



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

School Safety Improvements

Brooklyn Community Board 11 | June 10, 2026





Background

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Background

- New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave is a complex bowtie intersection with long pedestrian crossing distances
- DOT received a request for safety improvements from New Utrecht High School
- Two schools within a five-minute walk of the project area
- High volume of student pedestrians at arrival and dismissal time
 - New Utrecht High School has more than 3,000 students accessing the school every day



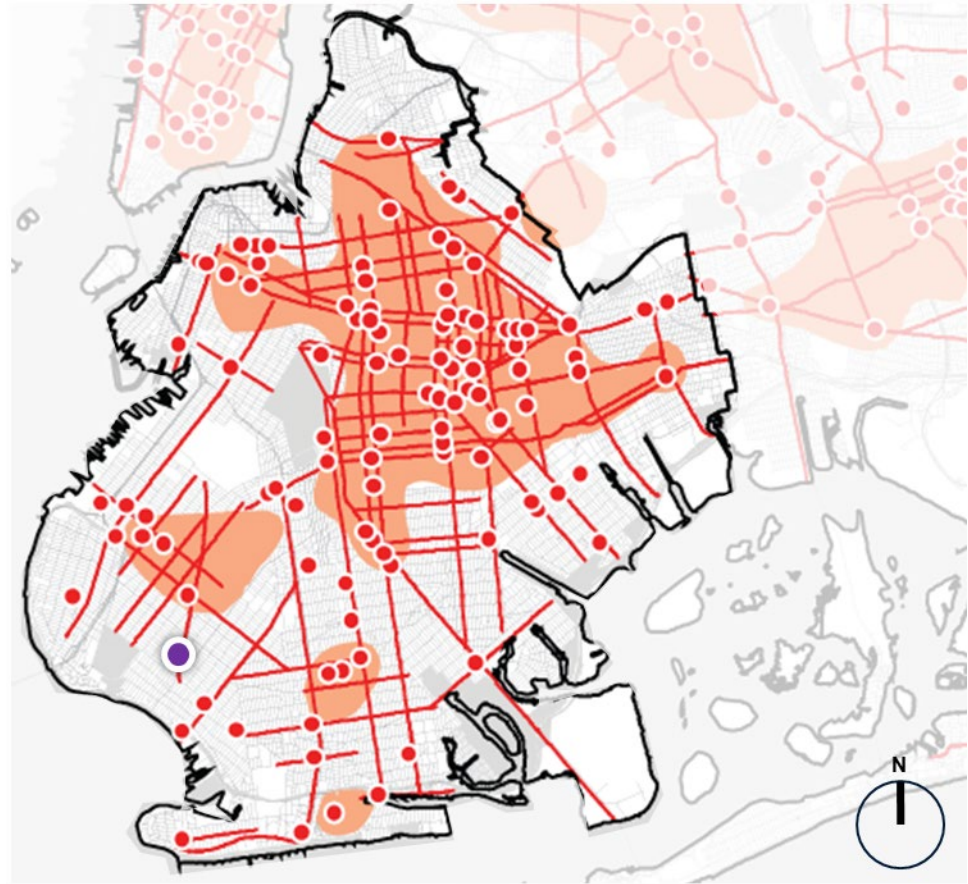
Safety Concerns

Vision Zero

- Multi-agency effort to reduce traffic fatalities in NYC
- Borough Action Plans released in 2023 identifying Priority Intersections, Corridors, and Areas for each borough

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave

- New Utrecht Ave is a Vision Zero Priority corridor



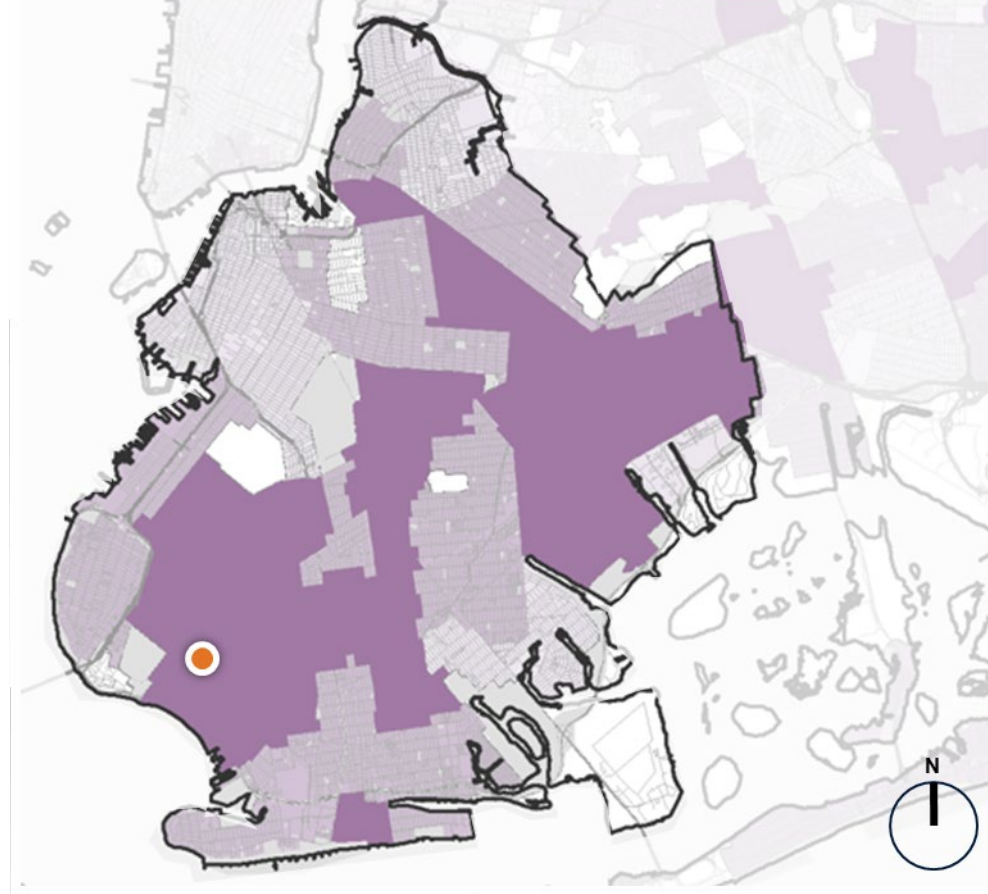
Safety Concerns

Youth Injury Priority Areas

- Youth safety is a key part of Vision Zero, and our focus as the DOT School Safety Unit
- Youth Injury Priority Areas identify areas where there are a high concentration of youth injuries

