



PROSPECT HEIGHTS OPEN STREETS

Community Board 8 – 9/27/2022



Agenda

- Outreach efforts overview
- Vanderbilt project update
- Underhill project update
- Next steps and 2023 look ahead



A wide-angle photograph of a large crowd of people dancing on a city street at dusk. The scene is filled with people of various ages and ethnicities, many of whom are wearing casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and tank tops. They are dancing in a loose formation across the street, which has white crosswalk markings. In the background, there are several multi-story buildings, including a prominent red brick building with many windows. Traffic lights are visible, showing green lights. The sky is a mix of blue and purple, indicating the time is either early evening or late afternoon. A semi-transparent white banner with black text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Prospect Heights Open Streets Background

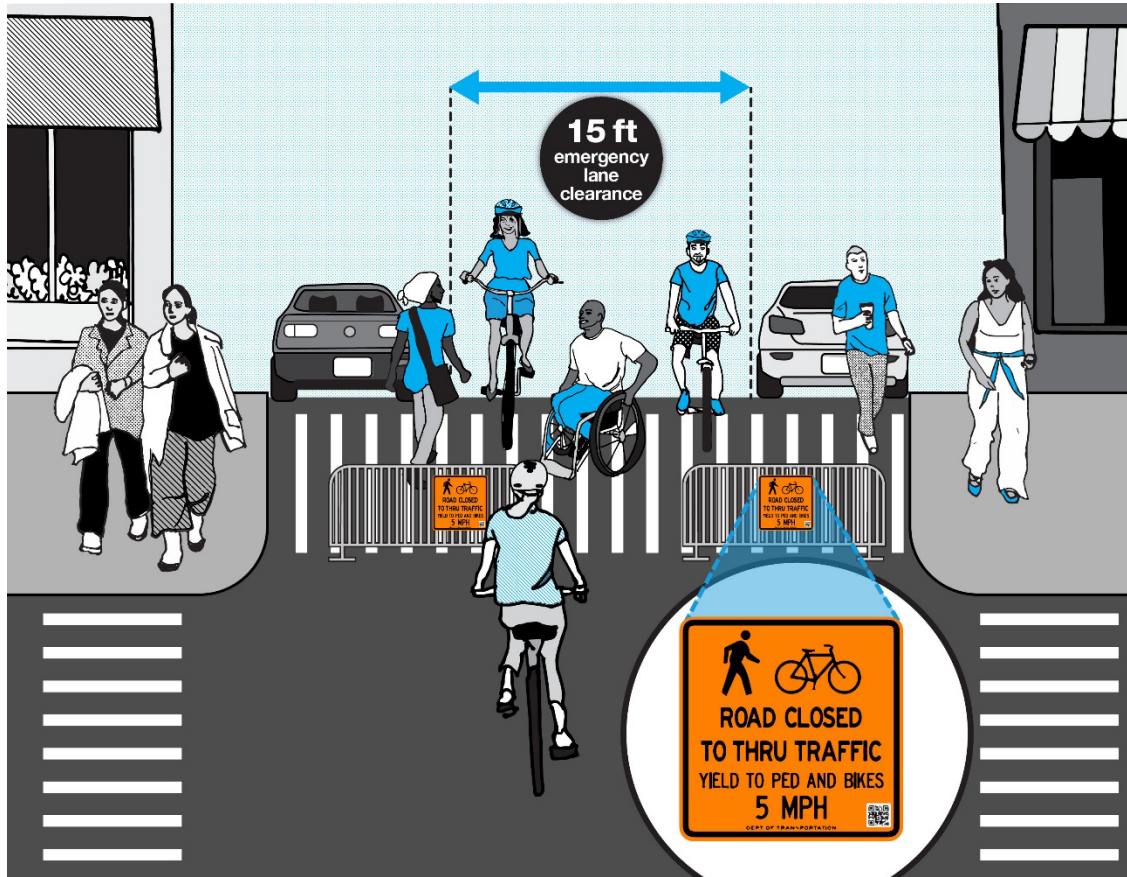
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- DOT partner responsible for the day to day execution of Open Streets in Prospect Heights
- Consists of neighbors, businesses, and other members of the Prospect Heights community working together collaboratively to create public space
- Stepped in to manage Open Streets when City resources were limited at the height of the pandemic

