



BQE Central Rehabilitation Virtual Q&A #1

October 6, 2026

Welcome, we will be starting shortly.

BQEcentral

For discussion purposes only. Subject to change and refinement.

Agenda

- Purpose of this Session
- Project Overview
- Q&A Session

Why Are We Here Today? The Scoping Process

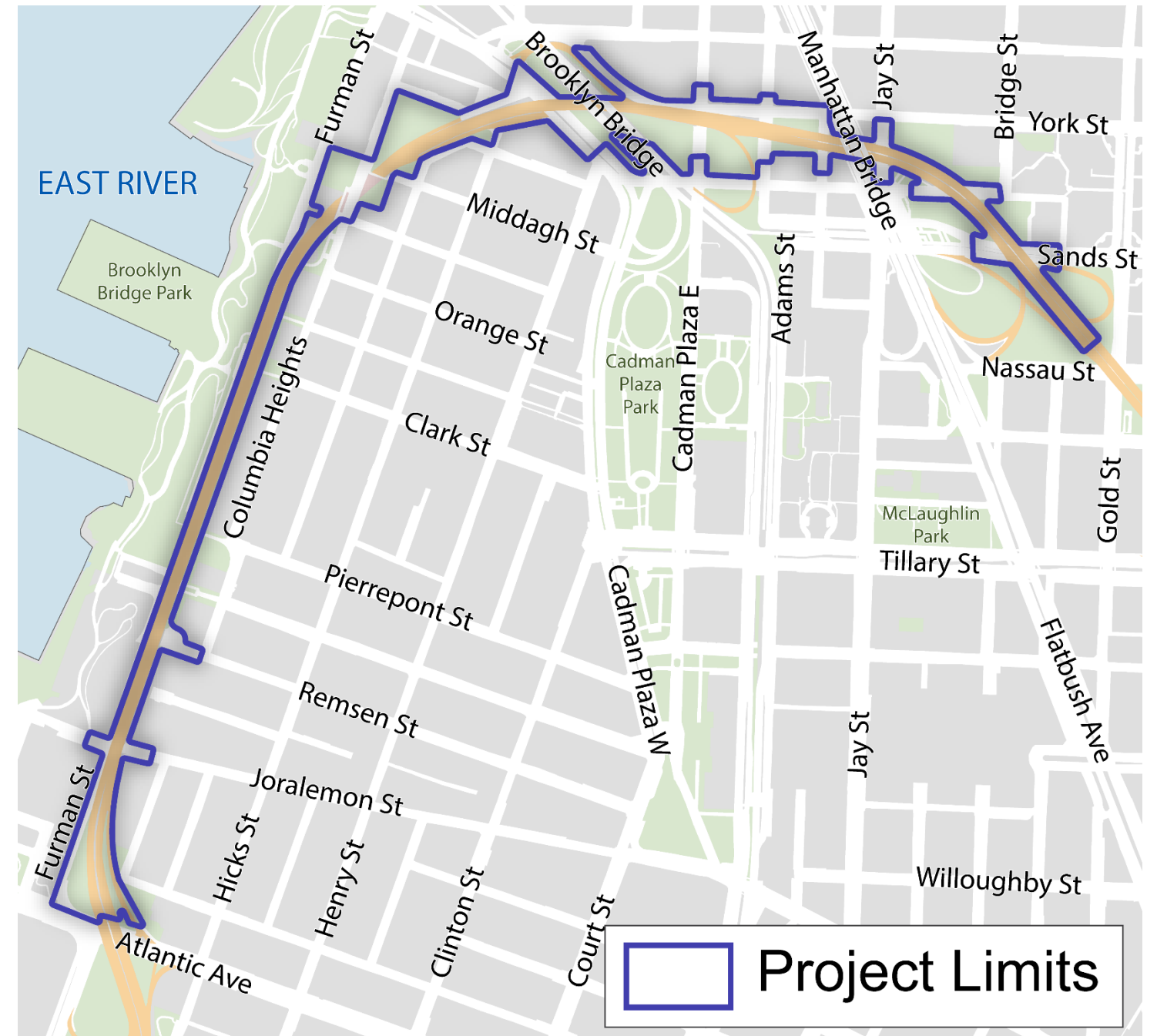
- **Scoping** for the BQE Central Rehabilitation Project has begun
- Scoping is an early step in the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process
- When we say "**Scoping**", we refer to the process where NYC DOT will:
 - **Define what to study:** identify potential environmental impacts the Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) should study
 - **Define how to study potential impacts:** Establish the analyses, alternatives, and potential ways to reduce impacts
 - **Hear from the public:** Gather public input on the proposed scope of the project and what should be studied in the EIS

Why Are We Here Today?

