

7TH AVE & 8TH AVE, 39TH ST – 66TH ST

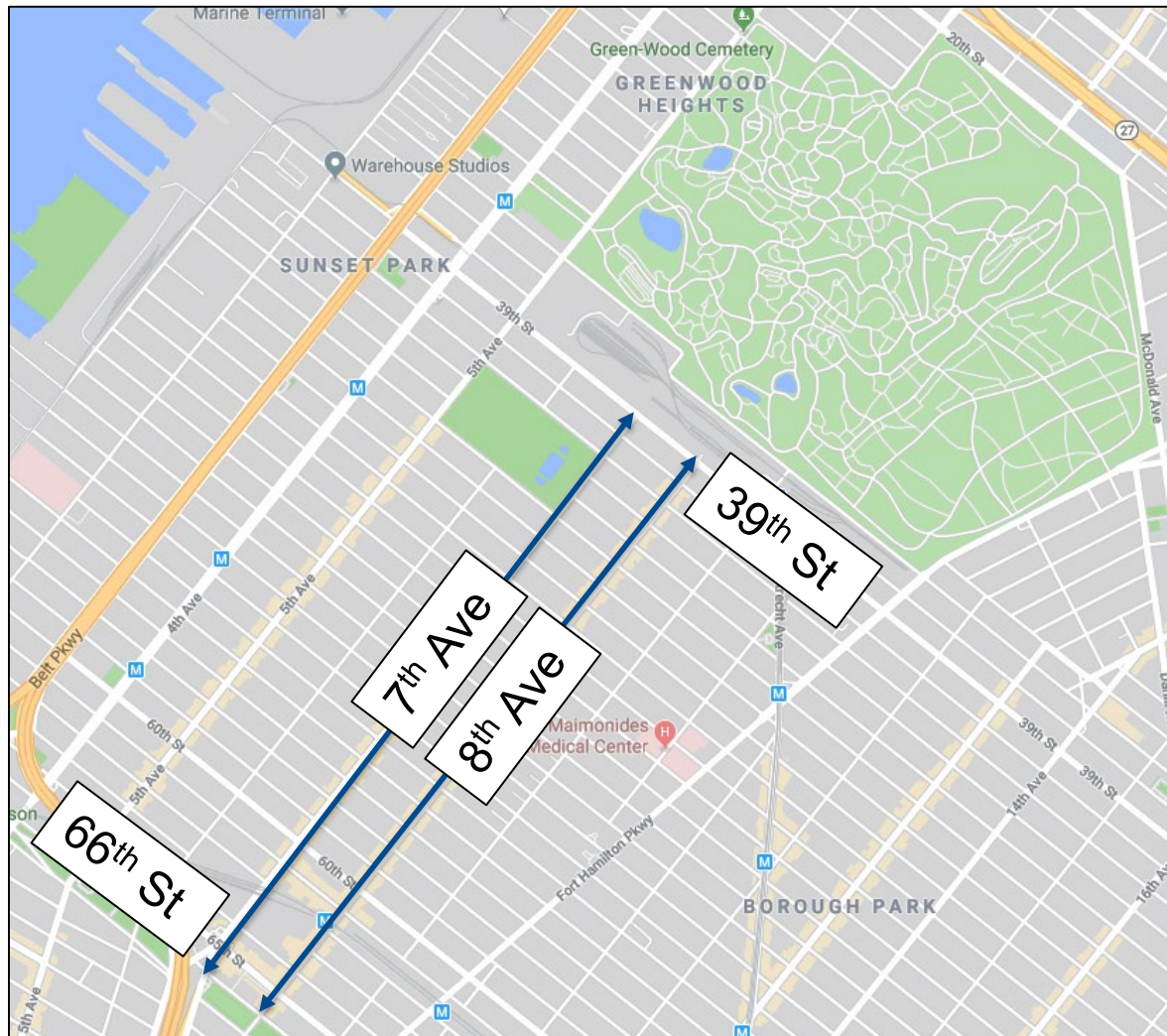
Brooklyn Community Board 10

September 9, 2021



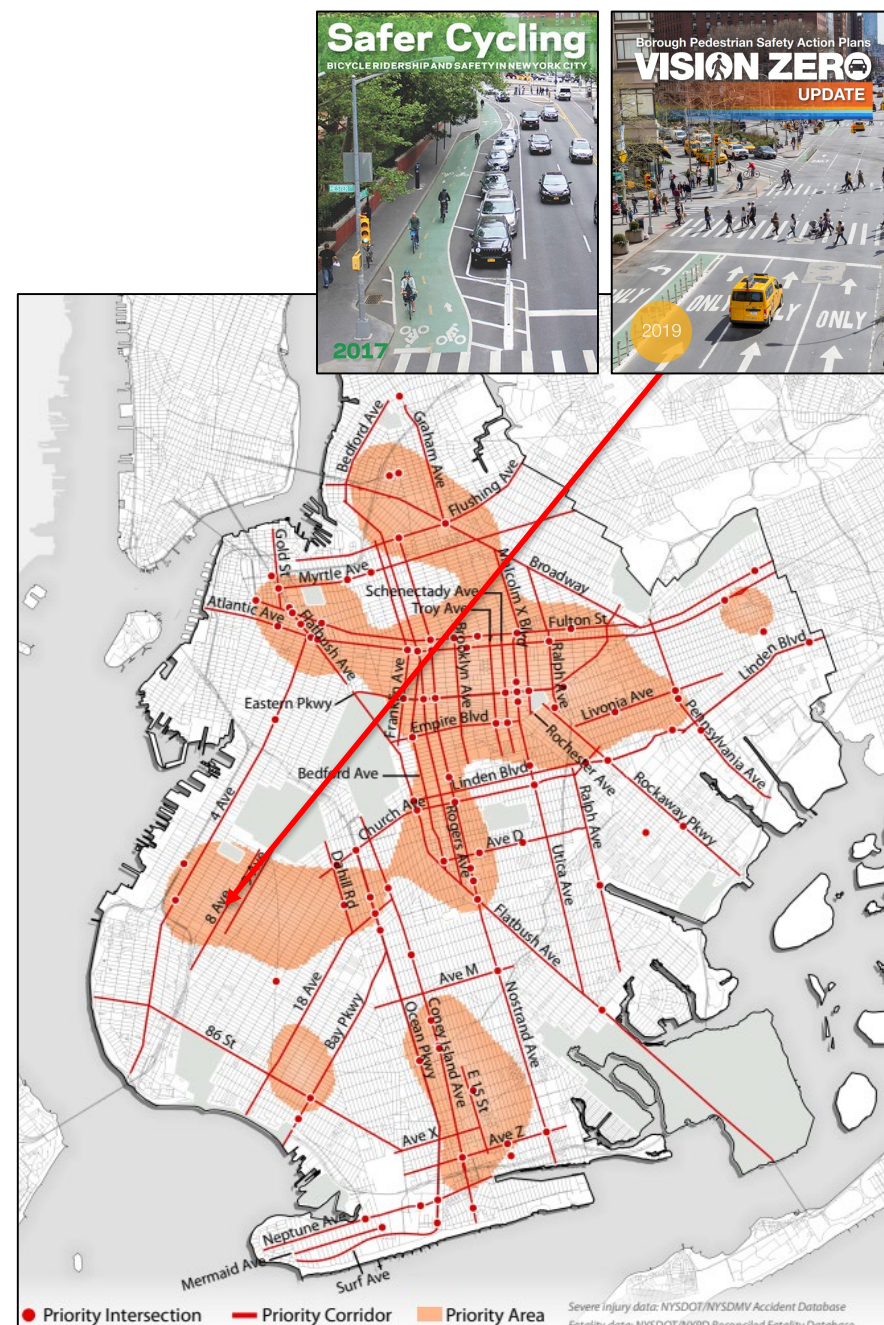
LOCATION

- 7th Ave – 66th St to 39th St
- 8th Ave – 66th St to 39th St
- Commercial heart of Sunset Park's Chinatown
- B70 bus runs on 8th Avenue
- Existing two-way shared bike lane on 7th Ave



BACKGROUND

- 8th Ave is a Vision Zero Priority Corridor
- 7th Ave has comparable crash and injury data
- Located within the Borough Park Senior Pedestrian Focus Area and a Vision Zero Priority Area
- 8th Ave is within a bike priority district (CB 12)
- Project area is within Community Boards 7, 10, and 12
- Community Board 7 requested study of one-way conversions in 2003 and 2015



CURRENT STREET USAGE

Commercial heart of Chinatown

- Double parking, frequent loading, and many trucks result in lane blockages frequently reducing the road to one travel lane, leading to unpredictable movements, congestion, and slow bus speeds (<4.0 MPH)

Pedestrian corridor

- High pedestrian volumes, narrow sidewalks & street vendors result in crowded sidewalks and pedestrian spillover onto the street

Cyclist activity

- North/south connection in Sunset Park. Commuter, recreational, and commercial cyclists



Pedestrians, cars, trucks, cyclists, and buses compete for space on 8th Ave

CRASH TYPES/ANALYSIS

- Vehicle occupant injuries are a result of congested, narrow streets
 - Sideswipes and head-on collisions are 50% more frequent on these corridors compared to the rest of Brooklyn
- The breakdown due to congestion creates unpredictability and non-compliance resulting in pedestrian injuries
 - Many points of conflict are challenging to navigate due to congestion
- Lack of adequate cycling facilities compromises cyclist safety on corridors
