

# 79<sup>th</sup> Street Crosstown SBS, Capital Project

79<sup>th</sup> Street from Riverside Drive to FDR Drive

**Community Board 8**  
**Transportation Committee**  
**April 2, 2025**



© NYC DOT

# Table of Contents

---

## 1. Background

- 79<sup>th</sup> Street Transit Corridor
- 2017 Street Improvement Project

## 2. Performance

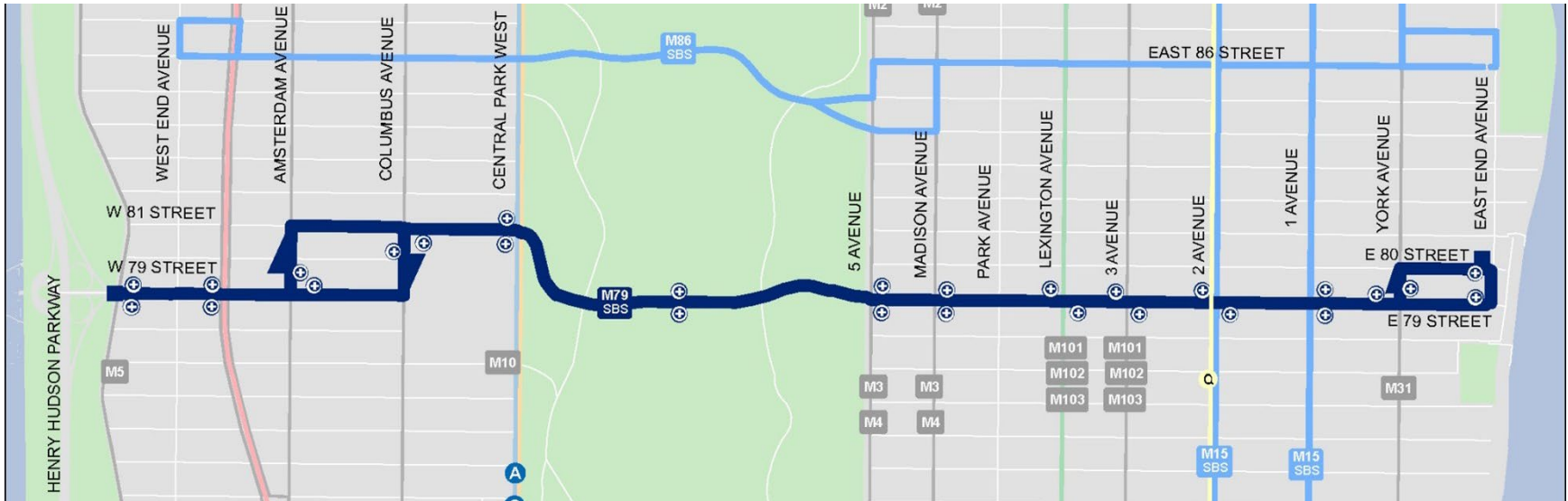
- Transit Improvements
- Safety Improvements

## 3. 79<sup>th</sup> Street Crosstown SBS Capital Project

## 4. Next Steps and Discussion

# Background

# 79<sup>th</sup> Street



- Major transit corridor, hosts M79-SBS:
  - 13,500 daily riders
  - High ridership by route mile vs. other routes
  - Connects to 4 subway lines
  - Connects to 16 bus routes, including M15-SBS
- Cultural destinations:
  - American Museum of Natural History
  - Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Central Park
  - Riverside Park
- 26 people have been killed or severely injured along 79<sup>th</sup> Street SBS corridor in the past 5 years (2020 - 2024):
  - Killed or Severely Injured (KSI) rate of 11.5 per mile (Top 33% in Manhattan)
  - Fatal crash at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue / E 79<sup>th</sup> Street in 2024



# 2017 Street Improvement Project

- Launched the M79 Select Bus Service to replace the M79 Local and included:
  - 8 bus queue jump lanes
  - 1 full block bus lanes
  - Signal timing improvements
  - Off-board fare payment
  - Real-time passenger information
  - Bus stop amenities & street furniture



# Performance

# 79th Street SBS – Transit & Traffic Improvements

- Instances of bus bunching **decreased by 6%.**
- Bus dwell times at bus stops **decreased by 21%.**
- Bus ridership on the M79-SBS **increased by 9%** in the first year after the launch.
- Car travel times **decreased by 4% to 8%** along the corridor.
- Bus speeds **improved by an average of 8%.**
- Number of late buses **decreased by up to 45%.**
- Bus Speeds (2024):
  - **6.9 MPH** (M79-SBS) vs. 6.0 MPH (Manhattan)
- On-time performance (2024):
  - **81.4%** (M79-SBS) vs. 69.5% (NYC)



# 79<sup>th</sup> Street SBS – Safety Improvements

Since implementation, all categories of crashes and injuries are down along the corridor.

2012-2016 Avg vs. 2017-2024 Avg:

- Pedestrian injuries are **down 63%**.
- Cyclist injuries are **down 17%**.
- Motor Vehicle crashes are **down 62%**.
- Total Incidents are **down 57%**.

\*NYPD and NYS data.