- We'll give a **brief overview** of the BQE Central Project then have a Q&A.
- The Q&A will be an opportunity to ask **clarifying questions about information currently available** in the Draft Scope of Work and other published project materials.
- Today's Q&A is not part of the formal CEQR comment record.
 - Some questions may involve project design or topics that require **additional analysis** as part of the environmental review.
 - We may not be able to answer those questions today.
 - We'll explain how you can submit those questions as formal comments.

BQE Central Overview

- BQE Central is the approximately 1.5-mile City-owned section of the BQE (Interstate-278) between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street in Brooklyn.
- NYC DOT owns BQE Central (**12% of the BQE** in Brooklyn) and New York State owns the rest.
- The section has 21 bridges and structures, including the “triple cantilever”, which has two levels of highway with the Brooklyn Heights Promenade above, over Furman Street.

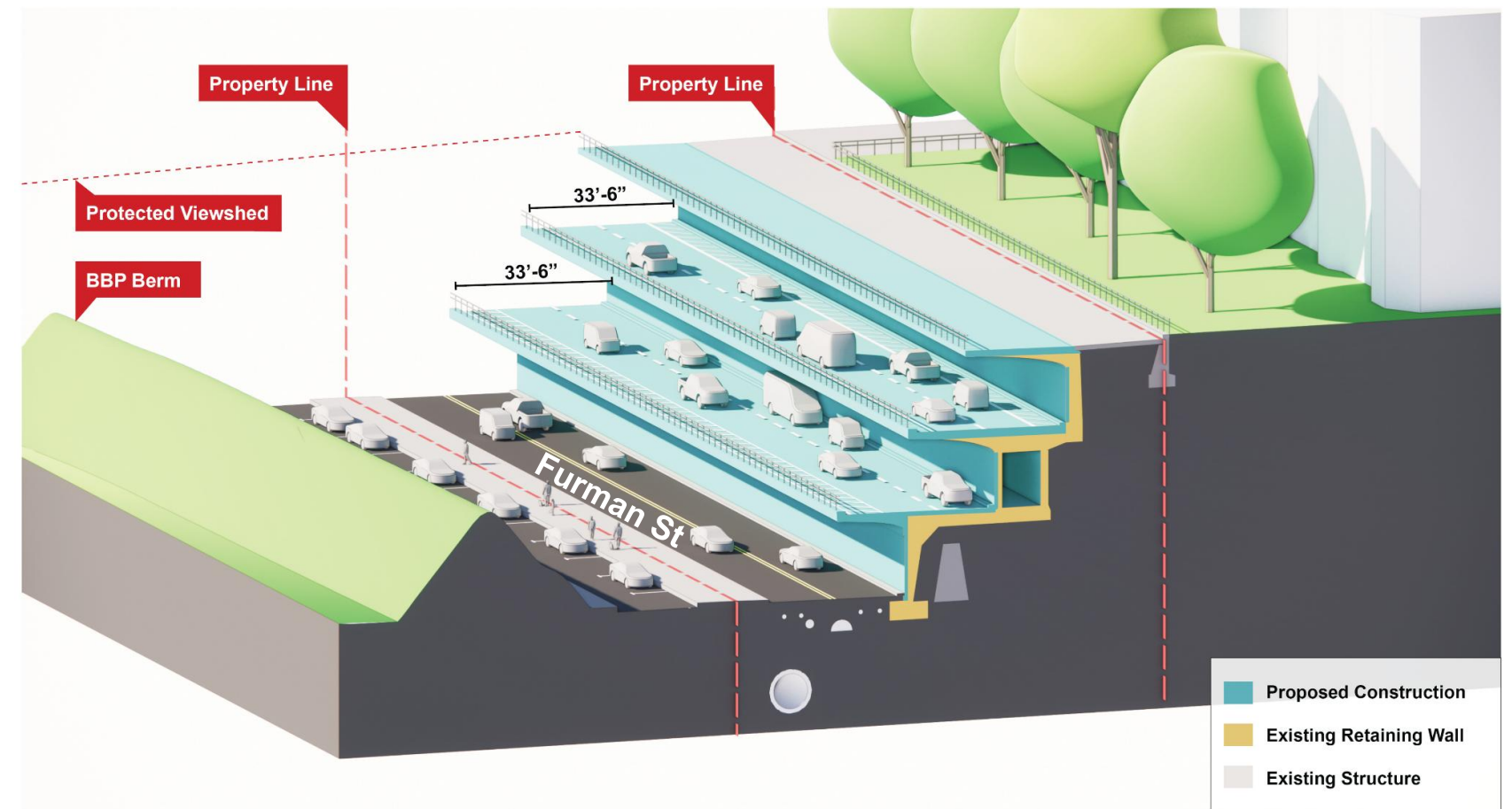


What is NYC DOT Proposing?

- BQE Central carries people, goods, emergency vehicles, and freight through Brooklyn and the region. About 70% of commercial trips using the Triple Cantilever originate or terminate in Brooklyn/Queens.
- However, BQE Central is over 70 years old and needs repairs to remain safe for the traveling public and keep all these vehicles off local streets.
- NYC DOT is proposing to repair and strengthen BQE Central: this work is called **rehabilitation**. This project would:
 -  Address structural deterioration
 -  Maintain regional connectivity and mobility
 -  Rehabilitate the Brooklyn Heights Promenade to keep it in a state of good repair
 -  Keep the door open for long-term planning of the BQE Corridor

BQE Central Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation would extend the life of the structure by approximately 40 years.
- NYC DOT will:
 - Fix deteriorated parts of the structures
 - Improve drainage and lighting
 - Replace or upgrade railings
 - Bring the structure into a state of good repair
- The highway will remain **two lanes** and will not expand, nor will interchanges be altered.
- Cost: \$3.5 - \$4.0B



Why Rehabilitation is Needed Now

- BQE Central is more than 70 years old.
- Many parts of the structure have worn down over time.
- NYC DOT inspections have found cracked concrete, exposed steel, rust, water damage, and other signs of age.

