



Welcome!

Grand Army Plaza Capital Vision

Workshop for Larger Prospect Heights Study

November 16th, 2022

6:30 – Workshop Opens

6:35 – Welcome

6:45 – Presentation

7:00 – Breakout Rooms

7:55 – Closing



Workshop Agenda

1. Overview of the Prospect Heights Public Realm Study
2. Overview of Grand Army Plaza
3. A New Vision
4. Breakout Groups
5. Next Steps

Let's start with a poll!

In what neighborhood
do you live?

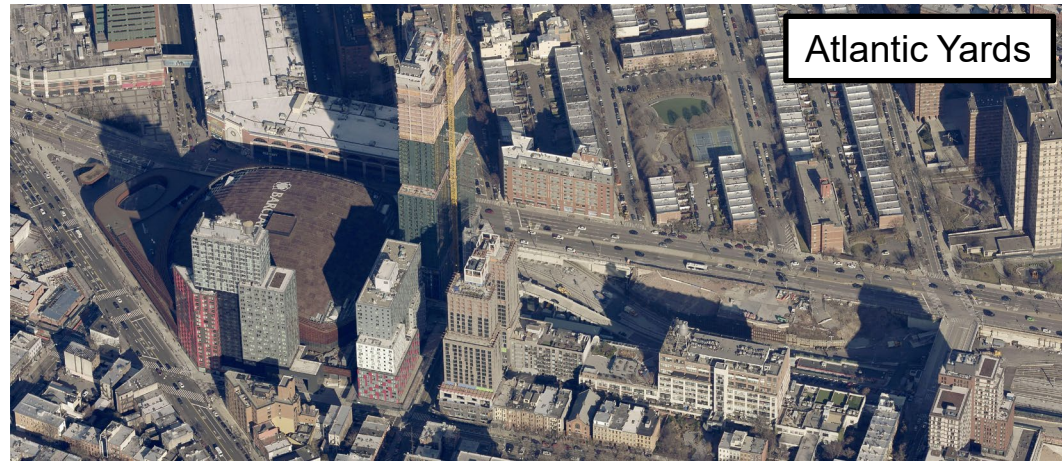


Why are we here?

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Growth and Changes to the Neighborhood

- Substantial private and public projects in or near the neighborhood over the years
- Increased population with ongoing work at Atlantic Yards and future efforts along Atlantic Avenue
- Evolving use of the streets following the COVID-19 pandemic with the introduction of open streets and outdoor dining



Ongoing and Future Initiatives

Atlantic Yards Development

Berm and Arch restoration by
PPA and DPR

Water Main Replacement by DEP

Flatbush Ave Bus Priority Project

Atlantic Ave Mixed Use Plan by DCP

Washington Ave Capital Project

Initiative limits are diagrammatic only



Public Realm Capital Improvements

As part of the 2023 budget, the city allocated \$1.8M to conduct a Capital Project Scope Development (**CPSD**) study for:

- Grand Army Plaza
- Vanderbilt Avenue
- Underhill Avenue

DOT is partnering with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and local stakeholders to conduct this study over the next few years



What is a CPSD Study?

The CPSD program is a way to clearly determine project scope, cost, and other key factors before construction capital dollars are committed.

Typically reserved for larger-scale projects with substantial unknowns, which may influence cost and feasibility.

Includes:

- Traffic study
- 30% design documents
- Preliminary landscape design
- Community and stakeholder outreach
- 3 design alternatives with accurate construction cost estimates



What locations are being studied?

Grand Army Plaza

Plaza St East and West

Vanderbilt Avenue

Atlantic Ave to Grand Army Plaza

Underhill Avenue

Pacific St* to Eastern Pkwy

*Atlantic to Pacific block included in Washington Ave Capital Plan



What locations are being studied?

Grand Army Plaza Plaza St East and West

- Capital buildout of existing public spaces
- Improvements to Plaza St East and West
- Traffic operation and circulation changes in the surrounding street network



What locations are being studied?

Vanderbilt Avenue Atlantic Ave to Grand Army Plaza

- Key Stakeholders/Communities
 - Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Fund, local businesses, MTA
- Long term vision of geometric changes to support the Open Street
- Study of full, partial, part-time closures or a combination of both to facilitate more public space



What locations are being studied?