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave

- Project is located in a Youth Injury Priority Area



- Project Area
- Youth Injury Priority Area

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Injury Data

- **38** total injuries
- **4** severe injuries
- **8** youth were injured in the last five years
 - Youth made up 21% of injuries, compared to the borough average of 9%

Injury Summary — 2021-2025 (5 Years)

| Mode | Total Injuries | Severe Injuries | Fatalities | KSI |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|
| Pedestrian | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Bicyclist | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MVO | 14 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Other Motorized | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 38 | 4 | 0 | 4 |



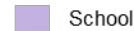


Existing Conditions

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New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St

Existing Condition: Complex Bow-tie Intersection



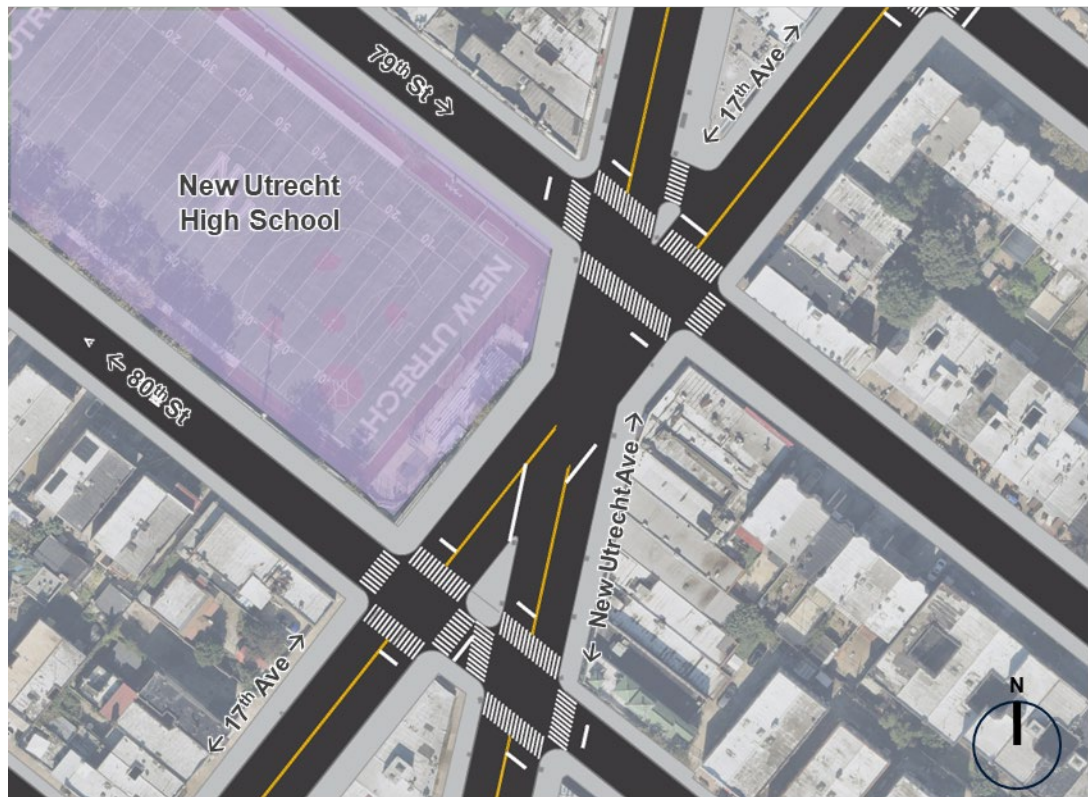
School

Complex bowtie intersection contributes to:

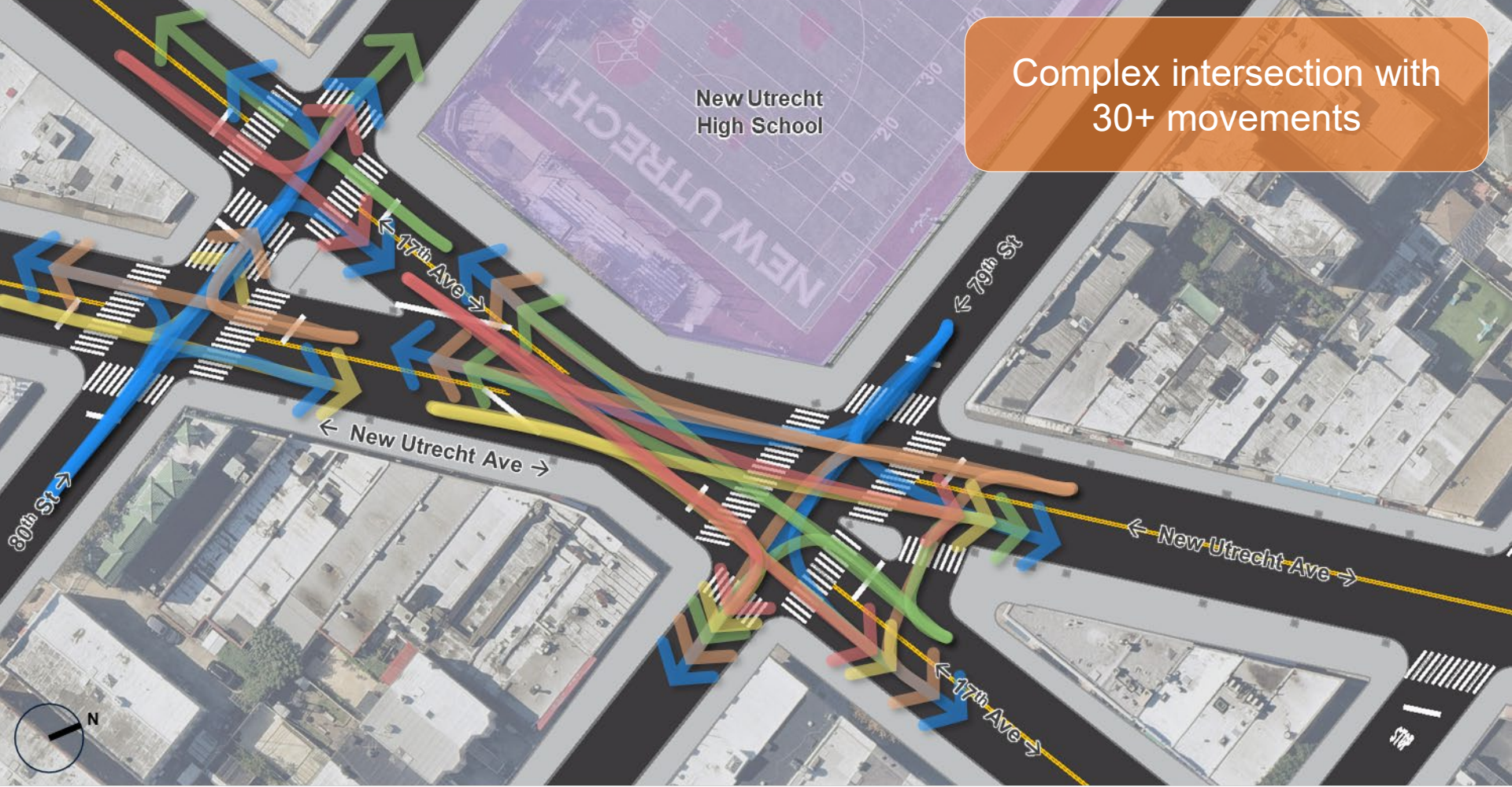
- Unpredictable vehicle movements (30+)
- Vehicles stuck in intersection between signal phases
- Long wait times for all users
- Pedestrian safety and access issues
- Poor visibility



Vehicle stuck in intersection at New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, Bk



Complex intersection with
30+ movements



High volume of students during arrival and dismissal



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St, BK

Wide intersection with long crossing distances and fast turns onto side streets

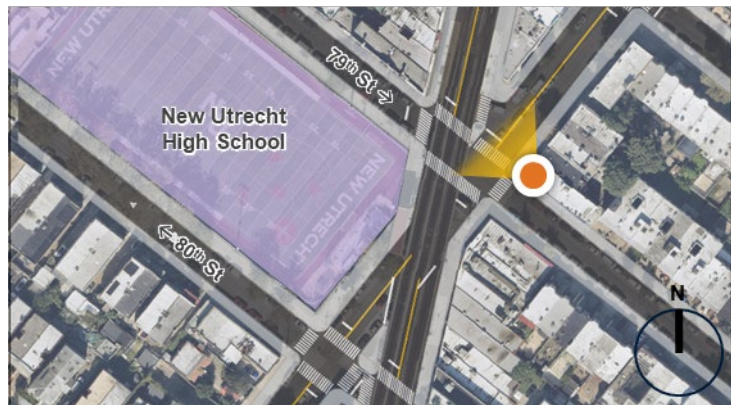


New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St, BK

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St

Existing Condition: Unsafe Slip Lane

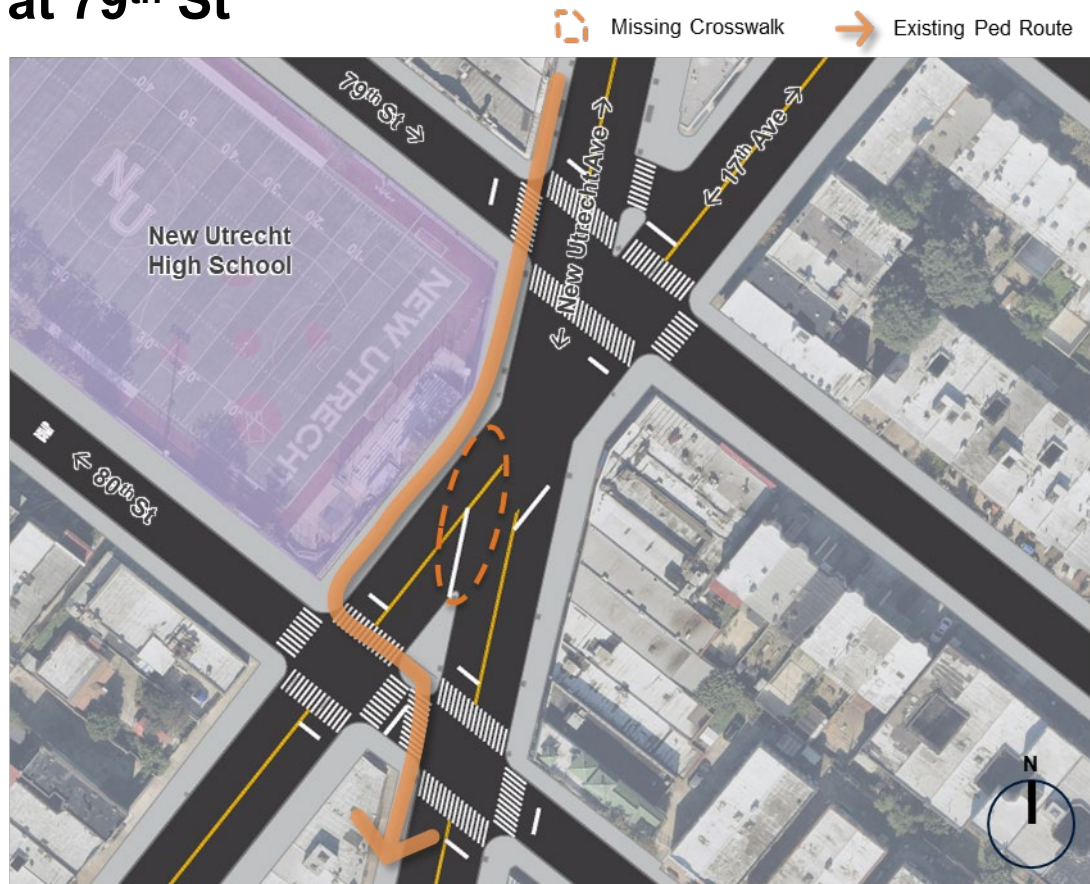
- High volume of pedestrians accessing the subway station
- Unpredictable vehicle movements through the slip lane