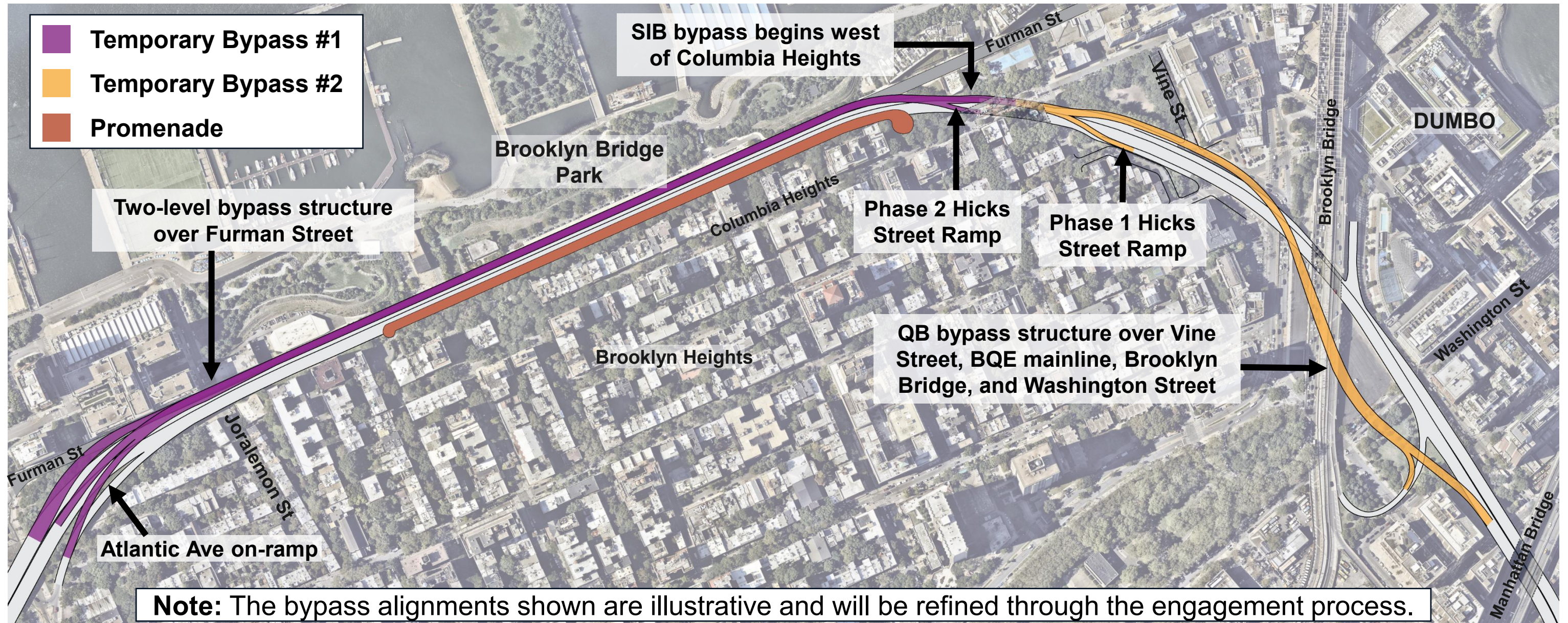


*Deck through holes over Old
Fulton Street*