Underhill Avenue

Pacific Street to Eastern Parkway

- Key Stakeholders/Communities
 - Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Fund
- Long term vision of geometric changes to support the Open Street
- Study of best typical block designs that facilitate access while maximizing usage of Open Street



What is the process?

DOT and DDC Public Outreach Strategy:

- Presentations to city agencies, local organizations and community boards, as well as elected officials
- Initial idea gathering workshops, workshops of initial designs, and final presentation of study findings

The three locations will be studied holistically, however, outreach and stakeholder engagement will happen separately for each location to allow for more focused feedback

Key stakeholders for Grand Army Plaza include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • NYC DPR | • Public Design Commission |
| • Prospect Park Alliance | • MTA |
| • NYC DEP | • Brooklyn Public Library |
| • GrowNYC | • Plaza Street Block Association |
| • Landmarks Preservation Council | |



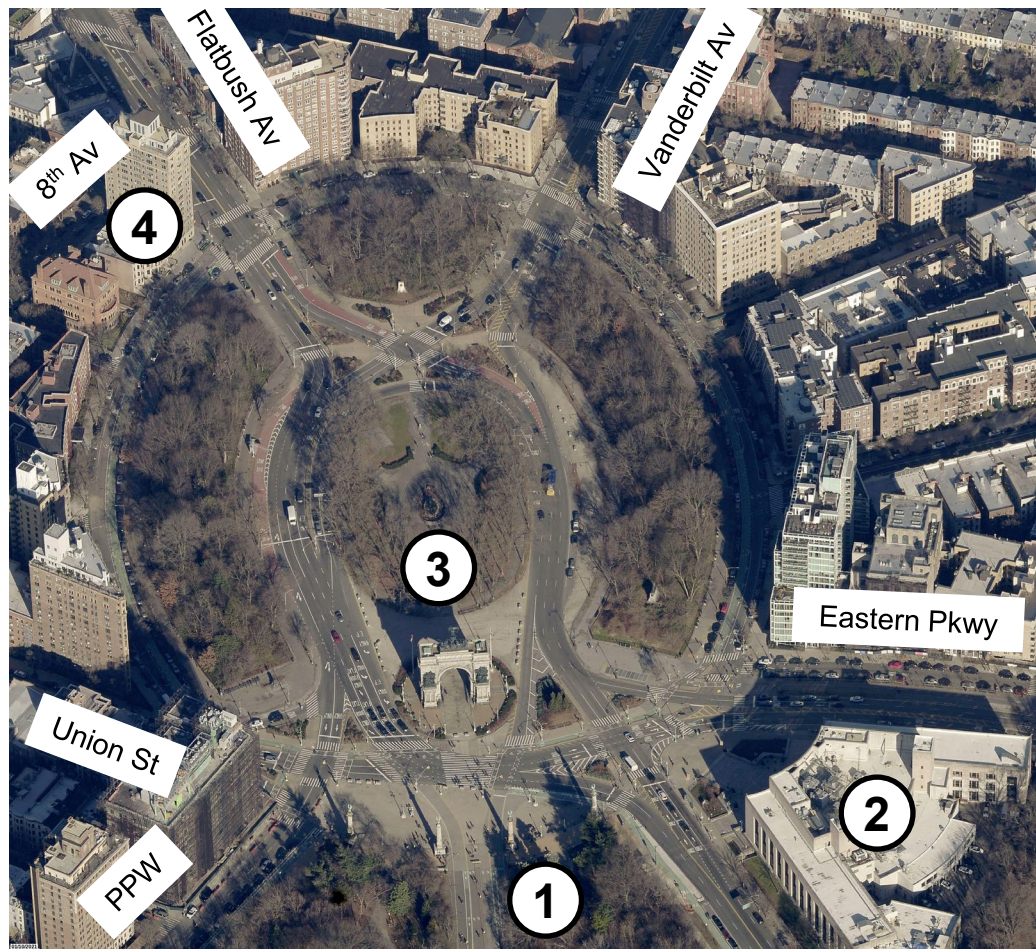
Grand Army Plaza

2

Grand Army Plaza

Location

- Large “traffic oval” made up of the inner roadways and outer Plaza St ring
 - Flatbush Avenue crosses the plaza from the northwest to the southeast
 - Vanderbilt Ave, Union St, Prospect Park West, and Eastern Parkway all terminate at various points around the oval
1. Entrance to Prospect Park on the south
 2. Brooklyn Public Library on southeast corner
 3. Soldier’s and Sailor’s Memorial Arch and Bailey Fountain in the center
 4. 2/3 Grand Army Plaza station on the north
 - B69 and B41 buses run through the plaza