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St

Existing Condition: Missing Crosswalks

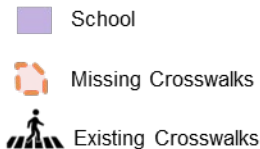
- Missing crosswalks at New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave
- No continuous path for pedestrians walking along New Utrecht Ave



New Utrecht Ave, 77th St to 84th St

Existing Condition: Long Distances Between Crosswalks

- There are no crosswalks across New Utrecht Ave at 78th St or 81st St
- The next closest crosswalks to New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave are 575' and 960' away



Poor visibility at intersections



79th St and New Utrecht Ave, Bk

Proposed Improvements

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New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Proposal Safety Goals

- Simplify the complex bowtie intersection and reduce wait times
- Reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians
- Expand pedestrian space and shorten crossing distances
- Improve intersection visibility
- Install missing crosswalks

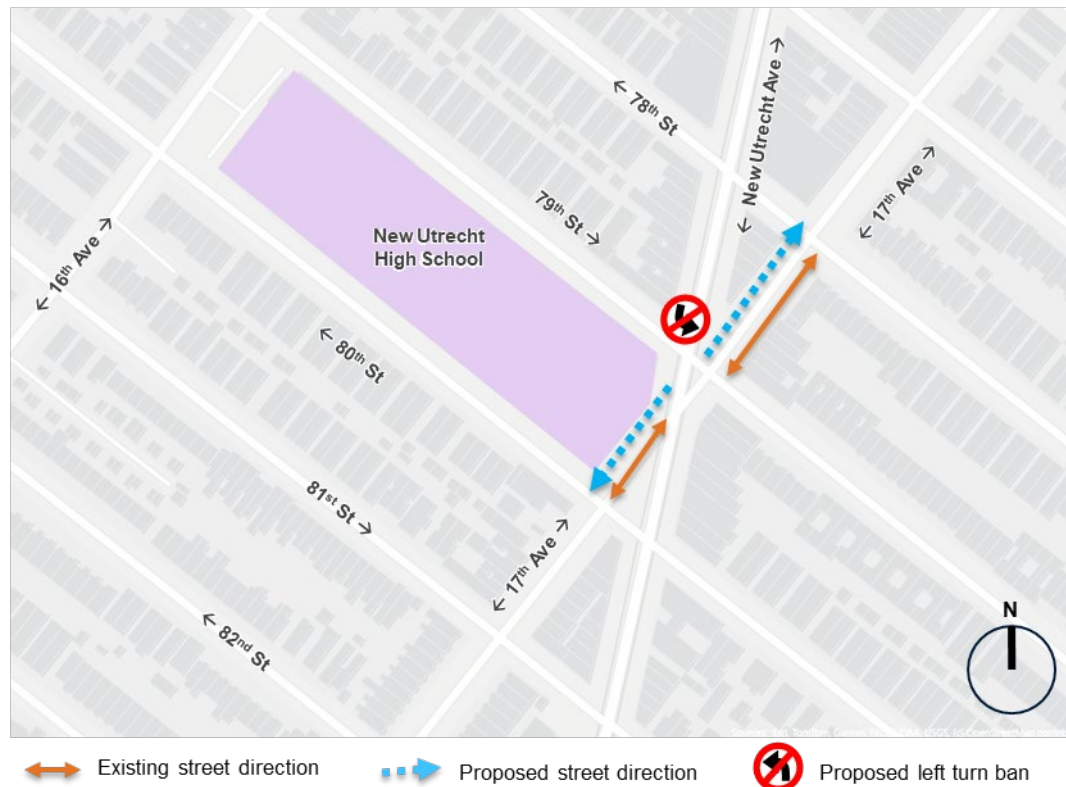


New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St, Bk

17th Ave, 78th St to 80th St

Proposal: One-way Conversions & Signal Timing Updates

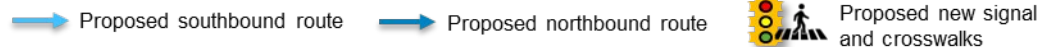
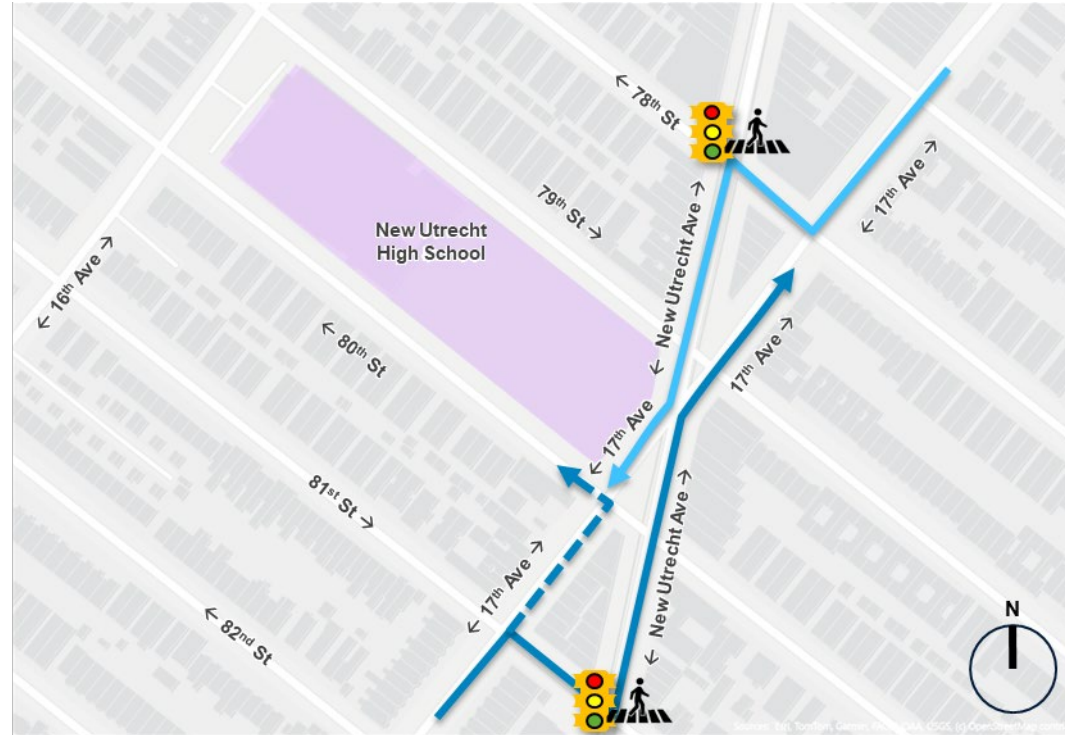
- Simplify the bowtie intersection of New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave by:
 - Converting 17th Ave to one-way northbound between 79th St and 78th St
 - Converting 17th Ave to one-way southbound between 79th St and 80th St
 - Banning the southbound left turn from New Utrecht Ave onto 79th St
- The one-way conversions allow for:
 - Improved traffic flow and reduced wait time for all users
 - New crosswalks and pedestrian island
 - A sidewalk extension and angled parking on 17th Ave