Injuries by Year

Year	Peds	Cyclists	Motor Vehicles	Total
2012-2016 Avg.	30	9	54	94
2017	14	7	34	55
2018	18	3	25	46
2019	21	13	15	49
2020	9	6	12	27
2021	7	9	21	37
2022	9	13	23	45
2023	8	10	21	39
2024	10	6	19	35



# 79<sup>th</sup> Street SBS – Challenges Remain

- Certain improvements could not be completed with in-house materials.
- Pedestrian safety measures don't have full impact until solidified with permanent materials.
- Crowding at certain bus stops and lack of circulation space.
- Some bus operations issues remain.
- Sections of the roadway and sidewalk in need of capital improvements and repair.

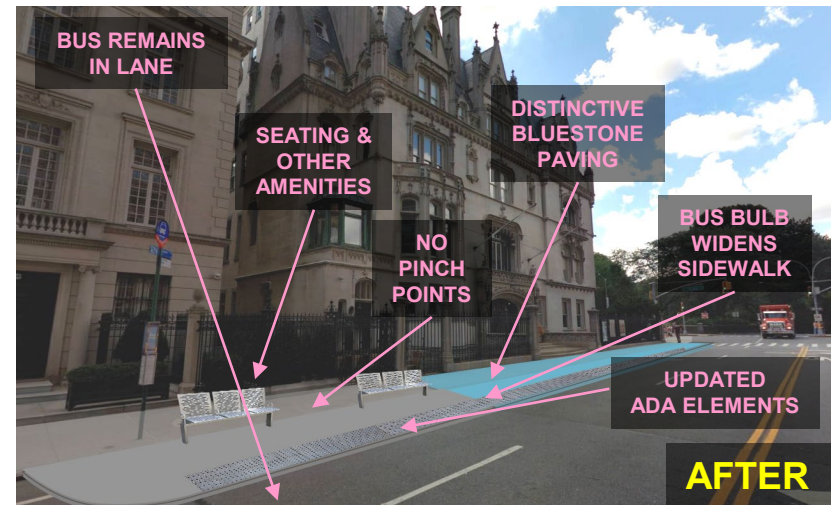
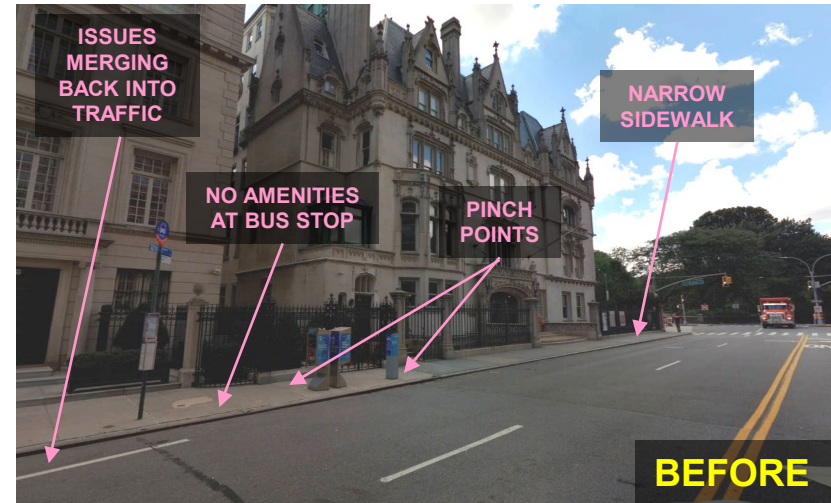