Grand Army Plaza

Historical Context

- Included in the initial 1861 plan for Prospect Park and designed in 1867 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux
- Designed to be a grand entrance to the park to separate the noisy city from the calmness of the park



Grand Army Plaza

Function and Use Today

- 'Front Door' to 'Brooklyn's Back Yard' with one of the main entrances to Prospect Park
- Primary pedestrian, transit, bicyclist and freight thoroughfare
- Connects neighborhoods to civic institutions such as Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Museum, and Brooklyn Botanical Garden
- Civic gathering point for 2020 "Black Lives Matter" marches and Presidential Election demonstrations
- Home to the Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket, the second largest in the city

Thousands gather for another round of George Floyd protests in Brooklyn on Sunday

By Todd Maisel & Aiden Graham

0 comments Posted on May 31, 2020



Crowds at Grand Army Plaza early Sunday evening.

Photo by Todd Maisel



Grand Army Plaza

Past Work

- Long history of community partnership and in-house DOT projects
 - 2002 Capital project added triangle near Public Library
 - 2004 One-way bike lanes added to Plaza St
 - 2007 DOT project added three new concrete triangle on the southeast corner of the plaza
 - 2008 study by the Design Trust for Public Space
 - 2010, 2011, and 2012 in-house DOT safety projects on north and south ends of the plaza
 - 2012 project added two-way bike lane to Plaza St
 - 2018 DOT project updated southern most public space to formalize park closure to vehicles
 - 2022 DOT project to add curb extensions and bike parking around Plaza St



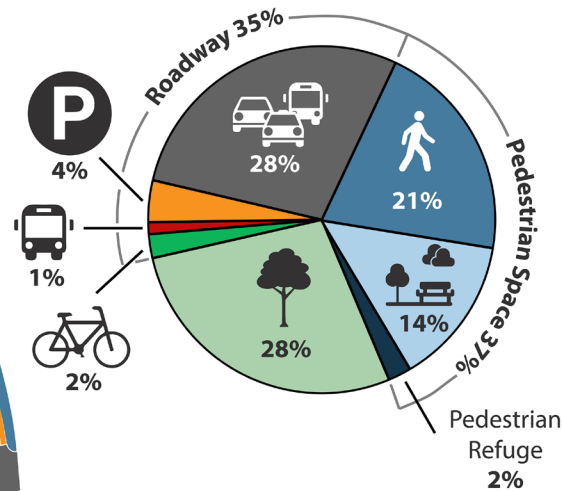
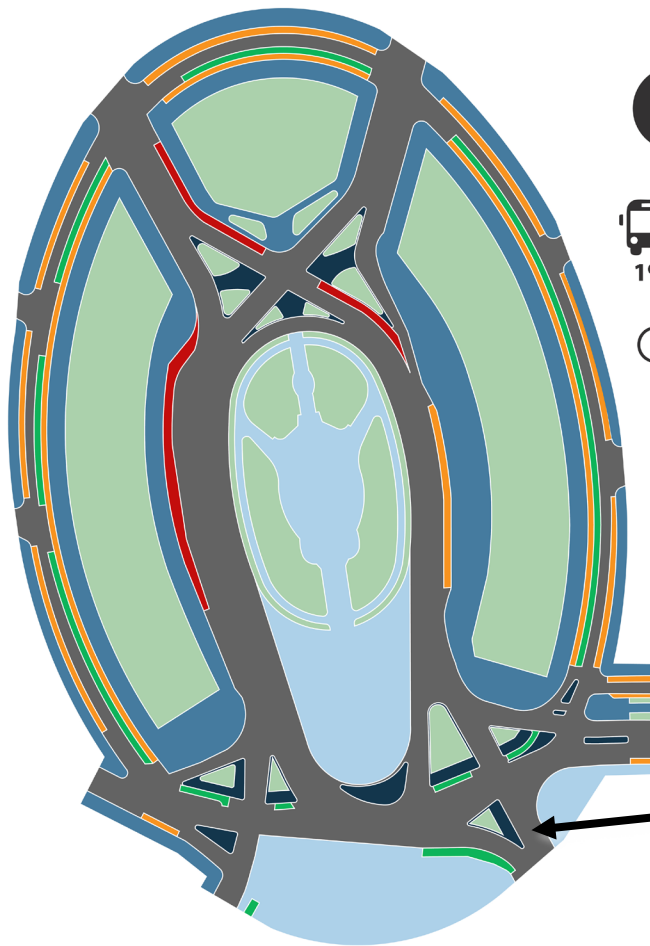
Grand Army Plaza