17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Proposal: 17th Ave Traffic Reassignment

- Through traffic on 17th Ave can take the following routes:
 - Southbound: Turn right onto 78th St and left onto New Utrecht Ave
 - Northbound: Turn right onto 81st St and left onto New Utrecht Ave
 - Northbound vehicles on 17th Ave can still turn left onto 80th St
- New signals are proposed at New Utrecht Ave and 78th St and New Utrecht Ave and 81st St to facilitate traffic flow and improve pedestrian crossings



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Proposal Example: New Utrecht Ave and 16th Ave

→ Existing Vehicle Route

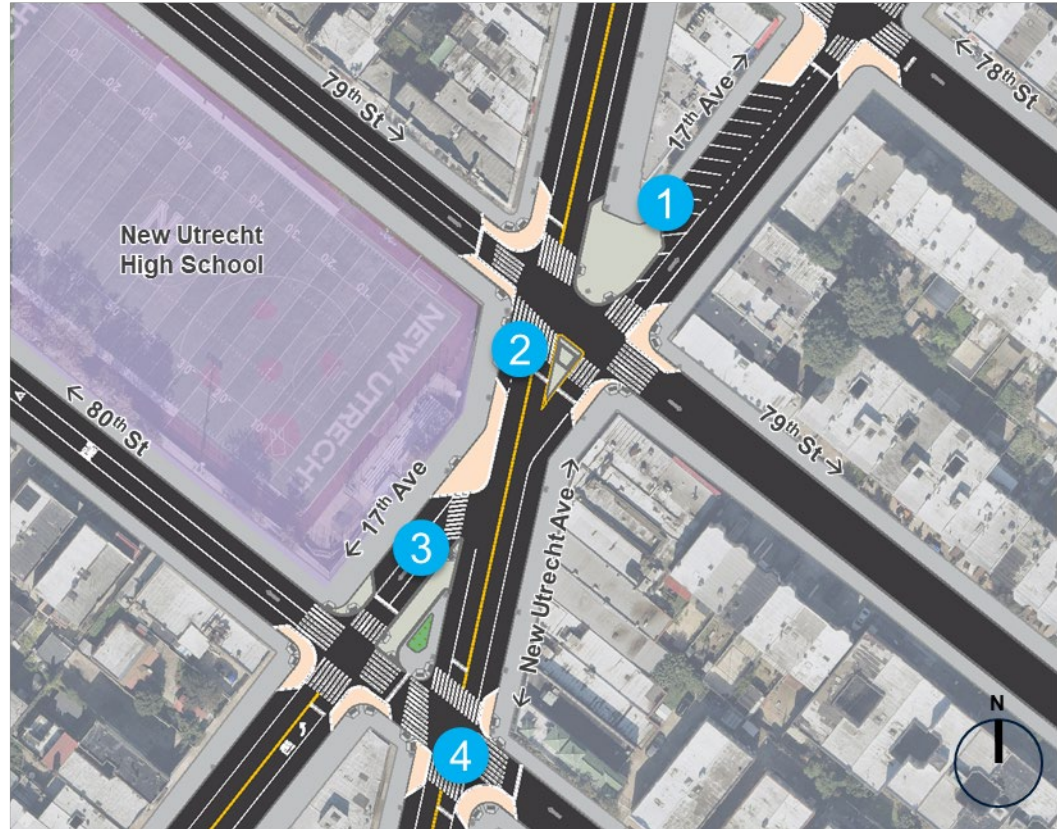


16th Ave approaching New Utrecht Ave, facing south

New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Proposed Pedestrian Improvements