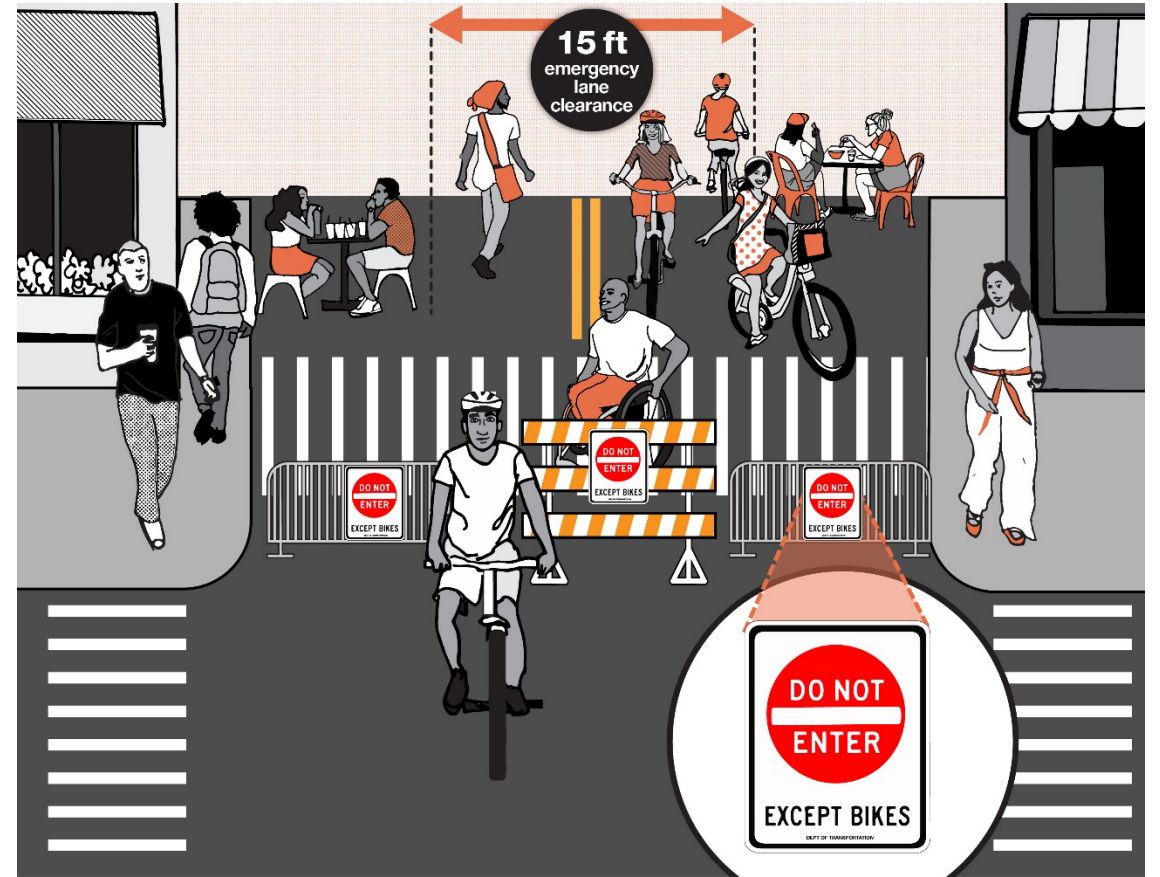
HOW OPEN STREETS WORK

Limited Local Access (Monday to Friday)



Underhill Avenue

Full Closure (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday)



Vanderbilt Ave



Community Outreach Overview

EFFORTS TO DATE

Open Streets program – 2020 to present

- Open Streets on Underhill and Vanderbilt Avenues as an emergency response program during COVID-19 pandemic

Community feedback survey – Feb to May ‘21

- 1,468 responses with feedback on how the existing Open Streets on Underhill + Vanderbilt Aves are operating and can be used in the future
- Promoted via flyers, digital media, flyers, email blasts, and in person opportunity on 5/26

Traffic study Open Streets – March ‘21 to Sept. ‘22

- Collecting vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian count data for Open Streets and surrounding corridors
- Evaluating effect of Open Streets + project proposals on traffic network

Community Workshop #1 – September ‘21

- 3 pop up workshops on Vanderbilt and Underhill Aves (9/11, 9/17, 9/22) to build on the survey feedback + offer in person feedback opp.

Community Workshop #2 – May ‘22

- 2 pop up workshops on Vanderbilt and Underhill Aves (5/19, 5/21) for the community to offer feedback on the design proposals

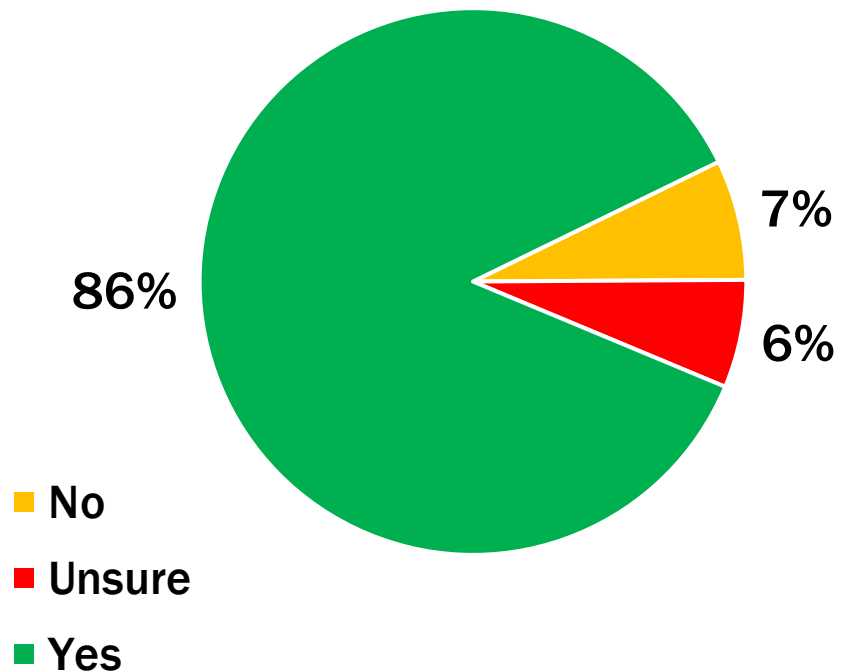
Community Board 8 Presentations – Multiple

- Throughout the course of the Open Streets program in Prosect Heights, DOT has routinely presented to Community Board 8’s EST committee