Current Components

- Relatively equal distribution of roadway, planting, and pedestrian space
- Isolated refuges create “pedestrian islands in a sea of vehicles” feel on southern portion of the plaza

Let's take another poll!

How do you travel to or through Grand Army Plaza?



Grand Army Plaza

Existing Issues

Walking:

- Long waits to cross the street in complex crosswalks
- Uninviting space due to heavy traffic and large roadways (islands in a sea of vehicles)

Biking:

- Complex routing through the oval with long waits at crossings
- Un-protected lanes on Plaza St

Transit:

- Slow buses due to heavy traffic
- Convoluted routing of B69

Driving:

- Complex and confusing operations and lane designations
- Heavy congestion and traffic spillback on Union St



A New Vision

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A New Vision

Goals for a capital reconstruction

1. Create a world class public space
2. Improve pedestrian connections around and through the plaza
3. Provide seamless connections to Vanderbilt Ave and Underhill Ave public spaces
4. Improve and strengthen bicycle connections
5. Speed up bus operations
6. Simplify traffic operations



A Spectrum of Ideas

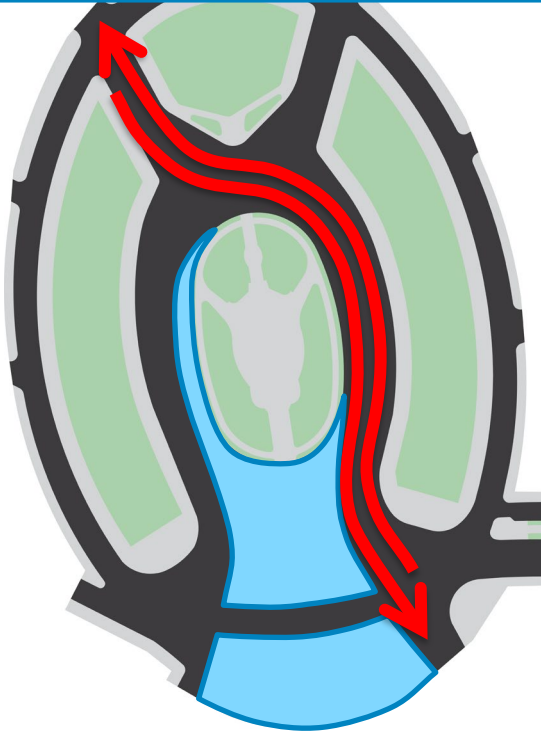
← "As Is"