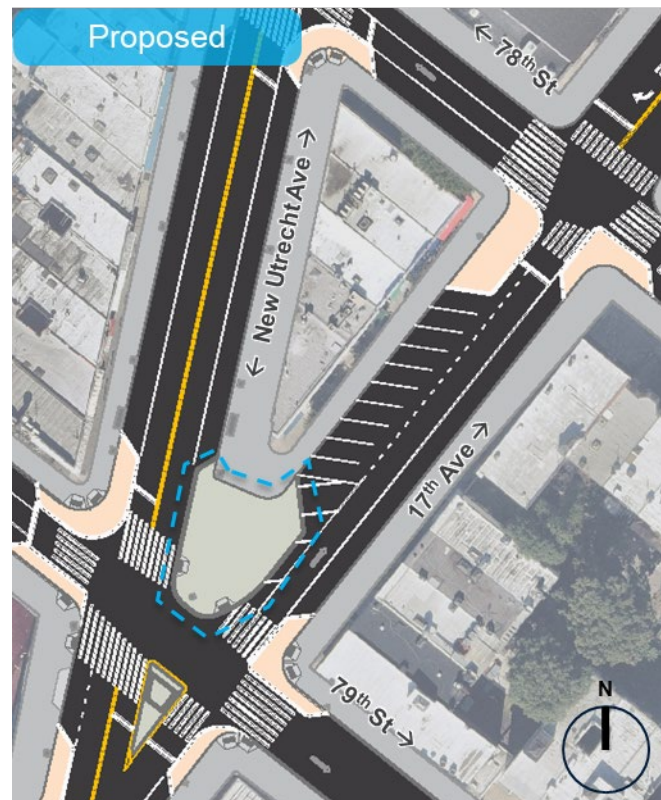
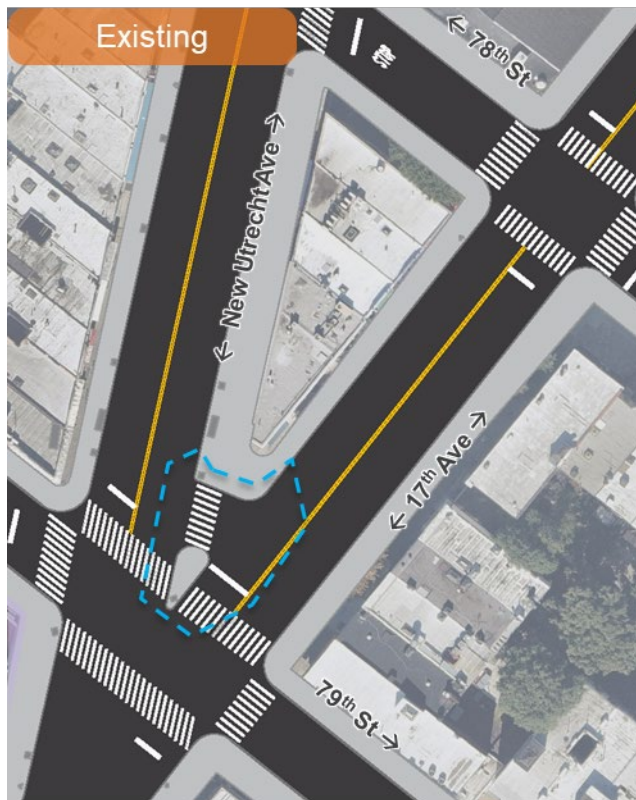
- 1 **Slip lane closure** from 17th Ave onto New Utrecht Ave to remove conflicts and expand pedestrian space at the subway entrance
- 2 **Concrete pedestrian island** to organize the intersection and shorten pedestrian crossings
- 3 **Install missing crosswalk** and **expand the sidewalk** to improve pedestrian safety
- 4 **Curb extensions** to improve visibility and shorten pedestrian crossings



17th Ave, 79th St to 78th St

1 Slip Lane Closure

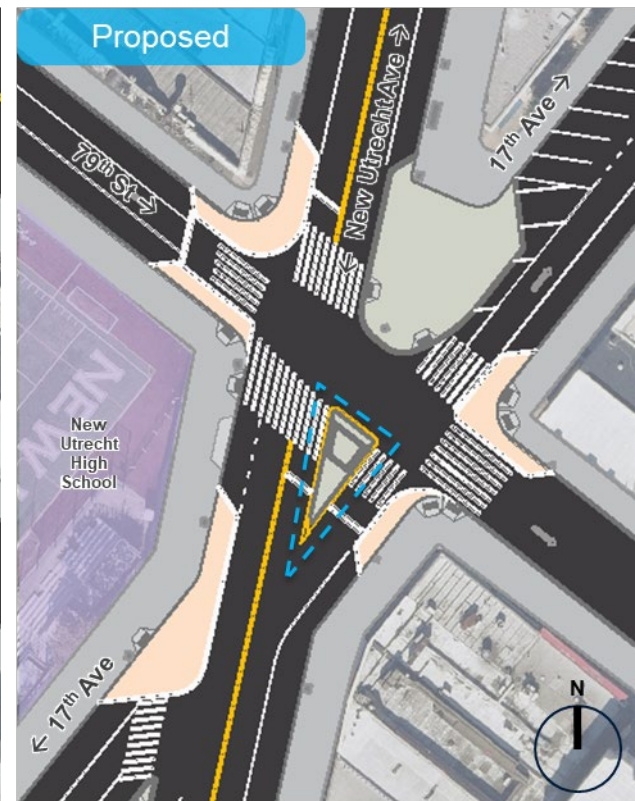
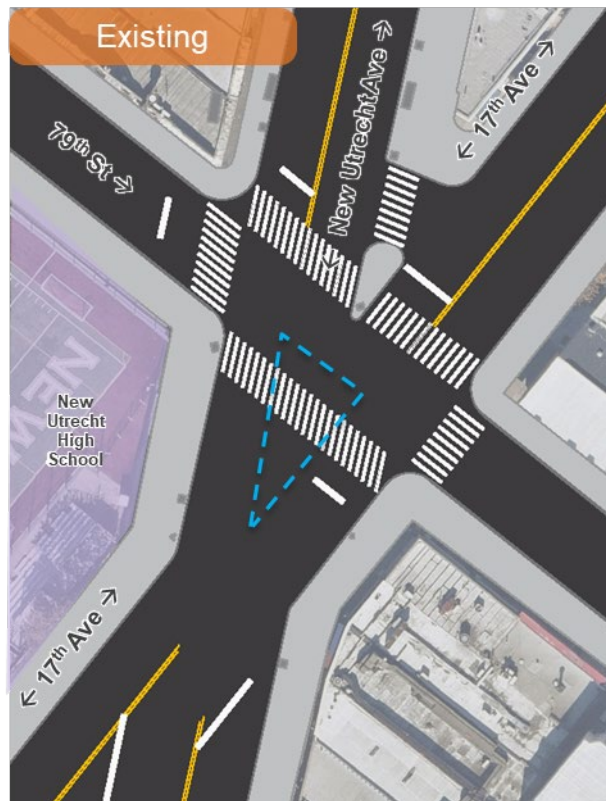
- Close the slip lane from 17th Ave onto New Utrecht Ave to reduce unpredictable vehicle turning movements and increase pedestrian space at the subway entrance
- Install back-in angled parking on 17th Ave between 79th St and 78th St