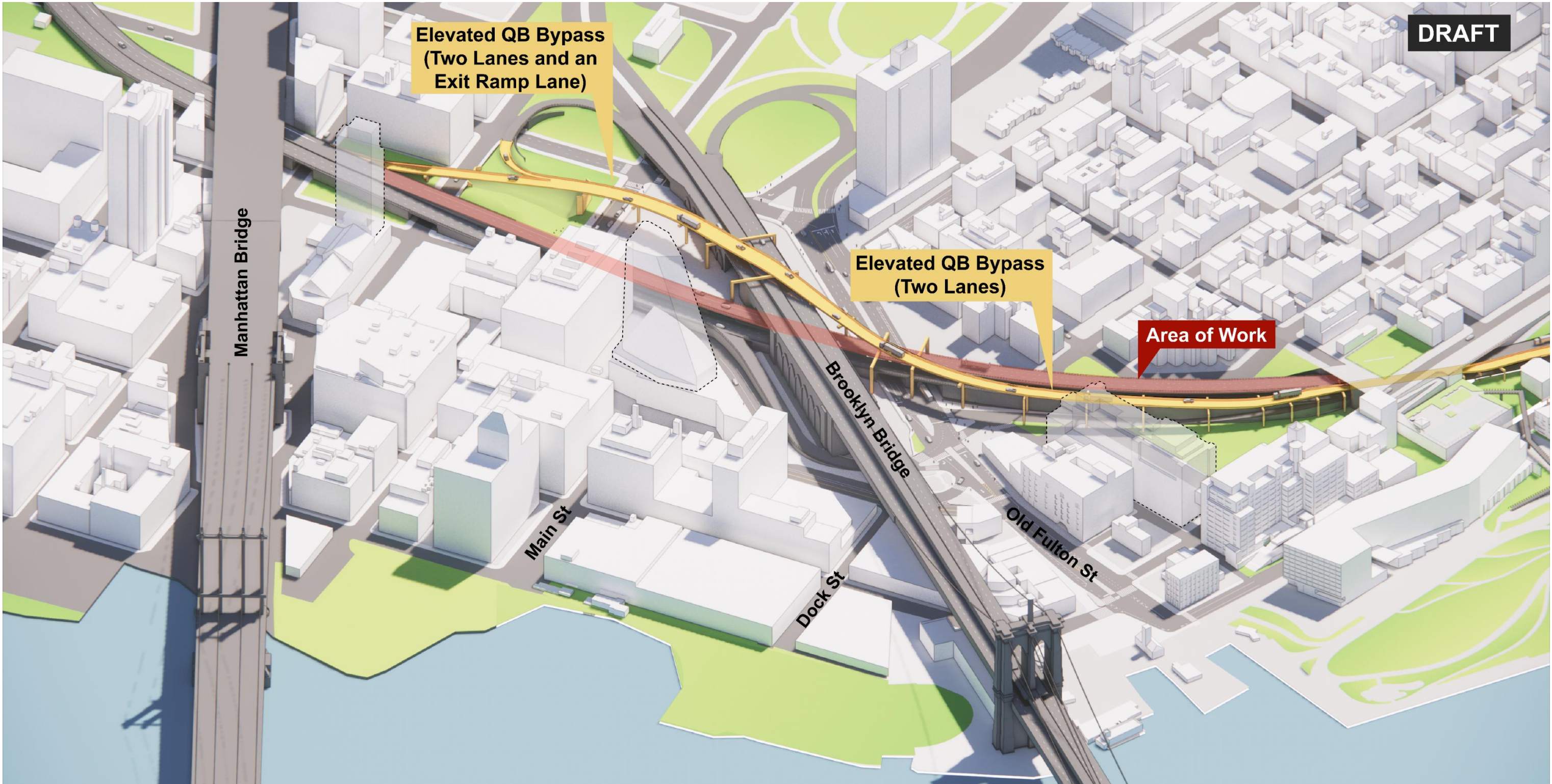
*Typical joint condition along the
triple cantilever*