Big Changes →

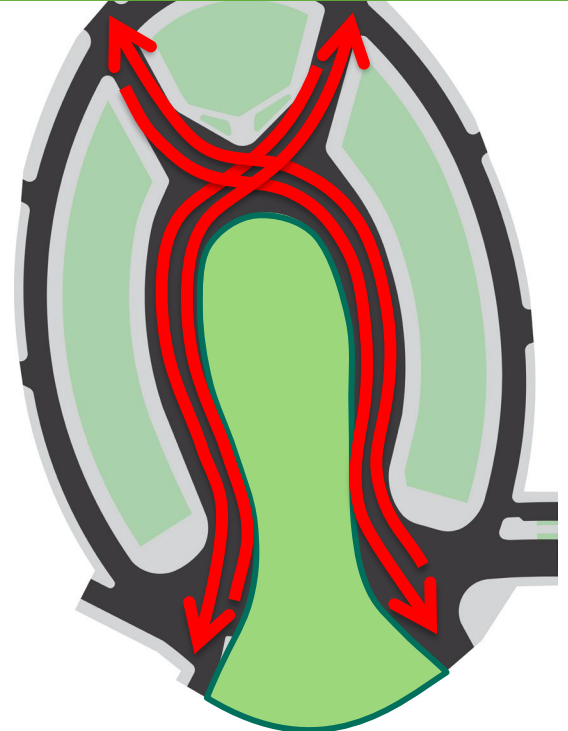
1. Build Out Existing Painted Spaces in Permanent Materials



2. Consolidate Flatbush Traffic



3. Unify Public Spaces



Breakout Workshop Groups

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A New Vision

Open Workshop Discussion

1. Identify additional issues and problem locations
2. Highlight what works currently
3. Identify goals for the study
4. Respond to big ideas



Report Back

What was your groups main takeaway?

1. Create a world class public space
2. Improve pedestrian connections around and through the plaza
3. Provide seamless connections to Vanderbilt Ave and Underhill Ave public spaces
4. Improve and strengthen bicycle connections
5. Speed up bus operations
6. Simplify traffic operations



Be Heard!



Take our survey

- Currently we have over 1,500 responses!
- Survey will close at the end of November
- Summary of survey and workshop to be shared by the end of the year

Grand Army Plaza Public Realm Survey

DOT would like to hear from you about the long term vision for Grand Army Plaza as part of the Prospect Heights Public Space Study. This survey will ask questions about the study area. This is for informational purposes only. Your information will not be shared with any outside parties. If you have any questions or concerns, please email PedUnit@dot.nyc.gov

OK

1. What is the closest intersection to your home? (Please indicate the nearest cross streets to where you live)

Cross Street 1

Cross Street 2

Borough

Link in chat!

<http://bit.ly/grandarmyplaza-survey>

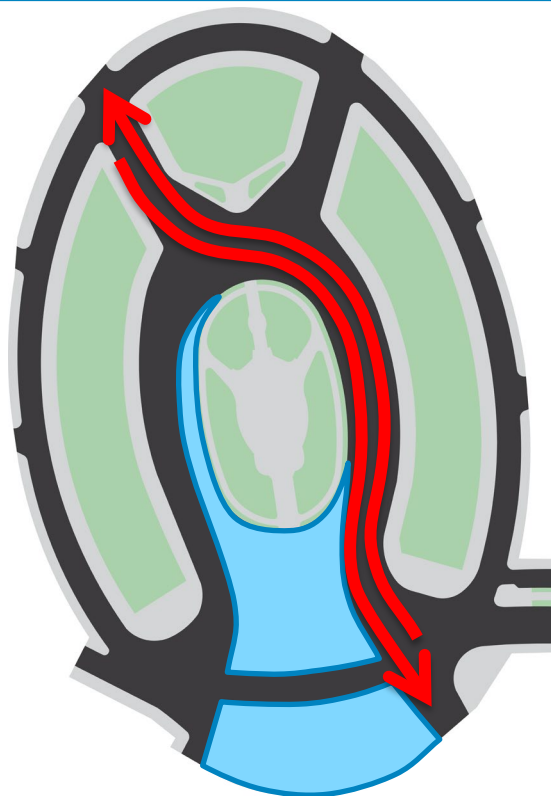
One final poll!

Which Big Idea best
your vision for Grand Army
Plaza?