 - High frequency of failure to yield crashes, especially on right turns
 - Disproportionate number of midblock cycling injuries



Narrow two way streets and high pedestrian volumes are some of the frequent causes of crashes on 7th Ave and 8th Ave

CORRIDOR INJURIES

- Pedestrian and cyclist injuries represent more than half of total injuries and severe injuries on the corridors
- Traffic injuries to children and seniors on the corridors are 40% more common than borough average (35% vs 25%)
- Between 39th and 66th St, 8th Avenue is tied for the highest number of pedestrians killed or severely injured of all the north/south streets within the Community Boards

Injury Summary, 2014-2018 (5 Years)

	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	233	17	1	18
Bicyclist	32	2	0	2
Motor Vehicle Occupant	242	15	0	15
Total	507	34	1	35

Source: Fatalities: NYCDOT, Injuries: NYSDOT KSI: Persons Killed or Severely Injured



A crowded sidewalk on 8th Ave

ON-STREET OUTREACH

- In February 2020, NYC DOT Street Ambassadors administered 391 surveys in the neighborhood about safety and mobility in Sunset Park
 - Partnered with Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, Chinese-American Planning Council, and the Sunset Park Recreation Center
- Largest safety concerns are speeding vehicles, vehicles not yielding, illegally parked vehicles, and heavy vehicle traffic
- 78% of respondents felt that the sidewalks are always too crowded
- Some respondents expressed concerns about the frequency of cyclists on the sidewalk



NYC DOT Street Ambassadors administering surveys.
Top: Sunset Park Recreation Center; Bottom: Brooklyn Chinese American Association

WHAT WE LEARNED

88% of respondents arrived on foot or public transportation

43% of pedestrians feel very unsafe or somewhat unsafe walking on 7th and 8th Ave