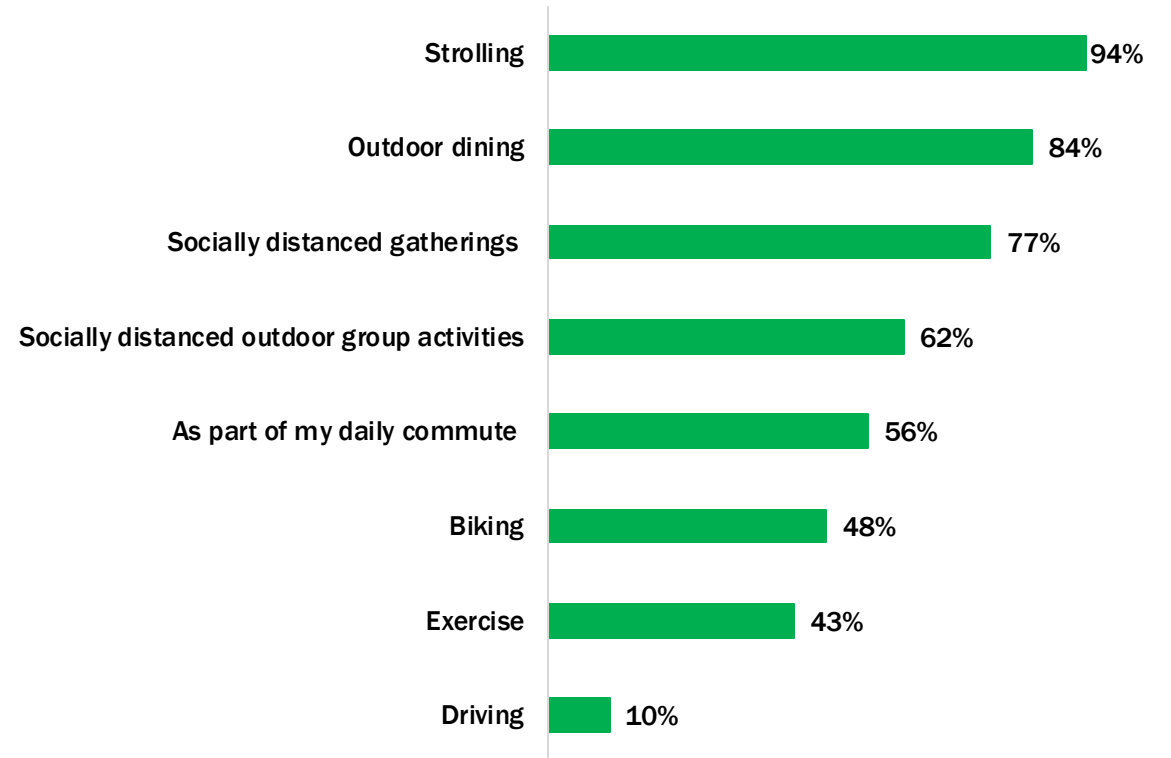


2021 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Would you like to see permanent changes to make Prospect Heights Open Streets pedestrian and/or cycling priority corridors?



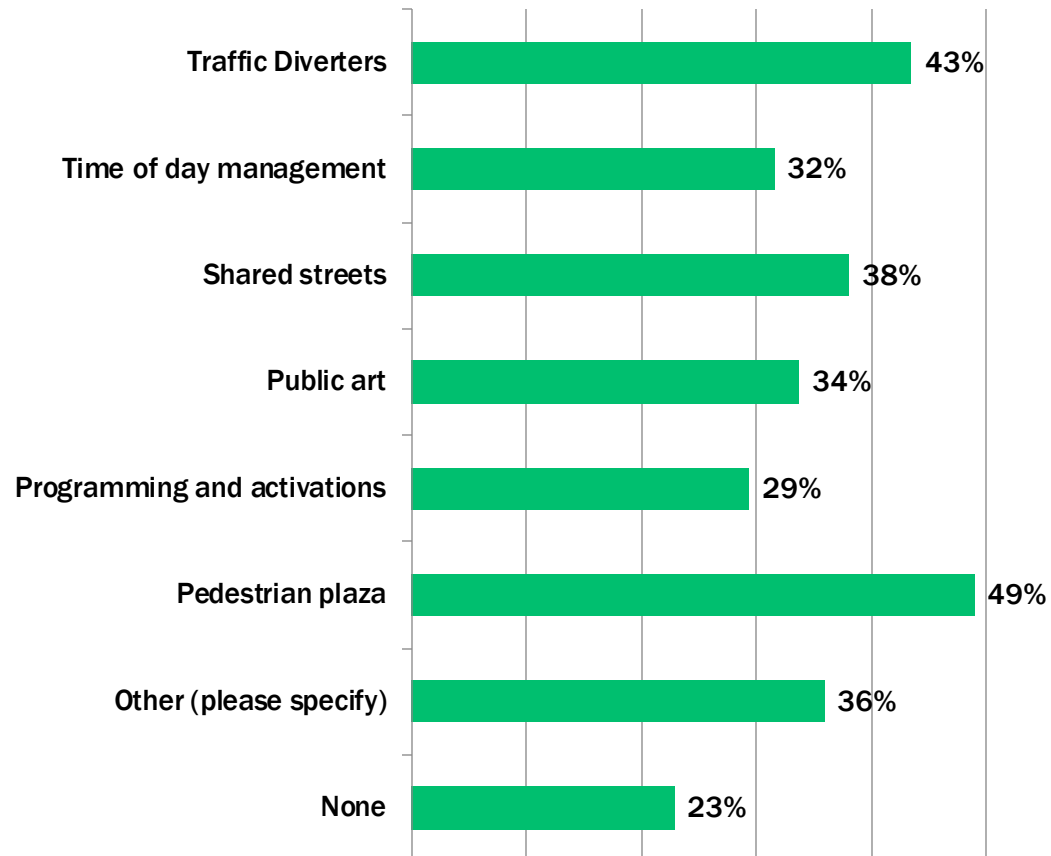
How do you want to use Prospect Heights Open Streets in the future?