# 79<sup>th</sup> Street SBS Capital Project

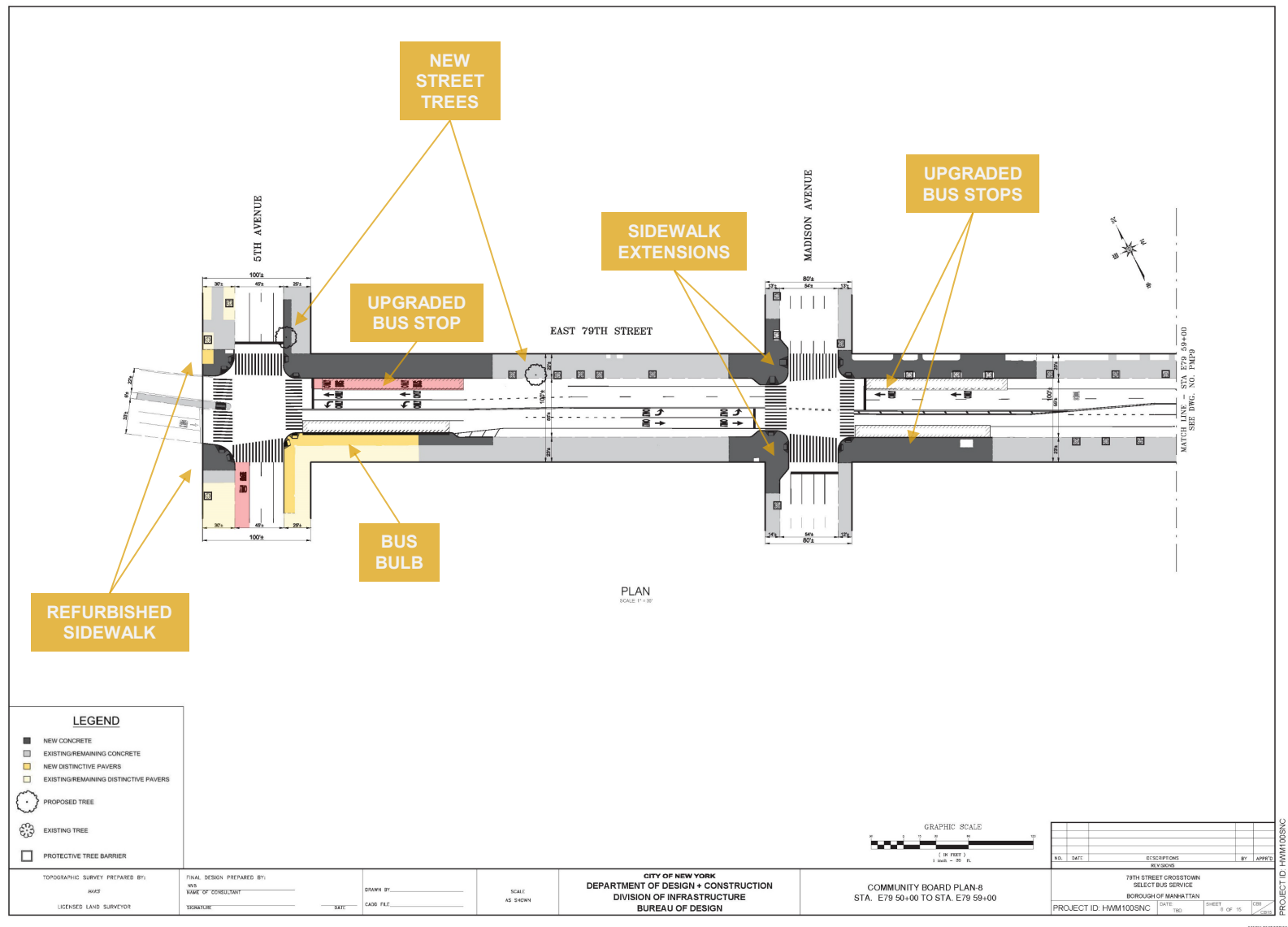
# 79<sup>th</sup> Street Crosstown SBS, Capital Project

E 79 St & 5 Avenue

- Maintain:
  - Alignment of bus lanes
  - Operational hours of bus lanes
  - 2017 traffic signal changes
- Upgrade:
  - 15 Bus Stops
  - 14 Bus Pads
  - 9 Median Tips/Pedestrian Refuges
- Add:
  - 4 Bus Bulbs
  - 13 Sidewalk Extensions
  - 20+ Street Trees