54% of cyclists feel unsafe biking on 7th Ave and 8th Ave

Half of respondents who want street changes asked for transit improvements



NYC DOT BUSINESS OUTREACH

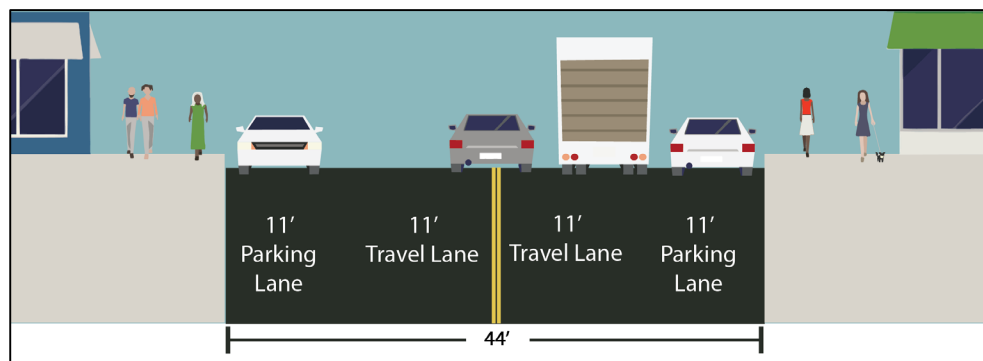
Street Ambassadors

- The NYC DOT Street Ambassadors visited 340 businesses along 7th Ave & 8th Ave over three days in November 2019
- NYC DOT spoke to merchants about when they receive deliveries, vehicle parking patterns, double parking observations, and other loading issues
- 58% of businesses reported that they had difficulty receiving deliveries, most frequently due to the lack of dedicated curb space



CURRENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT LIMITATIONS

- Both streets are 44' wide two-way streets with parking on both sides
- As two-way streets, both 7 Ave and 8 Ave have limited corridor safety improvement possibilities
- NYC DOT treatments for these roads typically involve narrowing moving lanes to address speeding, which is not the cause of injuries on 7th Ave or 8th Ave



Above: Vehicles maneuver around a double parked truck, slowing traffic in each direction. Below: Diagram shows the limited street width

CURBSIDE CONSIDERATIONS

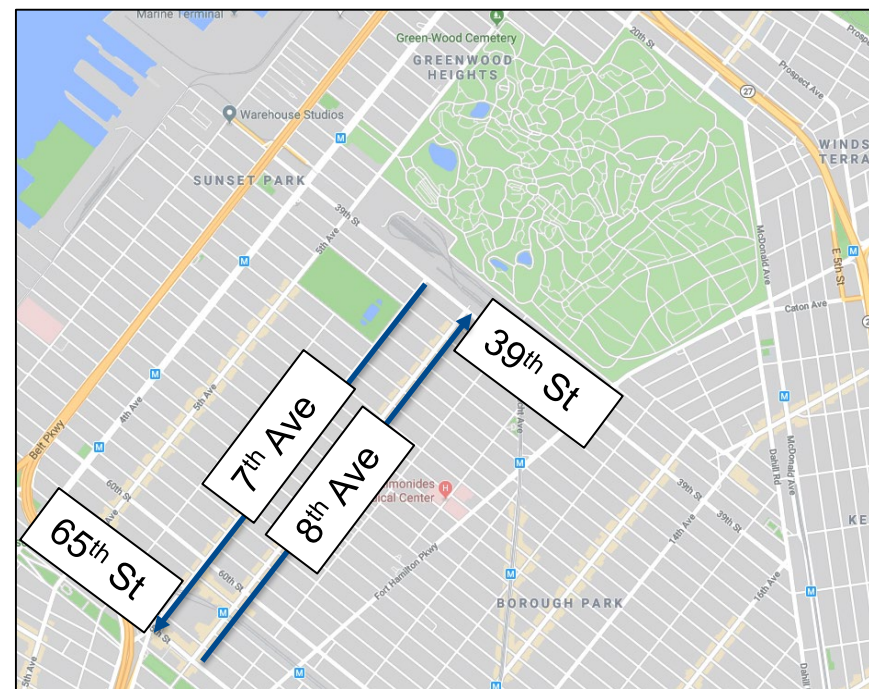
- Loading
 - Very heavy loading activity at all times. Concentrated on 8th Ave in the 50s
- Buses
 - B70 and charter bus stops every 400 to 700'. Below MTA average spacing guidelines
- Parking
 - Dense corridors – 66% of households in census tracts do not own cars
- Pedestrians
 - 5,070 pedestrian counted in one hour on 8th Ave & 57th St (9/2019)
- Cyclists
 - 600 – 800 cyclists per day recorded in Fall 2019
- Commuter Vans
 - Observed at various locations on 8th Ave



Loading and pedestrian activity are two of the common uses that compete for limited curb space on 7th Ave and 8th Ave

PROPOSAL

- Convert 7th Avenue to southbound between 39th St and 65th St
- Convert 8th Avenue to northbound between 65th St and 39th St
- Add a protected bike lane to each street
- Add additional pedestrian space and aggressive curbside management plan
- Add a contraflow bike lane on 66th St between 7th Ave and 8th Ave to connect northbound cyclists



Similar design implemented on Skillman Ave, QN

ONE-WAY CONVERSIONS

- Substantial corridor safety improvements that address the crash history of 7th Ave & 8th Ave
- Eliminating two-way traffic improves vehicle predictability, reduces possible movements, and conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists
- Allow for the addition of safe, dedicated space for cyclists and expanded space for pedestrians that narrows the roadway to reduce speeding
- Signal progressions improve vehicle and transit mobility



Existing conditions (above) and similar design implemented on Skillman Ave, QN (below)