Fall '21 Workshops: 9/11, 9/17, & 9/22

Based on the survey feedback, DOT hosted a series of workshops for the community to have an opportunity to suggest the types of public space and transportation tool kit items they'd like to see implemented on the Underhill and Vanderbilt Open Streets.

Which public space tool kit items would you like to see implemented?



Spring '22 Workshops: 5/19, 5/21

Based on the previous workshop feedback, DOT hosted another series of workshops for the community to offer comments on design proposals for the Underhill and Vanderbilt Open Streets.

Underhill Avenue

- Strong desire to see design solutions that codify bike and pedestrian priority
- Need for dedicated loading and delivery space on the corridor
- Positive feedback on removing metal barriers as a tool kit solution

Vanderbilt Avenue

- Strong desire to see design solutions that reflect full closure operations on weekends
- Need for dedicated loading and delivery space on the corridor
- Positive feedback on improving Atlantic & Vanderbilt intersection



From 234 Survey Comments



Design Proposals & Operational Considerations

Vision Zero & Crash Data



- Vision Zero is a citywide initiative to eliminate death and serious injuries from traffic incidents.
- Vanderbilt Ave and Underhill Ave fall within a Vision Zero Priority Area
- Vision Zero Priority Intersections located at Vanderbilt/Bergen, Vanderbilt/St Marks, Vanderbilt/Prospect, Vanderbilt/Park, and Underhill/St Marks

Underhill Ave Crash Data 2016 to 2020 (Atlantic Ave to Eastern Pkwy)

Injury Summary, 2016-2020 (5 Years)

Mode	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	28	1	0	1
Bicyclist	12	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Occupant	96	2	0	2
Other Motorized	0	0	0	0
Total	136	3	0	3

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

- KSI – 5.1 per mile
- 2020 saw a drop in crashes when the Open Street was implemented

Vanderbilt Ave Crash Data 2016 to 2020 (Atlantic Ave to Park Pl)

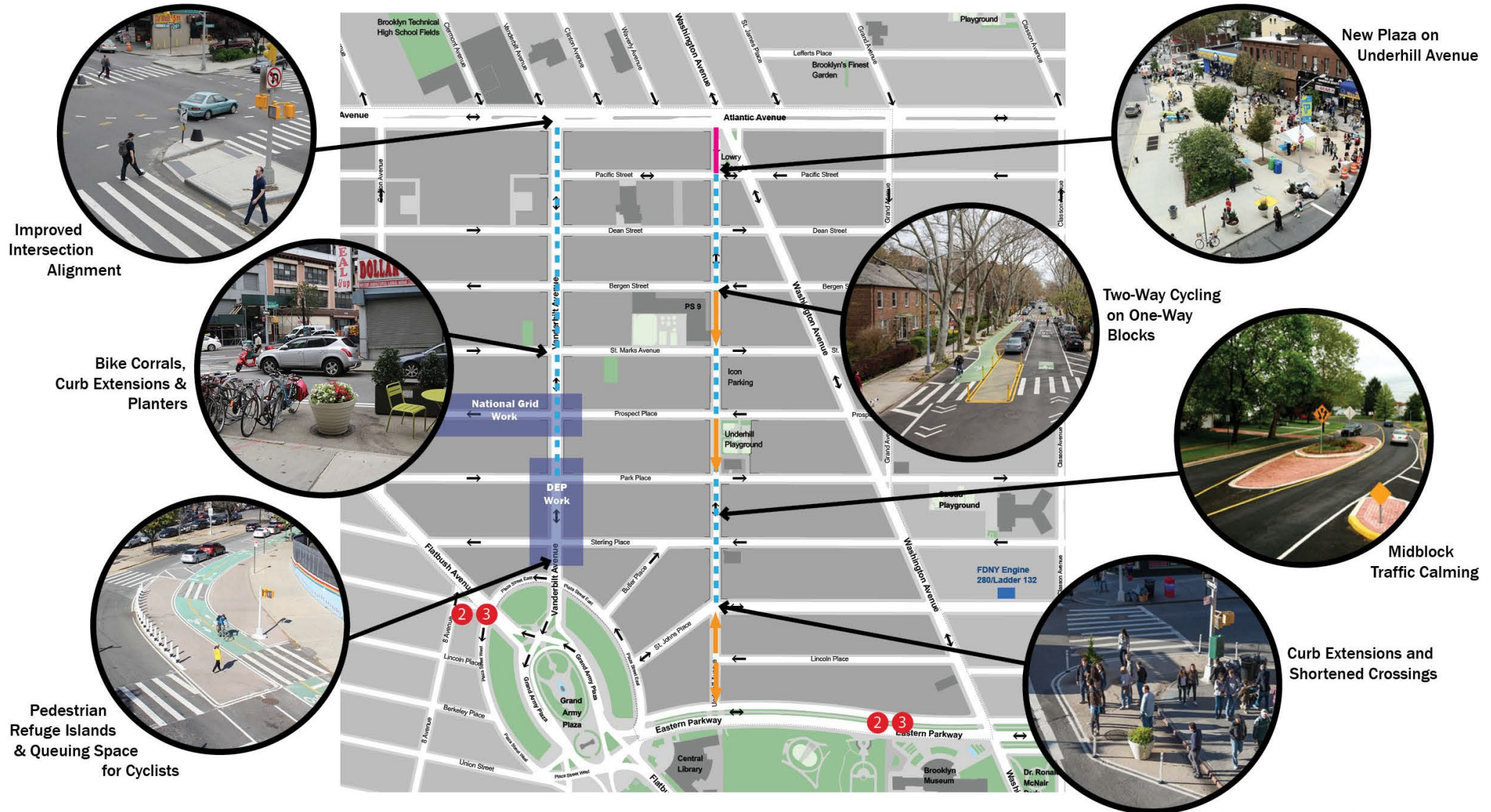
Injury Summary, 2016-2020 (5 Years)