Construction Overview

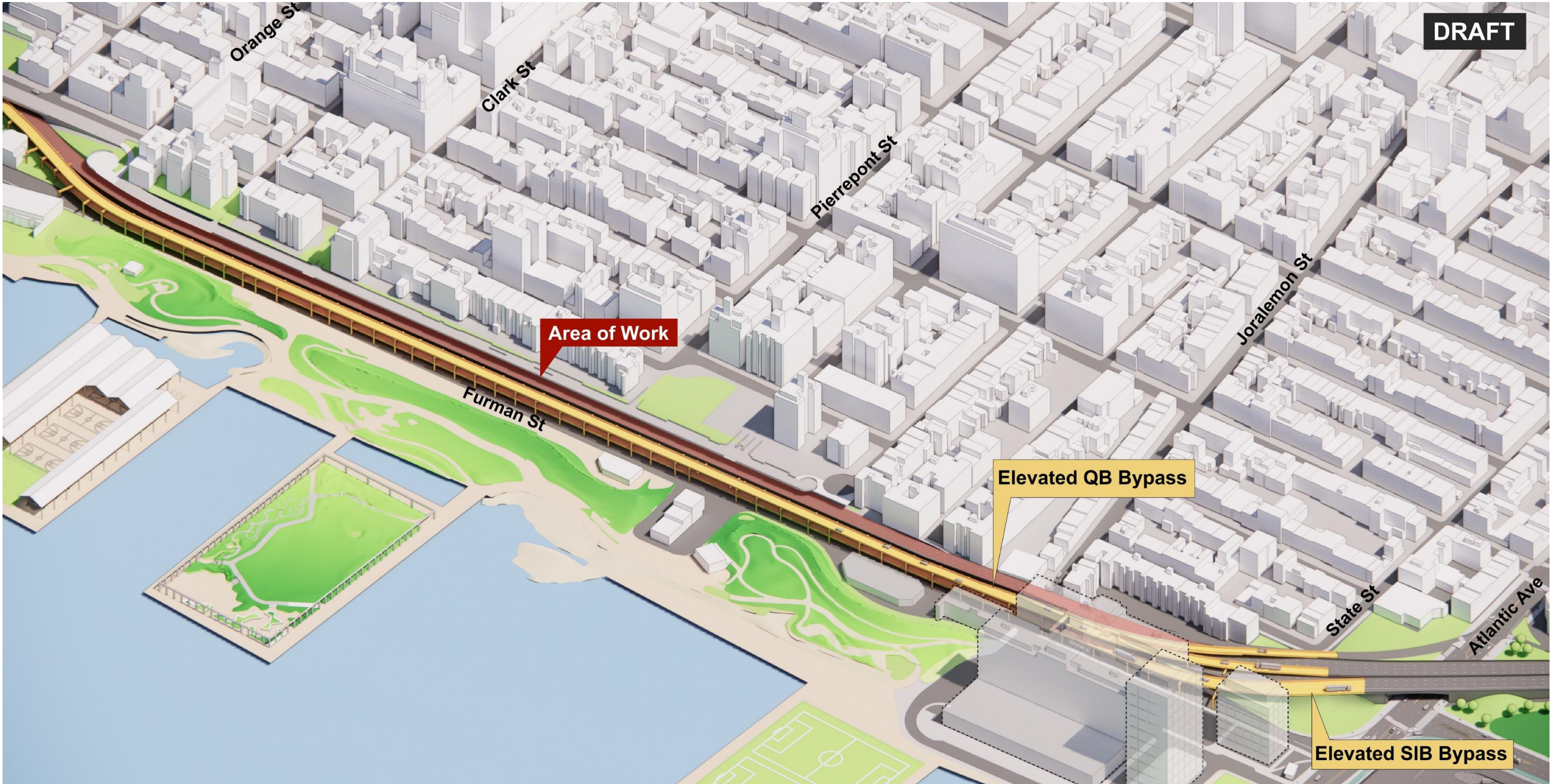


- **Temporary Bypass #1** over Furman St to complete work between Atlantic Ave and Columbia Heights
- **Temporary Bypass #2** over SIB BQE Vine St on-ramp, Brooklyn Bridge, and Anchorage Plaza to complete work north of Columbia Heights.