PROPOSAL – CURBSIDE DETAILS

- Expanded Pedestrian Space
 - Sidewalk expansion on the west curb of 8th Ave from 60th St to 51st St
- New Loading and Parking Regulations
 - Add commercial loading zones at key locations during peak delivery times
 - NYC DOT completed a comprehensive curbside study using time lapse video, stakeholder conversations, and business survey data to determine regulation changes
- Transit
 - Relocate southbound B70 bus from 8th Ave to 7th Ave and consolidate bus stops
- Mobility
 - Add curbside parking protected bike lanes



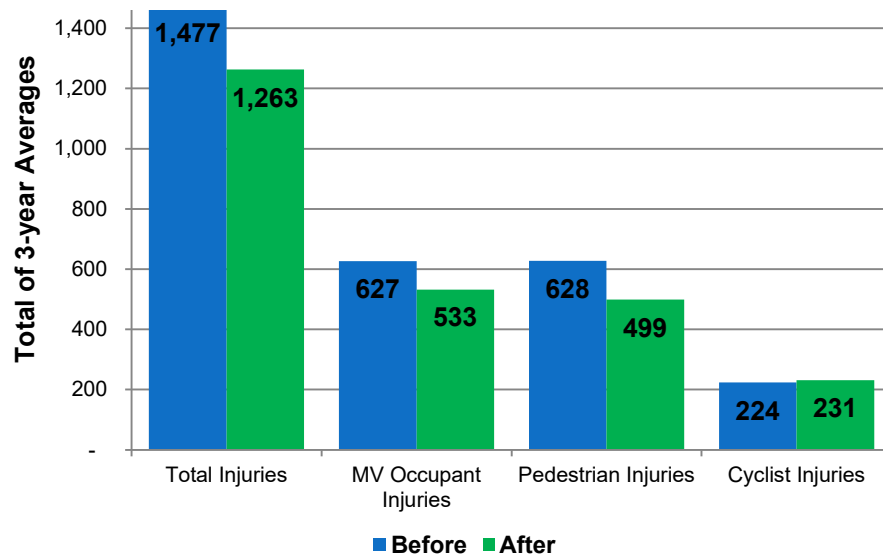
B70 bus passing two trucks loading simultaneously on 8 Ave at 45 St

PROTECTED BIKE LANES

- Street designs that include protected bike lanes increase safety for all users
 - **-15%** drop in all crashes with injuries
 - **-21%** drop in pedestrian injuries*On streets where protected bike lanes were installed 2007-2017*
- Injuries to cyclists increase only 3%, despite a 61% bike volume increase