Mode	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	28	1	0	1
Bicyclist	39	4	0	4
Motor Vehicle Occupant	121	5	0	5
Other Motorized	0	0	0	0
Total	188	10	0	10

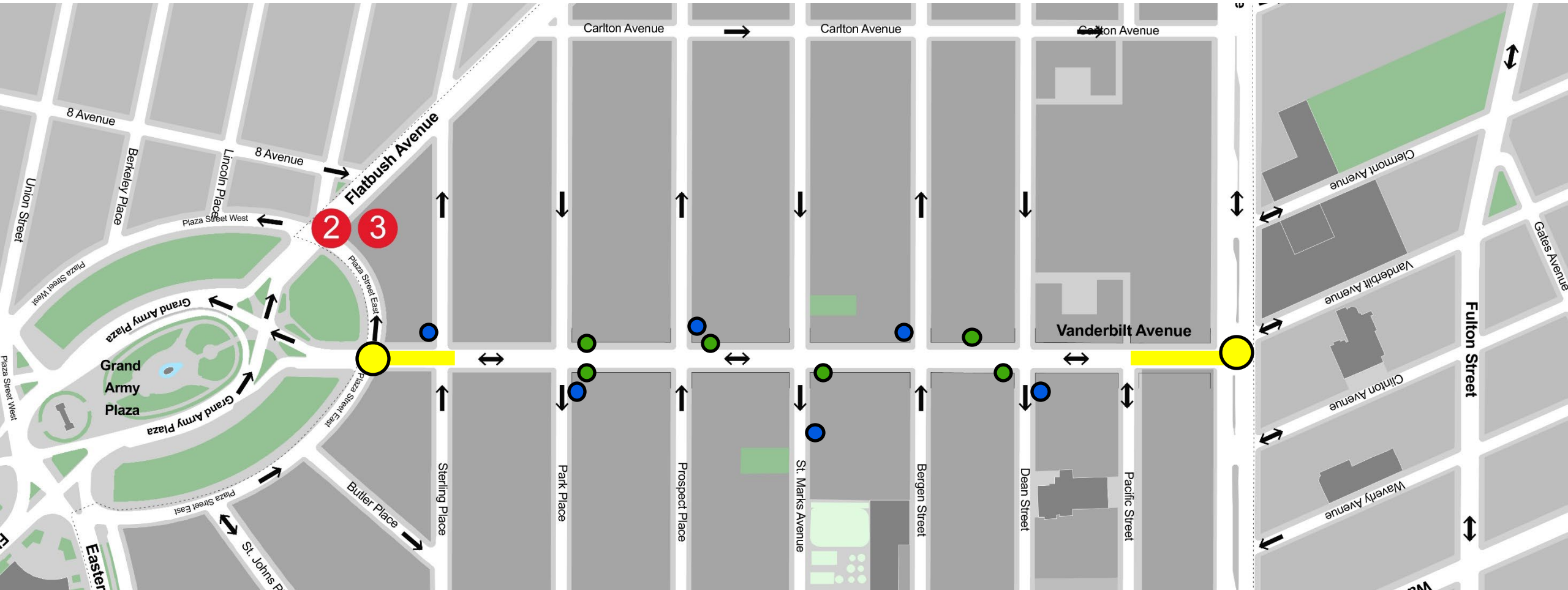
Source: Fatalities: NYCDOT, Injuries: NYSDOT KSI: Persons Killed or Severely Injured

- KSI – 28.1 per mile
- Top 10% KSI in all of Brooklyn
- 2020 saw a drop in crashes when the Open Street was implemented