Queens-Bound Bypass Over the Approach to the Brooklyn Bridge

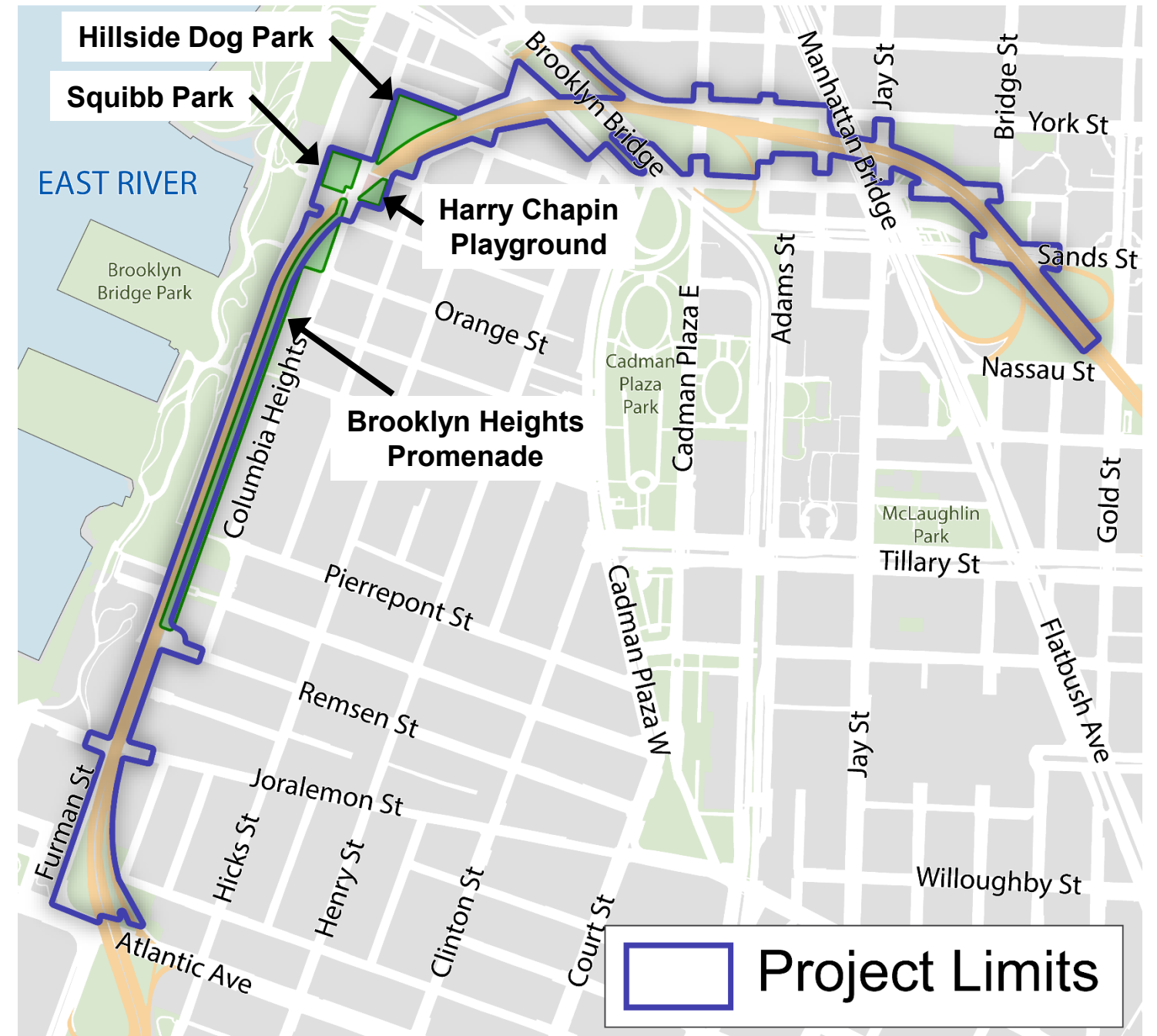


Two-Level Bypass over Furman Street from Atlantic Avenue to Columbia Heights



Parks, Promenade, and Nearby Open Space

- DOT will maintain access to portions of the Promenade at all times during construction, to the extent feasible.
- Access to Squibb Park, Hillside Dog Park, and Harry Chapin Playground will be maintained to the extent feasible during construction.
- Harry Chapin Playground will be reconstructed in conjunction with the Columbia Heights overpass rehabilitation.
- Open space effects will be studied through CEQR.