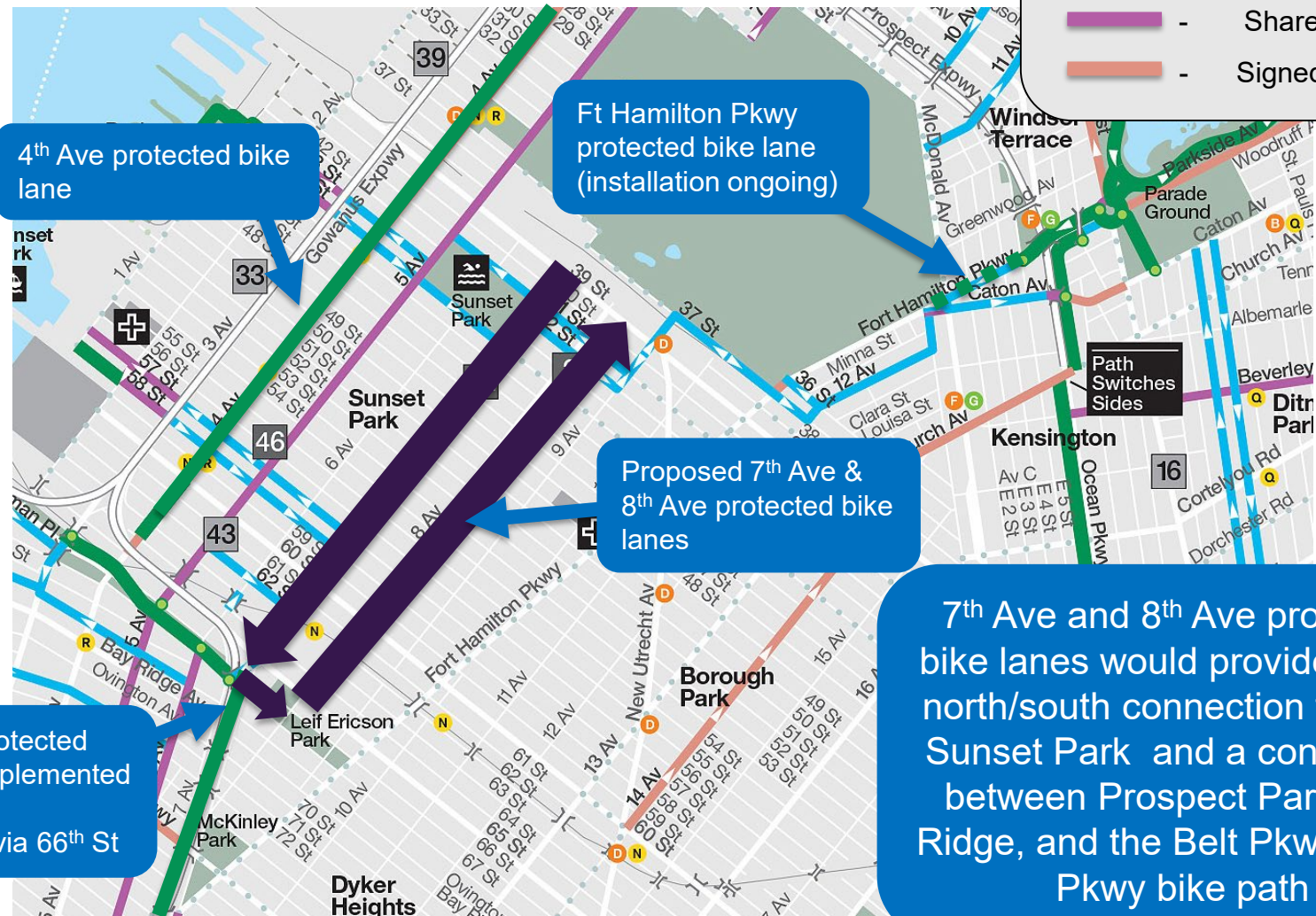
Protected Bike Lanes

Before and After Crash Data, 2007 - 2017



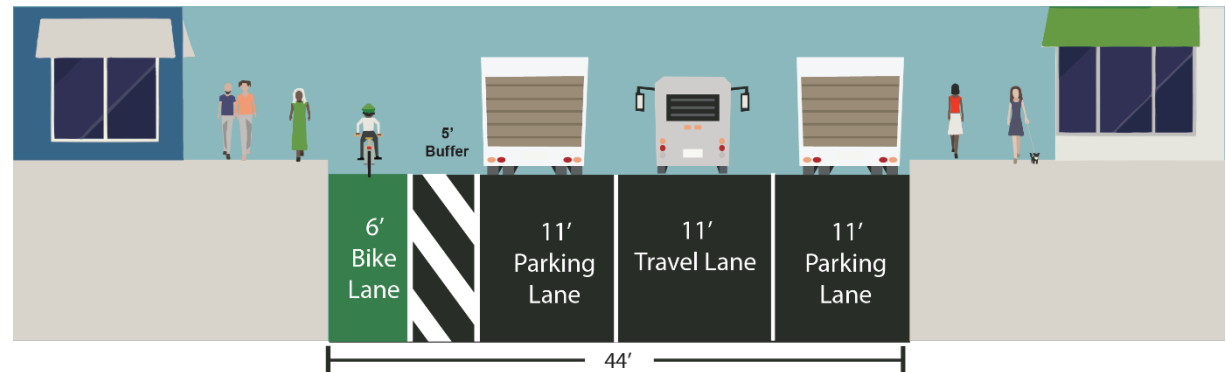
Protected bike lane: Skillman Ave, QN

BIKE NETWORK

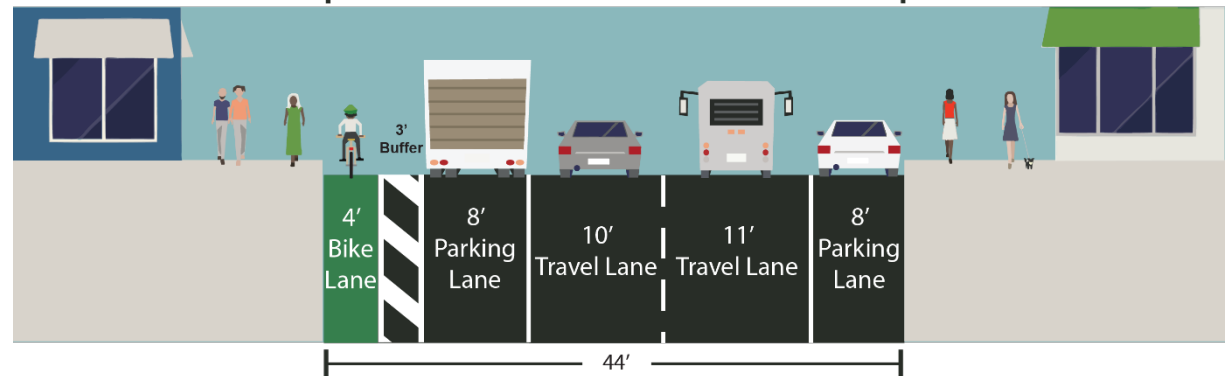


PROPOSED DESIGN- 7TH AVE & 8TH AVE

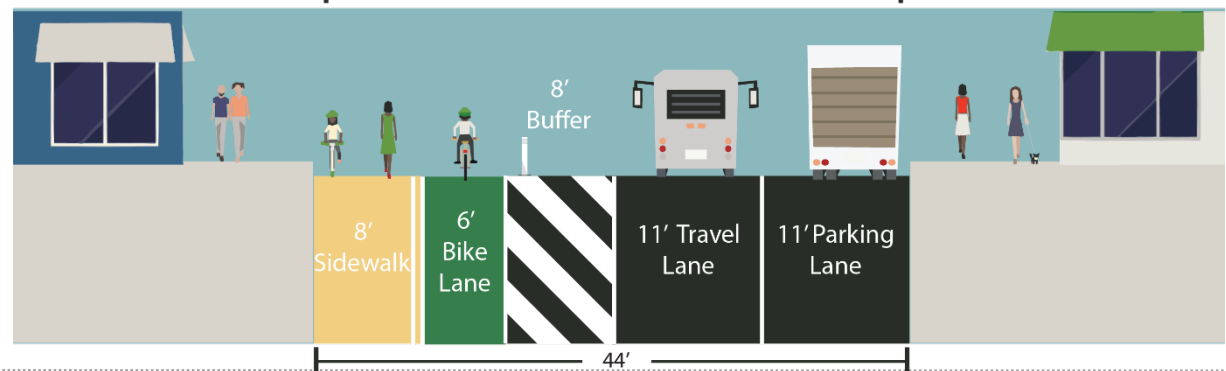
Primary design –
7th Ave & 8th Ave:
One travel lane
and protected
bike lane