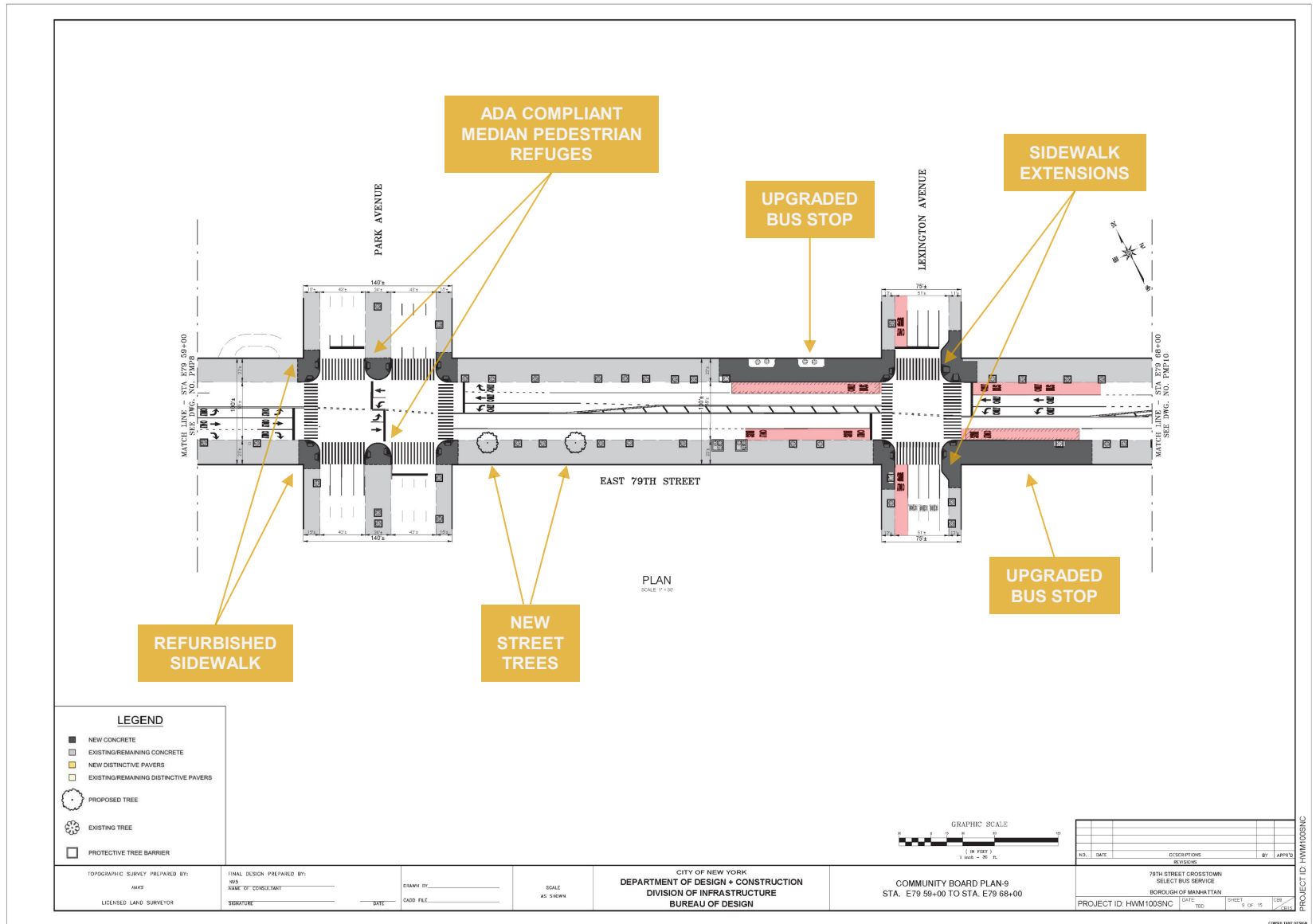


# E 79<sup>th</sup> St – 5<sup>th</sup> Av to Madison Av