Overall plan

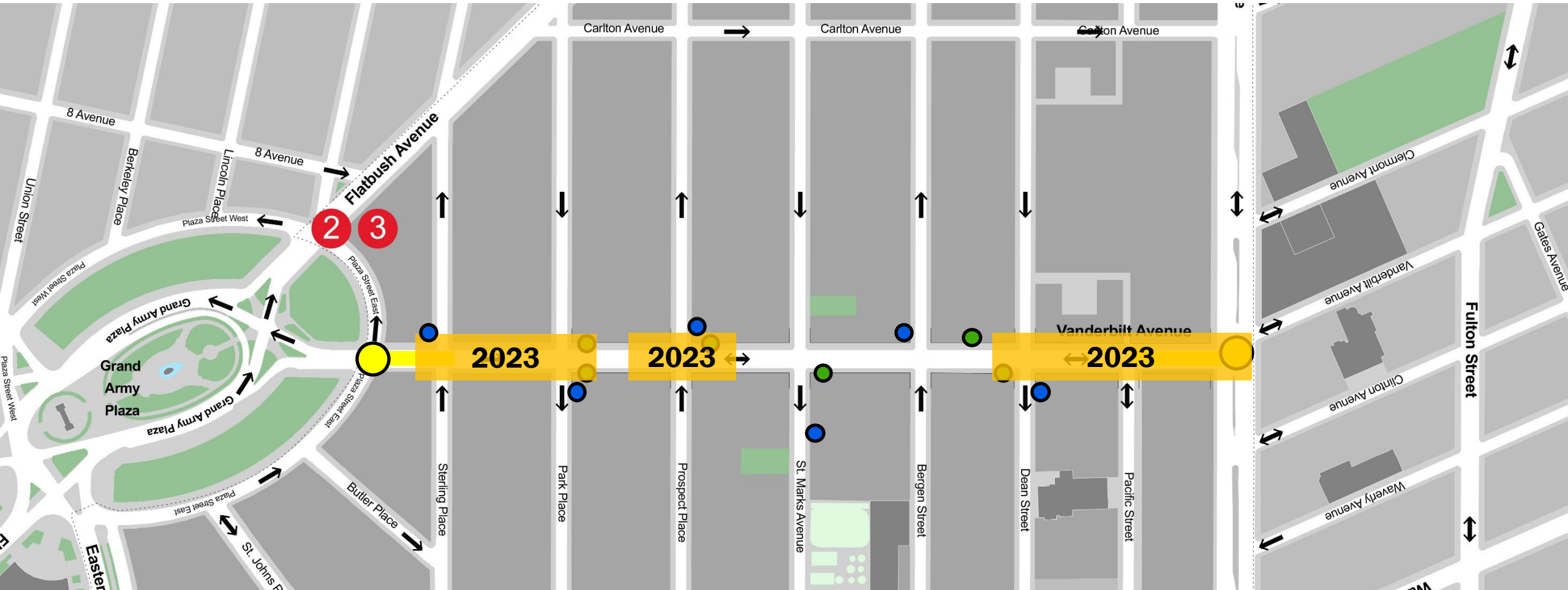


Vanderbilt Proposal



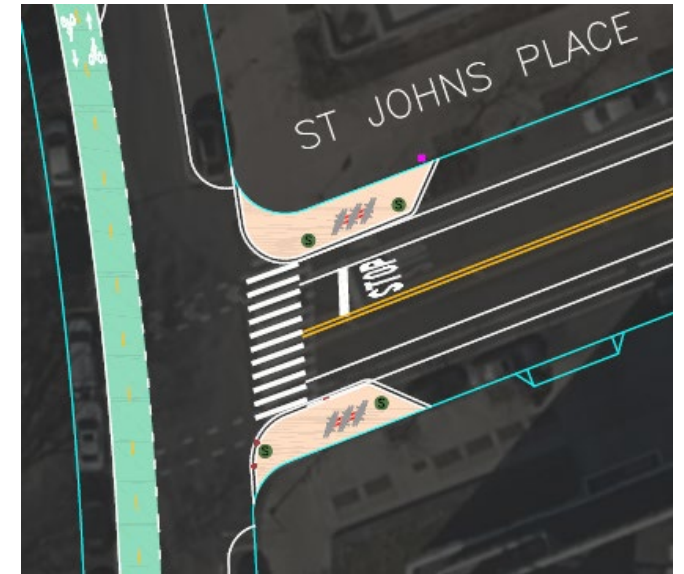
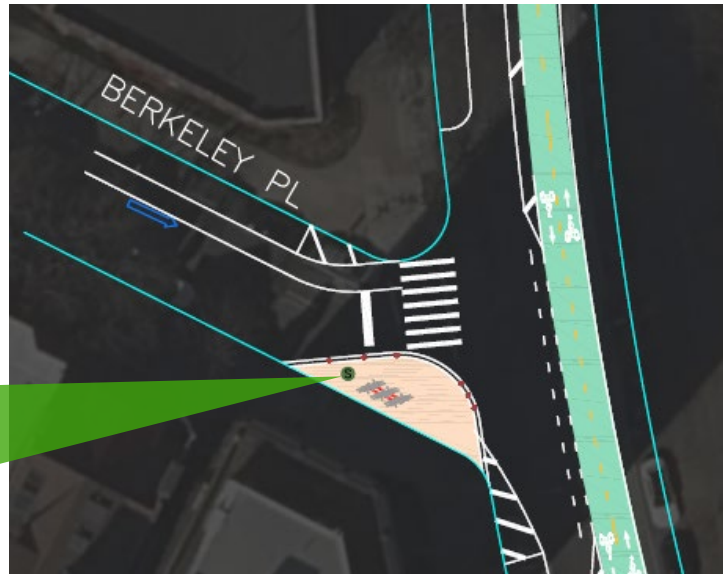
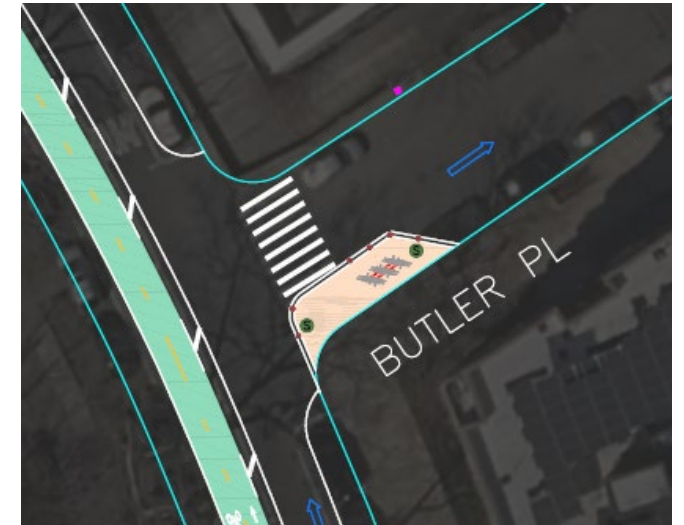
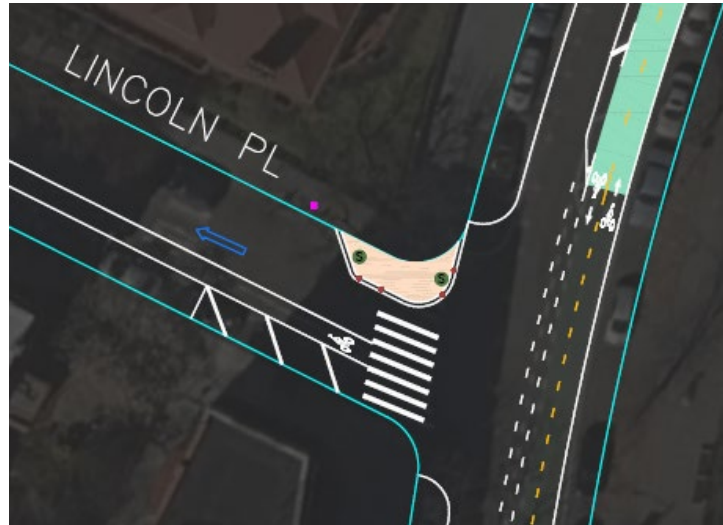
-  Gateway Intersection Safety Upgrades
-  Improved Cross Sections
-  Neighborhood Loading Zones
-  Bike Corrals