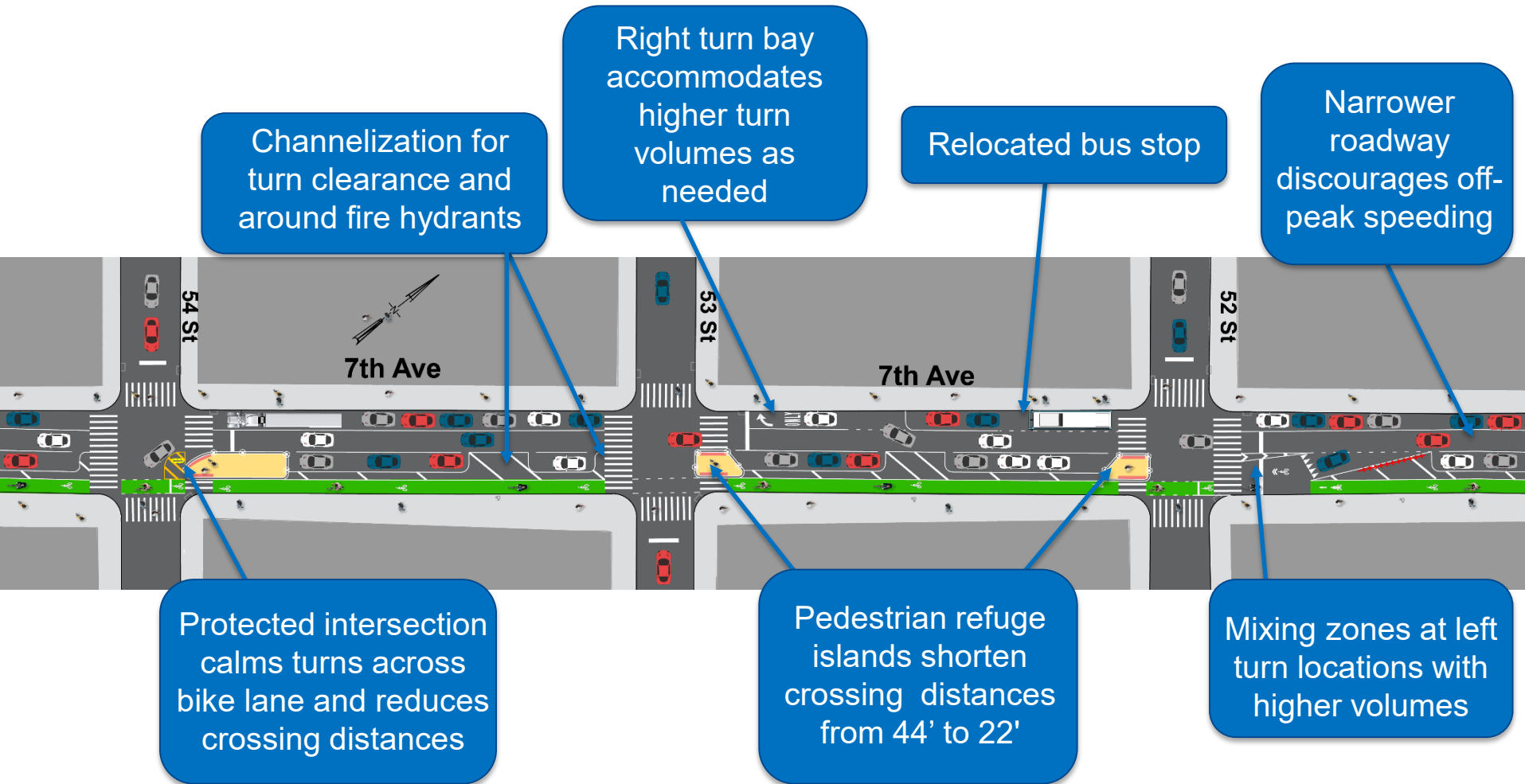
Two-lane design
(65th St to 60th St) –
7th Ave & 8th Ave:
Two travel lanes and
protected bike lane



Pedestrian design
8th Ave, 60th St to 51st
St: One travel lane,
protected bike lane,
pedestrian expansion