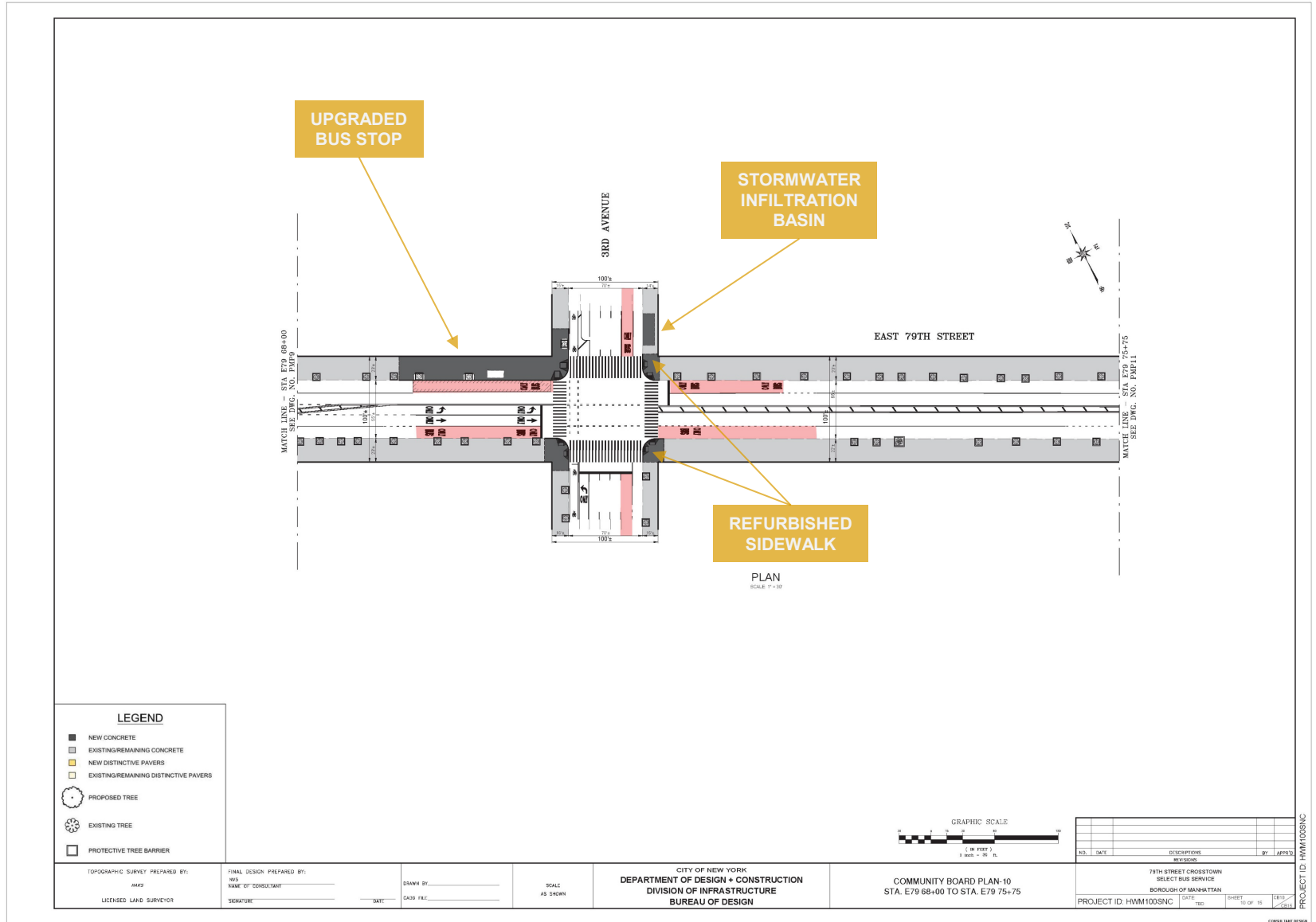




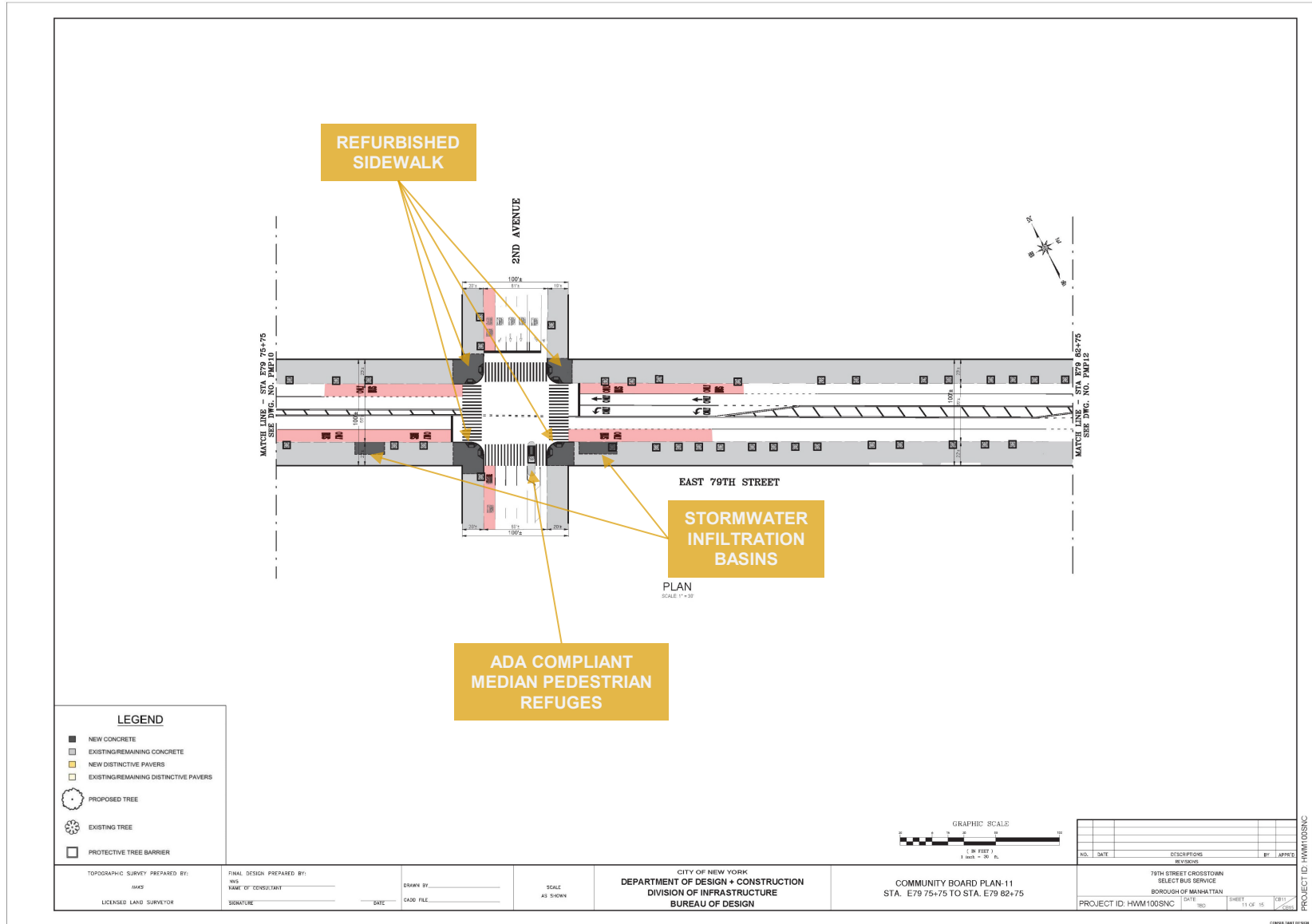
# E 79<sup>th</sup> St – Park Av to Lexington Av



