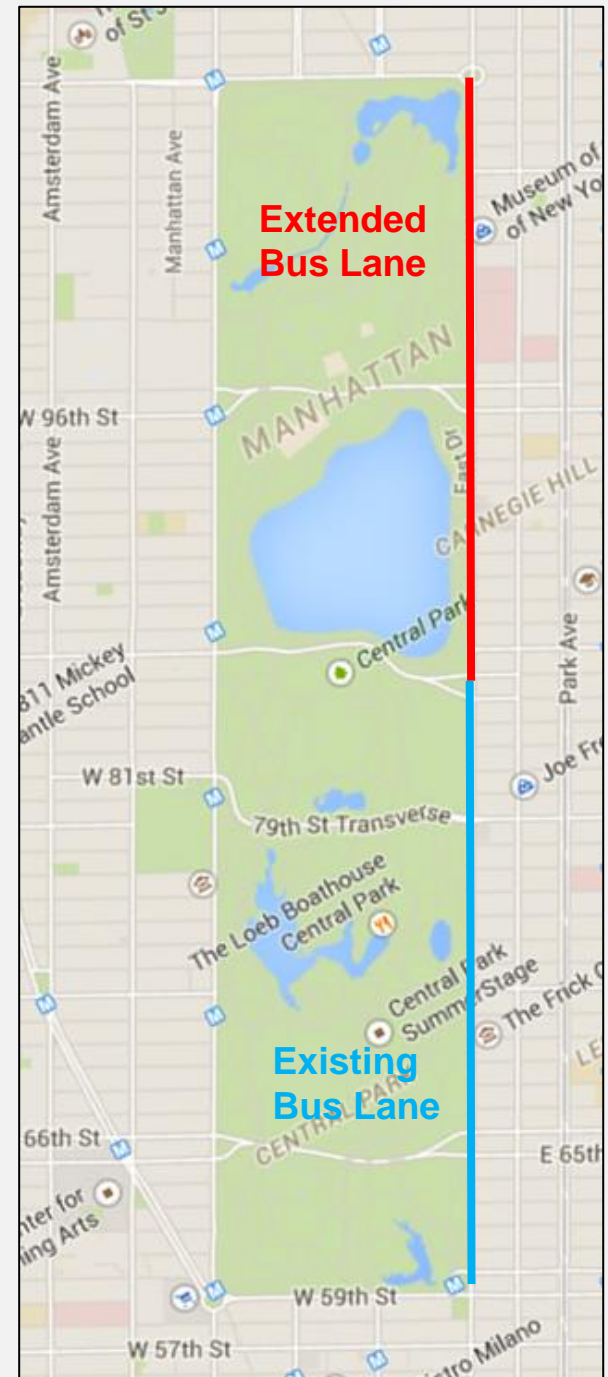
- History of successful summer closures in 2013 and 2014
- 70% of park drives permanently closed to commuter traffic
- Some effect on Park Drive motorists
 - Shortcut lost; Midtown access/egress preserved
- Some effects on street users outside park
 - Diversions to adjacent avenues
 - AM lefts from CPW into park likely to increase
 - AM 5 Ave transit service delays may increase
 - Removal of ~85 metered & 80 alternate-side parking spaces on 5 Ave
- Likely no effect on Broadway/Lincoln Center



Recommendation

Extend existing 5th Ave bus lane north to 110th St, 7-11 am

- Heavy transit use on 5th Avenue during AM Peak
 - ~ 90 buses in AM peak hour north of 86th S
 - 60,000 local bus riders daily (M1,2,3,4,106)
 - 14,000 express bus riders daily (BXM2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,18)
 - Existing bus lane south of 86th Street
- Proposal would remove ~85 metered & 80 alternate-side parking spaces during AM Peak





Questions?



Thank
You