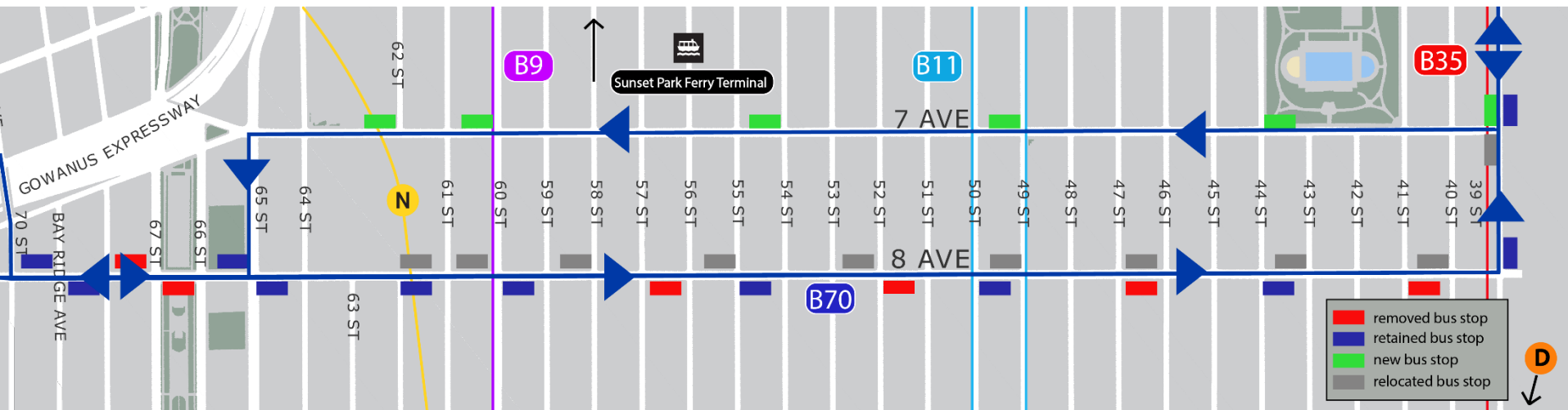


SITE PLAN – TYPICAL BLOCK



B70 REROUTE AND STOP CONSOLIDATION

- NYC DOT and MTA have coordinated closely on plan to improve service for B70 bus on 7th and 8th Aves
- Southbound bus will be rerouted to 7th Ave
- Improved stop spacing in both directions will help speed up service along the corridors
- New traffic signal at 7th Ave and 62nd St will ensure that seamless connection between B70 bus and N train 8th Ave station is maintained



Map showing removed bus stops, retained bus stops, and new bus stops for the B70

PROPOSAL - 65TH ST, 66TH ST, 67TH ST

65th St

- Add eastbound to northbound left turn bay on 65th Street at 8th Ave to accommodate higher turn volumes

66th St

- Add a protected, contra-flow bike lane traveling from 7th Ave to 8th Ave to connect northbound cyclists to 8th Ave

67th St

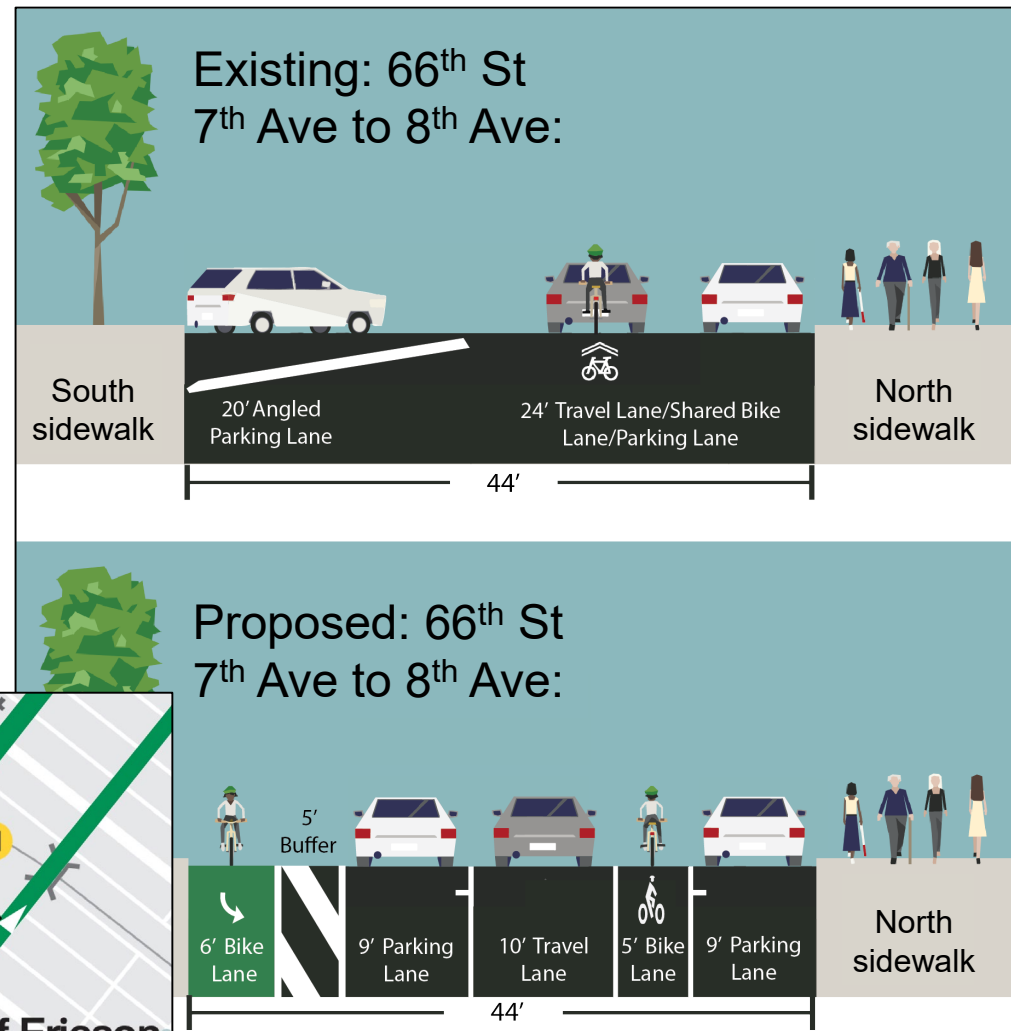
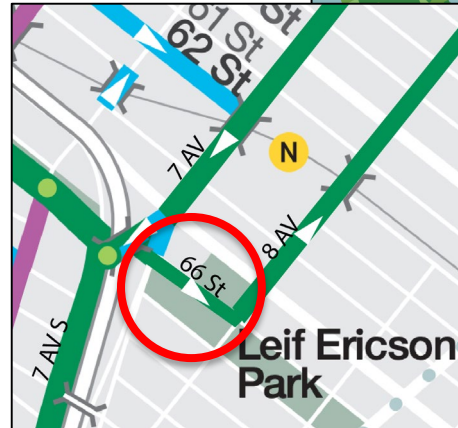
- Add angled parking on the north side adjacent to Leif Ericson Park between 7th Ave & 9th Ave