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St

2 Concrete Pedestrian Island

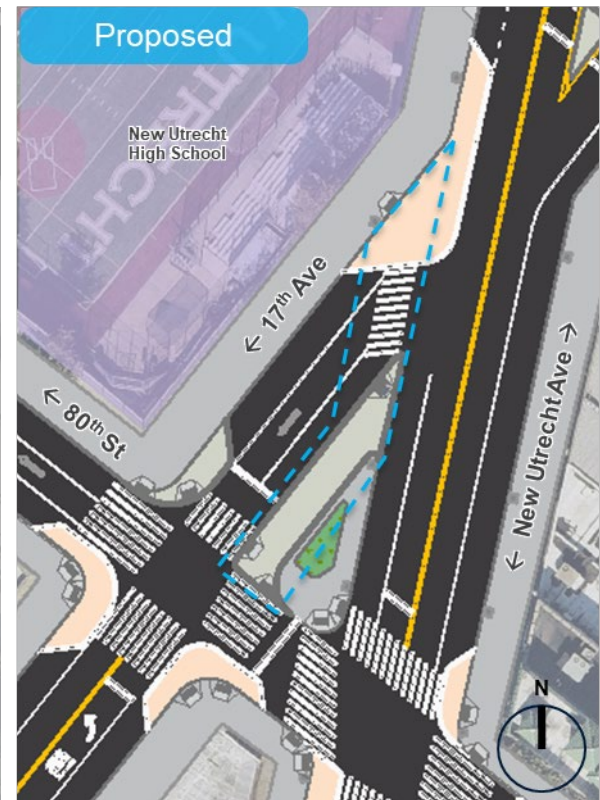
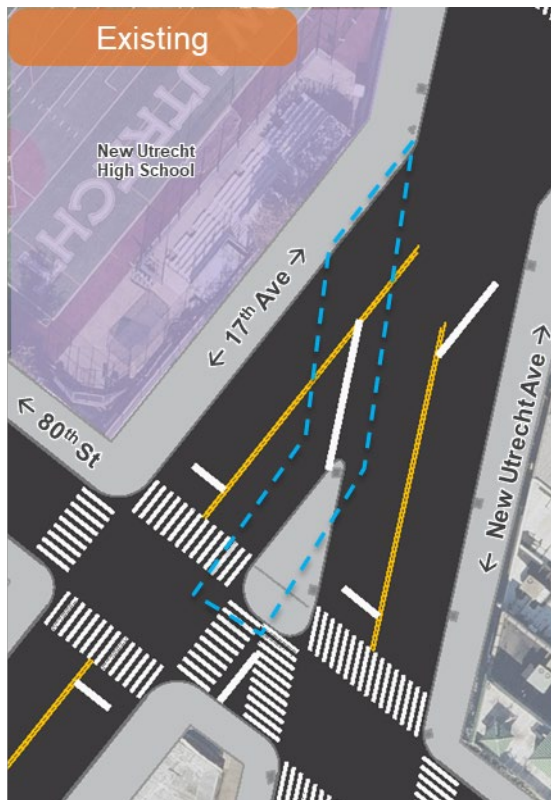
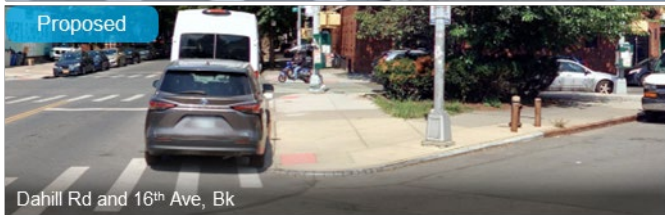
- Install a concrete pedestrian island in the intersection of New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St to organize the intersection and shorten pedestrian crossings



17th Ave, 79th St to 80th St

3 Install Missing Crosswalk and Expand the Sidewalk

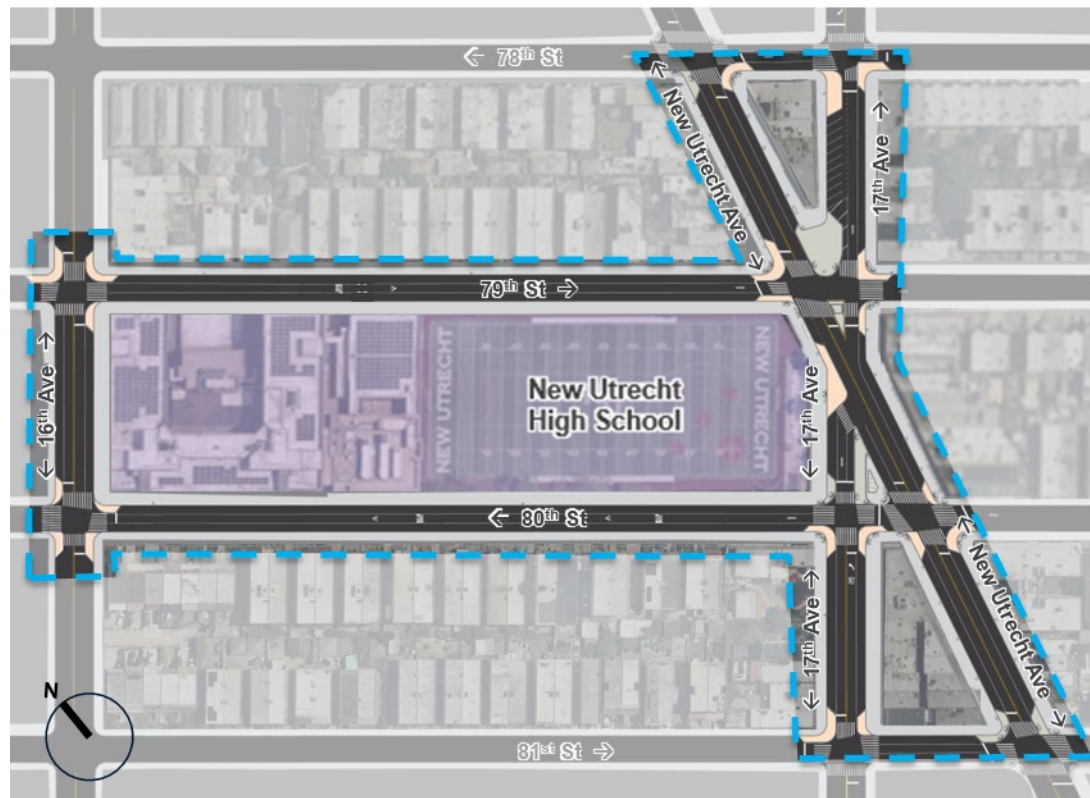
- Install the missing crosswalk at 17th Ave to create a continuous pedestrian path along New Utrecht Ave
- Expand the sidewalk on the triangle at 17th Ave between New Utrecht Ave and 80th St to increase pedestrian space and improve accessibility