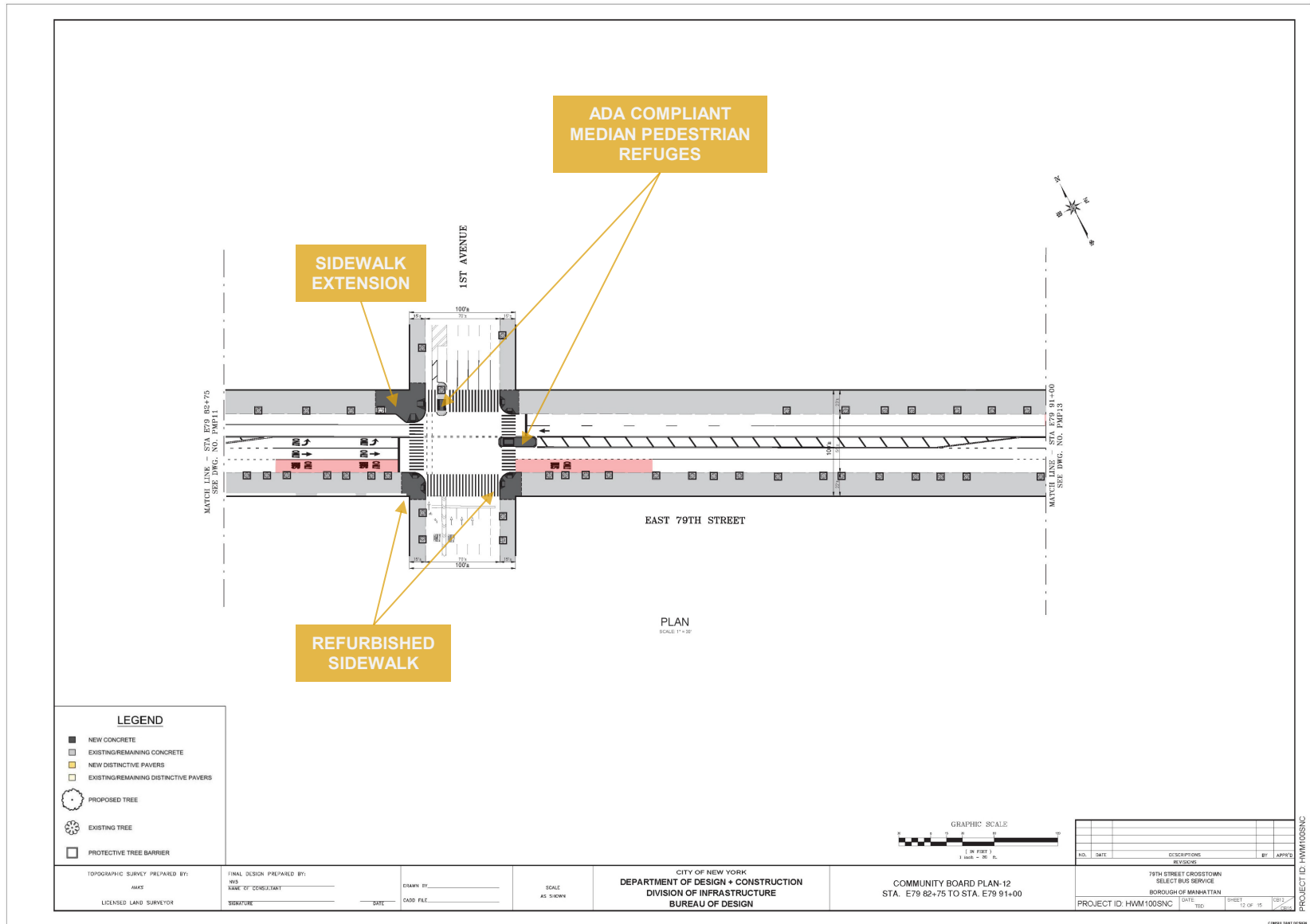
# E 79<sup>th</sup> St – 3<sup>rd</sup> Av