Current angled parking on 66th St between 7th Ave & 8th Ave

66TH ST – PROPOSED DESIGN

- Northbound cyclists will connect from existing protected bike path at 7th Ave and 66th St via 66th St
- Design will replace angled parking adjacent to park on south side of 66th St with floating parallel parking
- Design adds one block of eastbound contra-flow parking protected bike lane between 7th Ave and 8th Ave



Above: Cross-sections of 66th St
Left: 66th St connection on the bike map

PROTECTED BIKE LANES AND PARKING

- In order to increase visibility, reduce conflicts for all roadway users, and ensure safe and efficient operations, parking is repurposed near intersections

Left turns across the bike lane require removal of parking approaching the intersection to ensure that drivers have unobstructed views of the bike lane before turning across it



Protected left turn: 6th Ave, MN



Mixing Zone, 2nd Ave, MN

Curbside right turn lanes replace parking with turn bays to improve vehicle processing at intersections



Right-turn lane, Queens Blvd, QN

LOADING ZONES

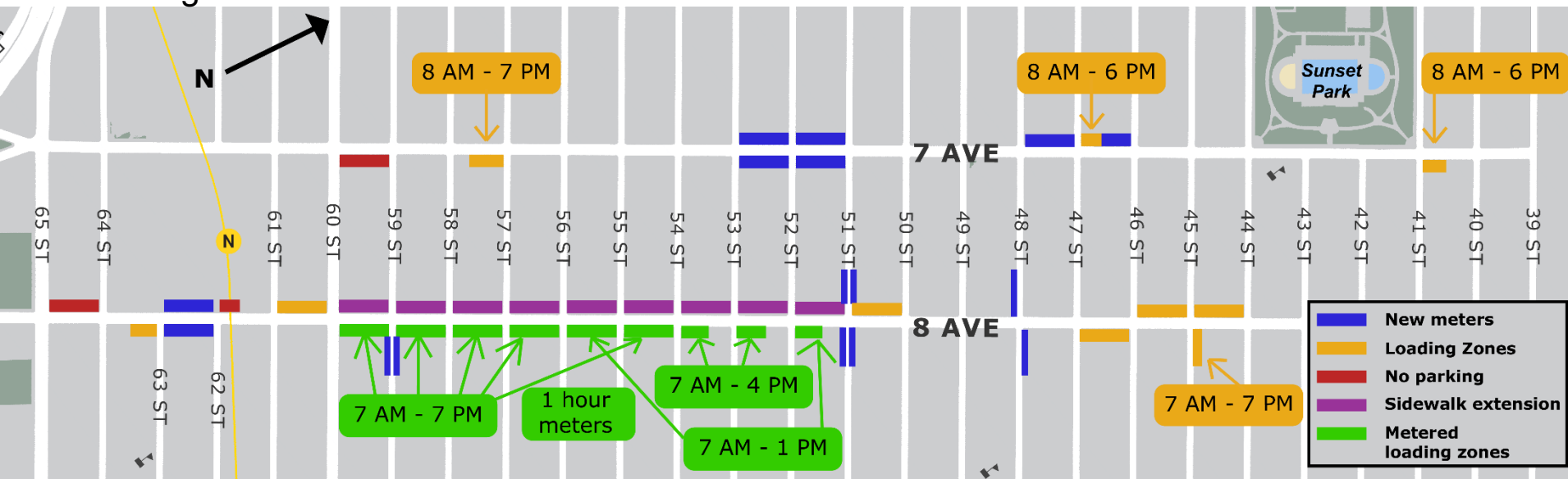
- NYC DOT will install loading zones along the corridors
- Loading zones dedicate curb space to trucks and vans making deliveries for certain hours of the day
- Passenger vehicle parking remains available after loading zone hours
- Loading zone determinations made through business surveys, time lapse videos, and stakeholder conversations
- DOT to install mixture of metered and unmetered loading zones as needed



Trucks use loading zones to access curb to make deliveries without blocking traffic

LOADING, DOUBLE PARKING, METERS

- NYC DOT to update parking regulations along the corridors to reduce truck double parking, provide dedicated loading space, and increase vehicle turnover
- Provide approximately 95 new 2-hour metered parking spots around commercial corridors to improve passenger vehicle access
- Provide new Commercial Loading Zones from 7 AM – 10 AM (except where noted below)
- Adjacent to the sidewalk expansion, update meters from 2-hour to 1-hour and install Metered Loading Zones



PARKING IMPACTS

- Design will result in repurposing of approximately 185 spots across the 3.3 miles of streets being impacted as part of the Street Improvement Project
- More than 90% of total parking spots on all streets between 39th St and 67th St and between 7th and 8th Ave to remain available

Element	Parking Change
Protected Bike Lane Design (Protected Left Turns, Mixing Zones, Pedestrian Islands, etc.)	- 122
Sidewalk Extension (West curb, 8 th Ave – 60 th St to 51 st St)	- 69
Right Turn Lanes	- 52
Bus Stop Changes and Relocations	+ 25
Parking Changes on 65 th St, 66 th St, and 67 th St	+ 35
Total	Net loss of 183 parking spots

SUMMARY

- Directly addresses crash history of Vision Zero Priority Corridor through street conversion and design
- Provides much needed pedestrian space and improves pedestrian safety in the heart of Brooklyn's Chinatown
- Provides a safe, direct connection for cyclists in Sunset Park
- Improves the reliability of the B70 bus
- Project planning reflects the needs of businesses and residents in the area
- Aligns with NYC DOT Green Wave and NYC Master Transportation plans of expanding Protected Bike Lane network



THANK YOU!

Questions?



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