Environmental Review: Key Areas of Study

City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) will evaluate the project's potential effects on the built and natural environment, identify measures to avoid or minimize impacts, and provide opportunities for public input. Areas of study will include:

- **Transportation:** Traffic, Parking, Transit, Bicyclists and Pedestrians
- **Neighborhoods:** Land Use, Zoning & Public Policy, Socioeconomic Conditions, Community Facilities, Open Space, Public Health, Neighborhood Character
- **Historic and Urban Environment:** Shadows, Historic & Cultural Resources, Urban Design & Visual Resources
- **Air, Noise & Climate:** Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Climate Change, Noise
- **Natural Resources & Infrastructure:** Natural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Water & Sewer Infrastructure, Solid Waste & Sanitation, Energy
- **Construction:** Construction, evaluation of other EIS topics during the construction period
- **Equity:** Disadvantaged Communities

The EIS will identify potential impacts and measures to avoid or mitigate them.

CEQR / ULURP / Alienation Timeline

2026

- October - Public Scoping Notice and Scoping Start
- November - Public Scoping Meetings
 - *Comment period ends 10 days after final scoping meeting*

2027

- Early Spring - Finalize Scope of Work
- Fall - Release Draft EIS
- Fall/Winter
 - Complete ULURP Application and Begin Public Process
 - Draft Alienation Legislation
 - Hold EIS Public Meeting

2028

- ULURP Hearings and Council Vote
- Introduce and Pass Alienation Legislation
- Issue Final EIS

How to Participate During Public Scoping

- Public input is part of the Scoping process.
- Review the **Draft Scope** on the project website.
- Submit formal CEQR public comments during the scoping comment period via an **online comment form**, **by email**, **by mail**, or by attending **public scoping meetings** in November.

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

City Tech in Downtown Brooklyn

Thursday, November 12th, 2026

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Virtual on Zoom

Virtual Q&A #2

Thursday, October 22, 2026

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

See the project website for more upcoming events, meeting details and comment instructions:

nyc.gov/bqe

Or scan the QR Code:



Before We Begin the Q&A

Questions about what we already know:

We can answer clarifying questions about **information currently available**.



Questions and comments made during today's Q&A, **spoken or typed**, are not part of the formal comment record.

Questions about what we still need to study:

We may not be able to answer questions that require **additional study or analysis**.



We encourage you to submit these as **formal comments** to be considered through the environmental review process.



To be transparent, these will be part of the public **formal comment record**.

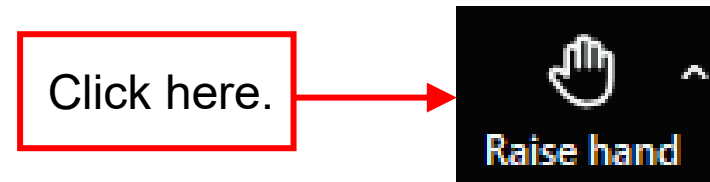
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- Formal comments can be submitted via:
 - **Online comment form**
 - **Email**
 - **Mail**
 - **Public Scoping Meetings** (in November)

Visit the website to learn more about submitting formal comments:
nyc.gov/bqe



How the Q&A Session Will Work

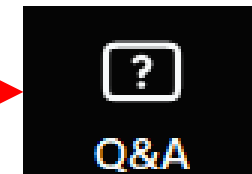
1. Raise your hand in Zoom if you would like to ask a question out loud.



- If joining via phone call, dial *9 to raise your hand.
- You'll dial *6 to unmute.

2. We will call on participants in the order hands are raised.

3. We will also answer questions submitted through the **Q&A**.



4. Didn't get called on **or** want your question considered through the environmental review process? You can submit your question as a formal comment.
5. Please use the **Chat** for technical issues *only*. We will only address questions that are submitted in the Q&A.