# E 79<sup>th</sup> St – 2<sup>nd</sup> Av

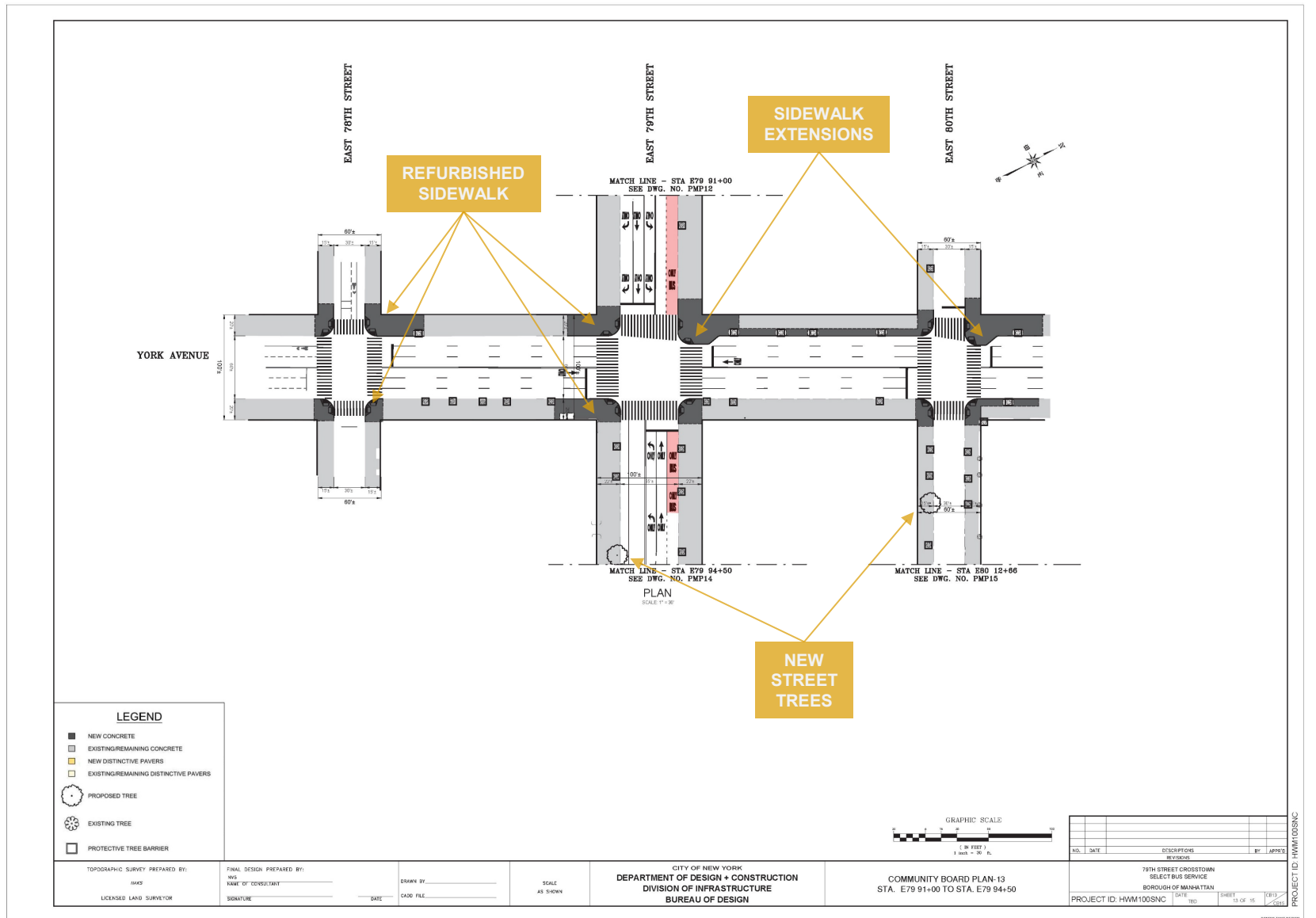


# E 79<sup>th</sup> St – 1<sup>st</sup> Av

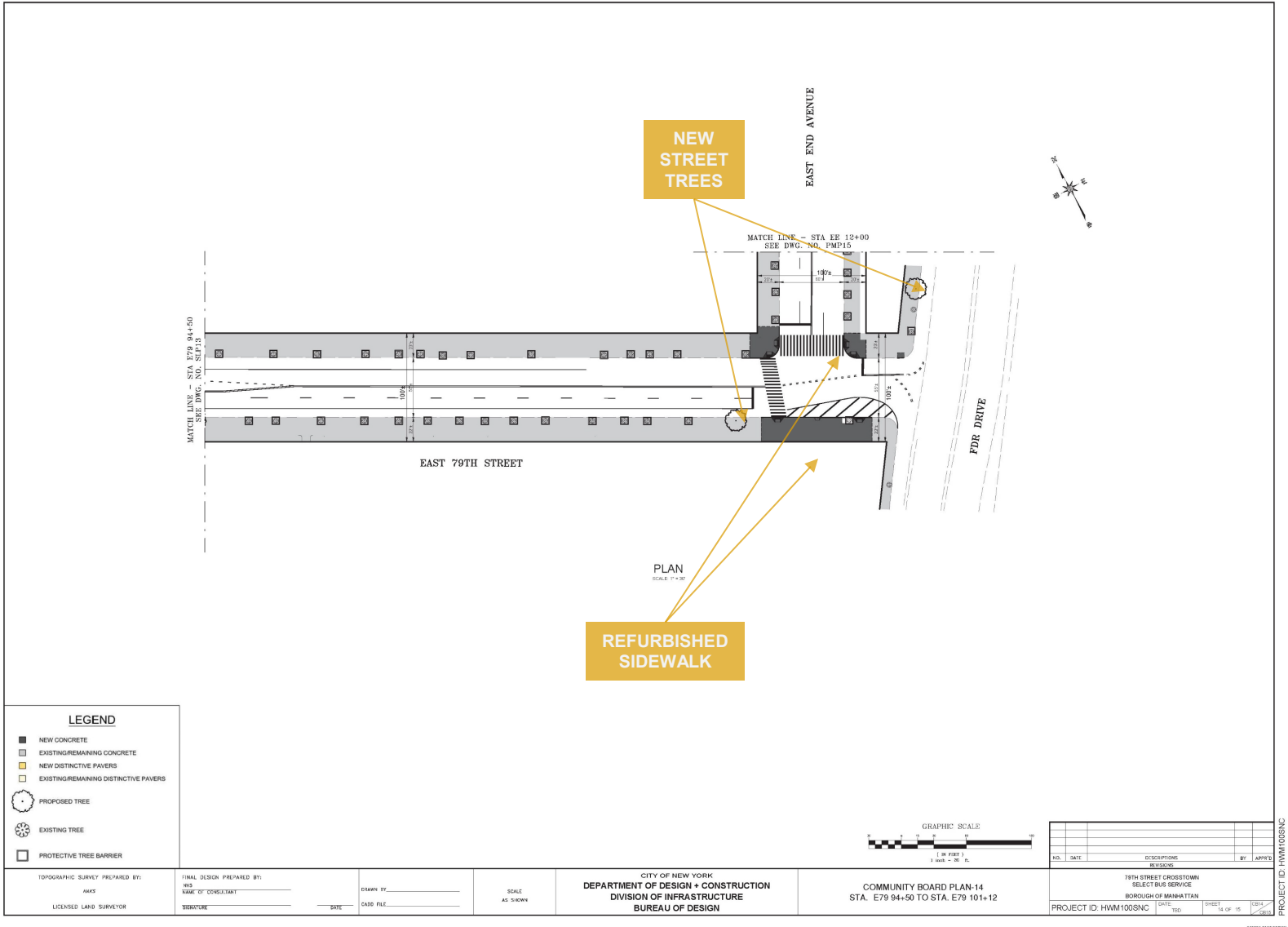




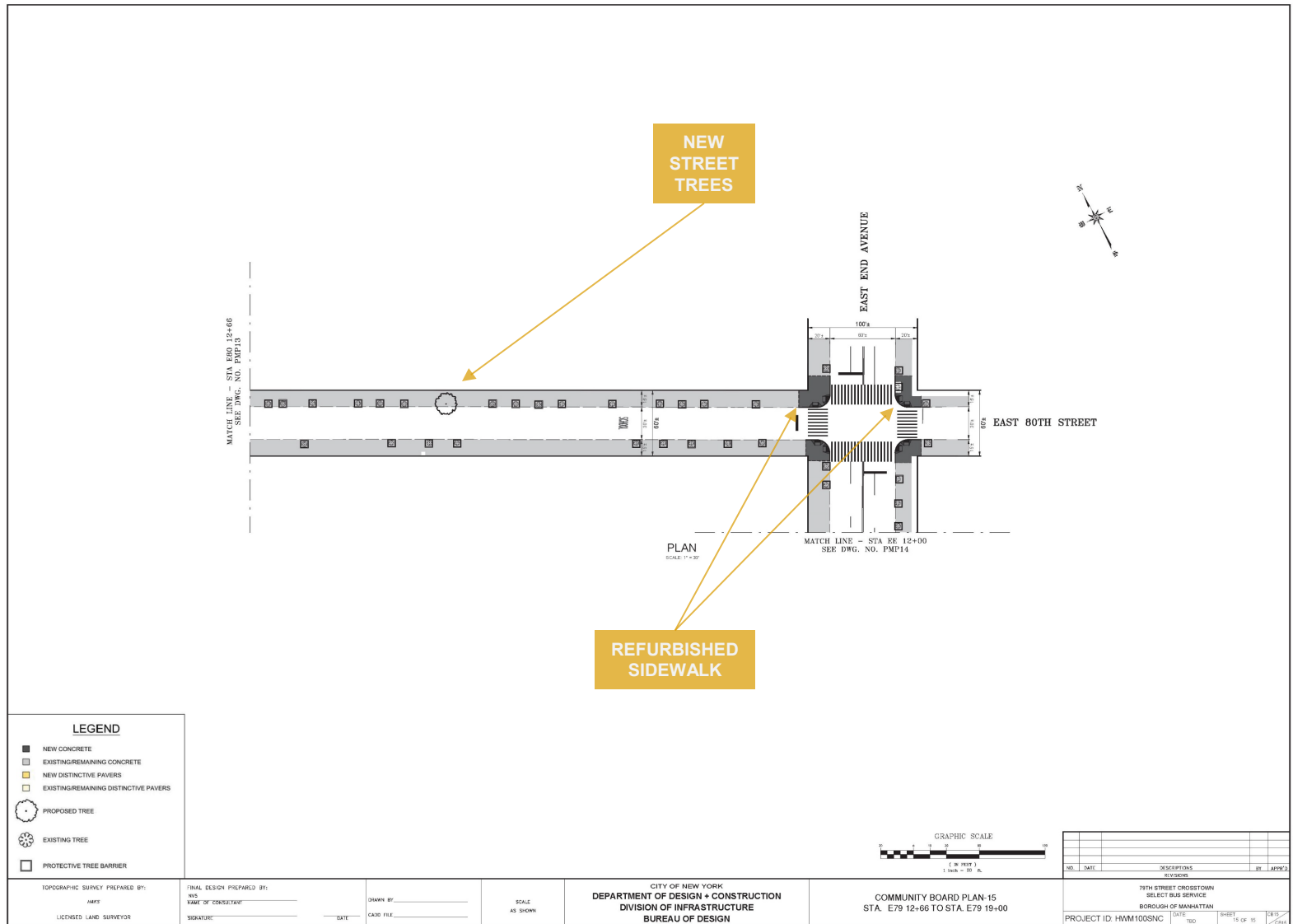
# York Av – E 78<sup>th</sup> St to E 80<sup>th</sup> St



## E 79<sup>th</sup> St – East End Av



# E 80<sup>th</sup> St – East End Av



# Next Steps & Discussion



## Next Steps

---

- **Est. Design Completion:**
  - November 2025
- **Est. Construction Start:**
  - June 2026
- **Est. Construction Completion:**
  - September 2029



# Thank You!

---

## Questions?



NYCDOT



nyc\_dot



nyc\_dot



NYCDOT