Vanderbilt Proposal



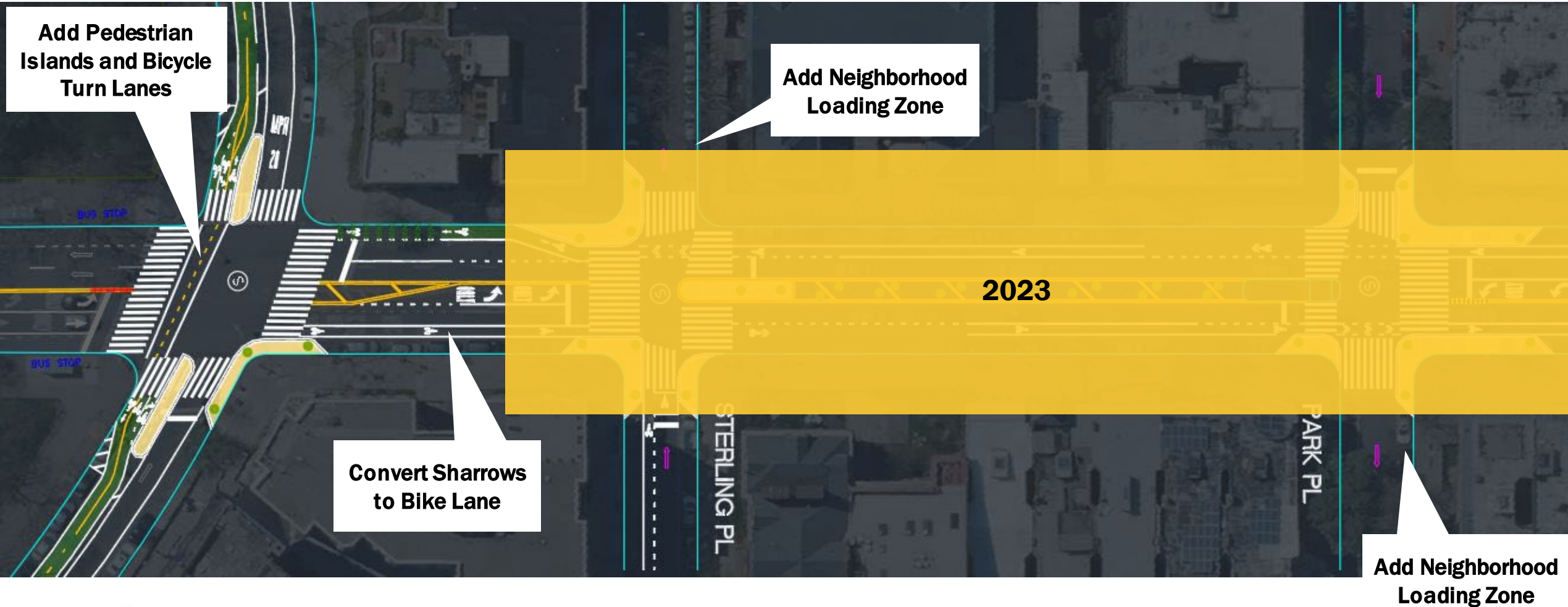
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-  Improved Cross Sections
-  Neighborhood Loading Zones
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Plaza Street Improvements