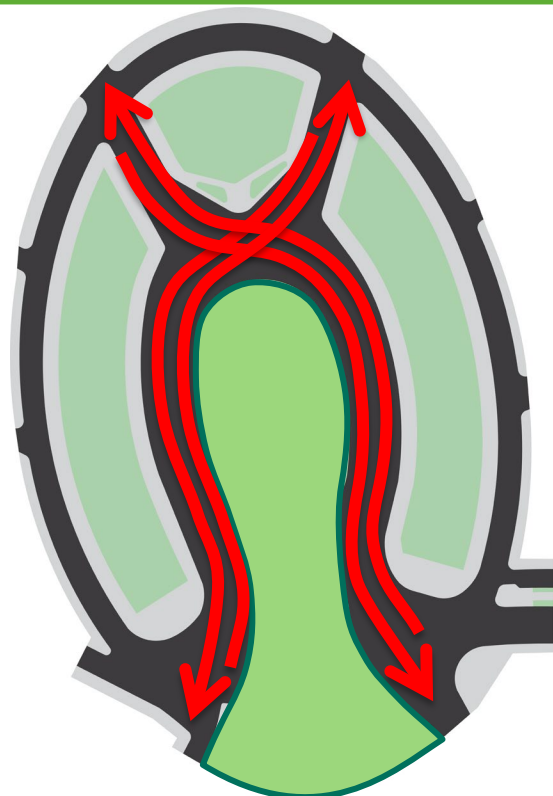
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Spaces in Permanent Materials



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What comes next?

Spring 2023

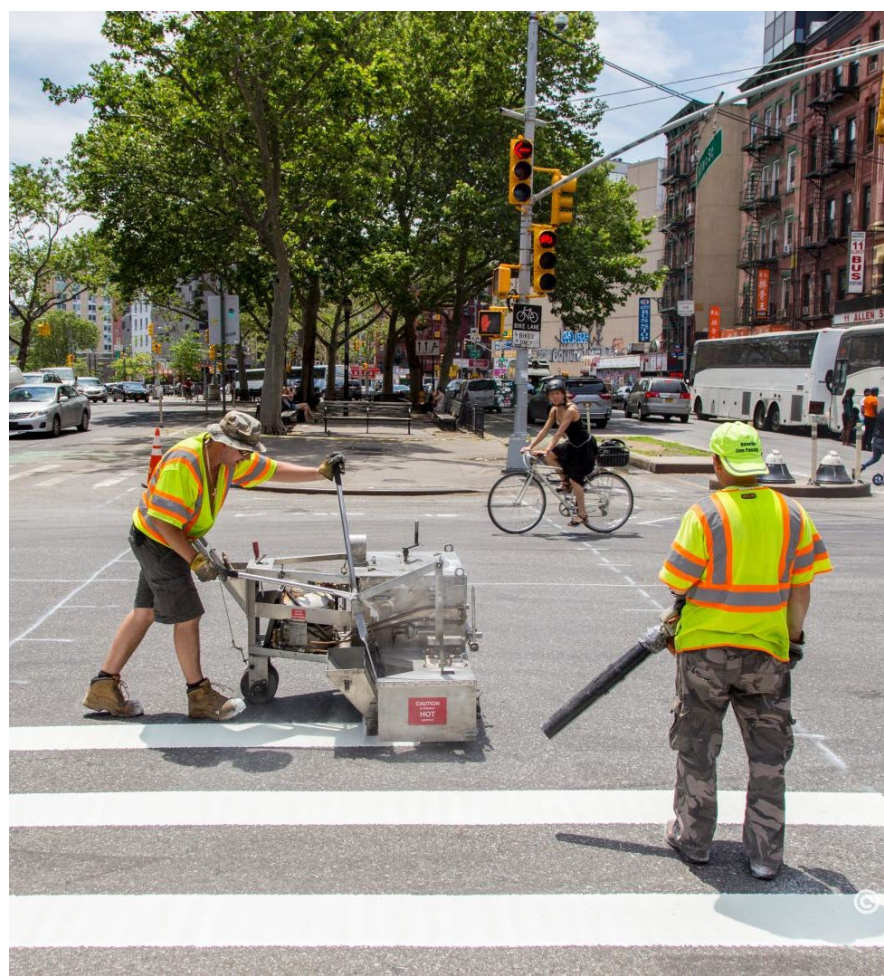
- Implement Vanderbilt and Underhill In-house Street Improvement Projects

Summer 2023

- Feedback workshops for Vanderbilt and Underhill portions of study area

2023

- On-going outreach for Flatbush Avenue Bus Priority Project
- Public presentation of proposals for Washington Avenue Capital Project



Thank You For Attending!



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