New Utrecht Ave, 17th Ave, and 16th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

4 Curb Extensions

- Install concrete and painted curb extensions throughout the project area
- Shorten pedestrian crossing distances and improve visibility at all main approaches to New Utrecht High School



New Utrecht Ave, 17th Ave, and 16th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Example: Curb Extensions to Daylight Intersections

Can't see pedestrians
or oncoming traffic



Before: Crotona Park, Bx

Clear visibility of
the intersection



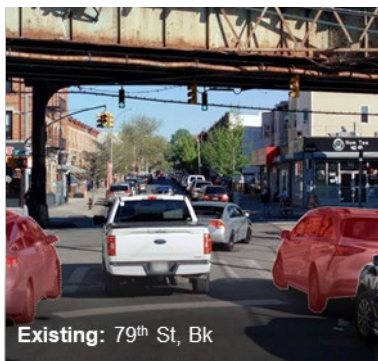
After: Crotona Park, Bx

New Utrecht Ave, 17th Ave, and 16th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Parking Impacts

- Total impact:

▼ **14 spots** repurposed to improve student safety



Summary

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New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Project Summary

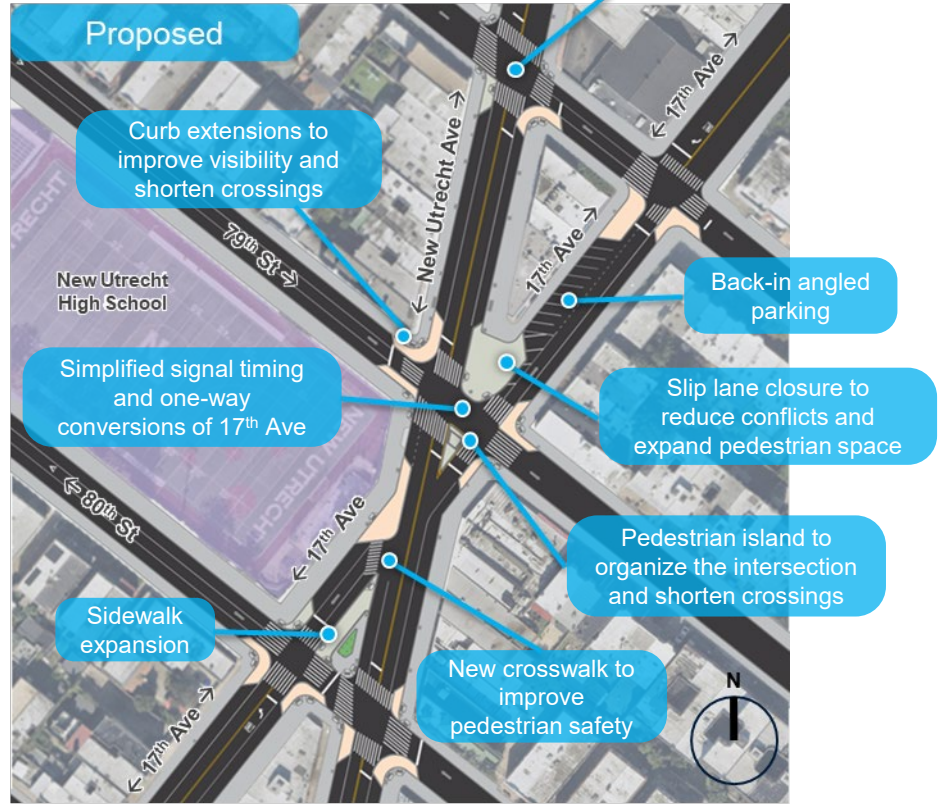
- New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave is a complex bowtie intersection with a high volume of student pedestrians
- To address safety concerns, DOT proposes:
 - One-way conversions of 17th Ave between 78th St and 80th St to simplify the bowtie intersection and reduce wait times
 - New signalized crossings on New Utrecht Ave at 78th St and 81st St to improve traffic flow and shorten distances between crosswalks along New Utrecht Ave
 - Closing the slip lane from 17th Ave onto New Utrecht Ave to remove conflicts and expand pedestrian space at the subway entrance
 - A concrete pedestrian island at New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave at 79th St to organize the intersection and shorten pedestrian crossings
 - Installing the missing crosswalk and expanding the sidewalk on 17th Ave between New Utrecht Ave and 80th St to create a continuous pedestrian path along New Utrecht Ave
 - Concrete and painted curb extensions throughout to improve visibility and shorten pedestrian crossings



New Utrecht Ave and 17th Ave, 78th St to 81st St

Proposal Summary

New signals and crosswalks on New Utrecht Ave at 78th St and 81st St to improve pedestrian safety



Thank You!

Questions?

NYC DOT Brooklyn
Borough Commissioner's Office
(646) 892-1350



NYCDOT



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