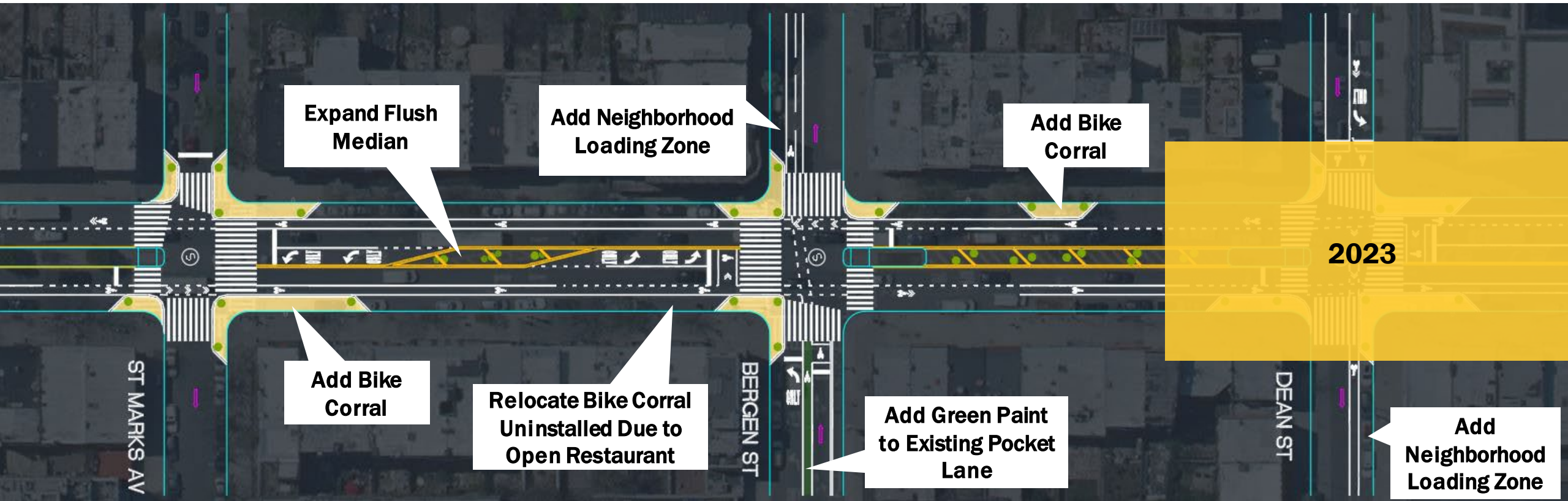


**New curb extensions
at Lincoln Pl,
Berkeley Pl, Butler Pl,
and St Johns Pl to
shorten crossings and
slow turns**

Vanderbilt Proposal (Plaza St to Park Pl)



Vanderbilt Proposal (St Marks Av to Dean St)



Delivery Access and Curb Management



Solution



Vanderbilt Open Streets

Parking Regulations Pilot

- Formal change to parking regulations on Vanderbilt Ave to reflect Open Streets operations
- NO STANDING regulation to be added for:
 - Friday 4pm to 11pm
 - Saturday and Sunday 11am to 11pm
- No parking is permitted on Vanderbilt Ave when Open Streets is in effect at above times
- Signs will be swapped on a seasonal basis



Underhill Bike Boulevard Proposal



What is a Bike Blvd?

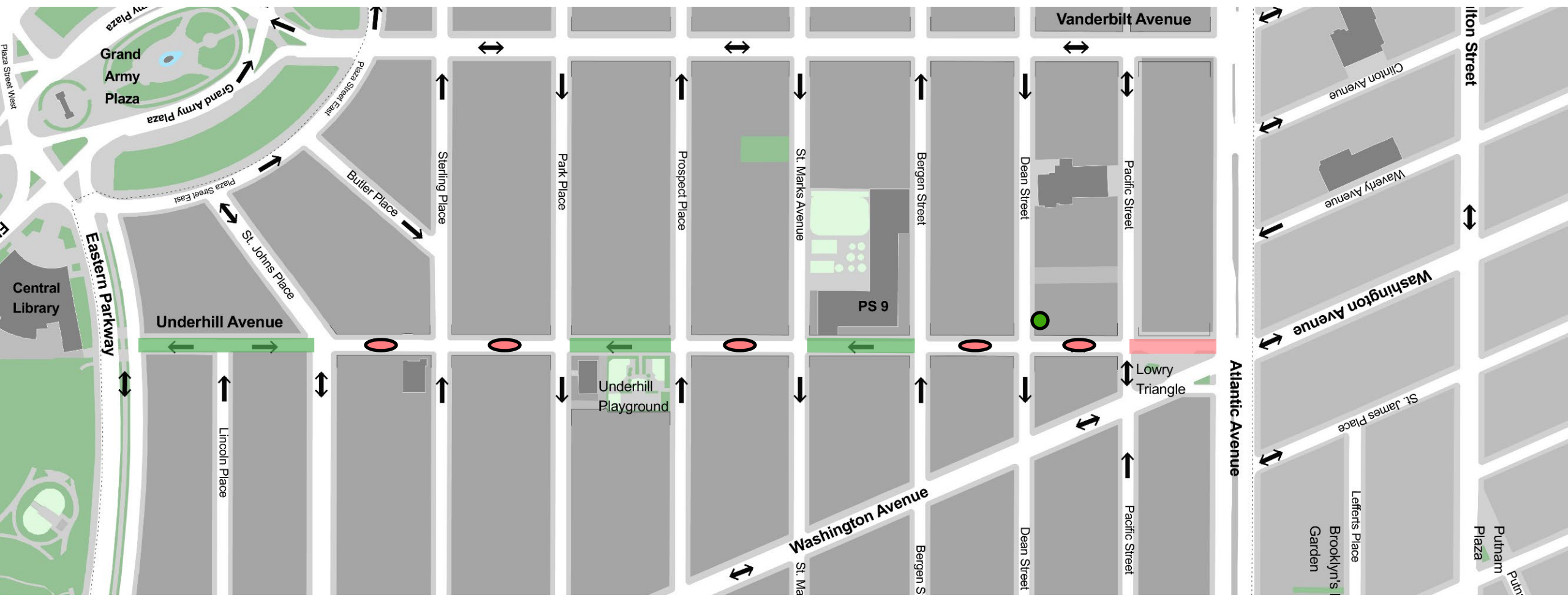
Corridor designated and designed for bicycle travel

- Calms traffic for all road users (pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles) with set of design interventions
- Underhill proposal builds on the success of Open Streets and codifies design for pedestrian/bike priority

Design elements include:

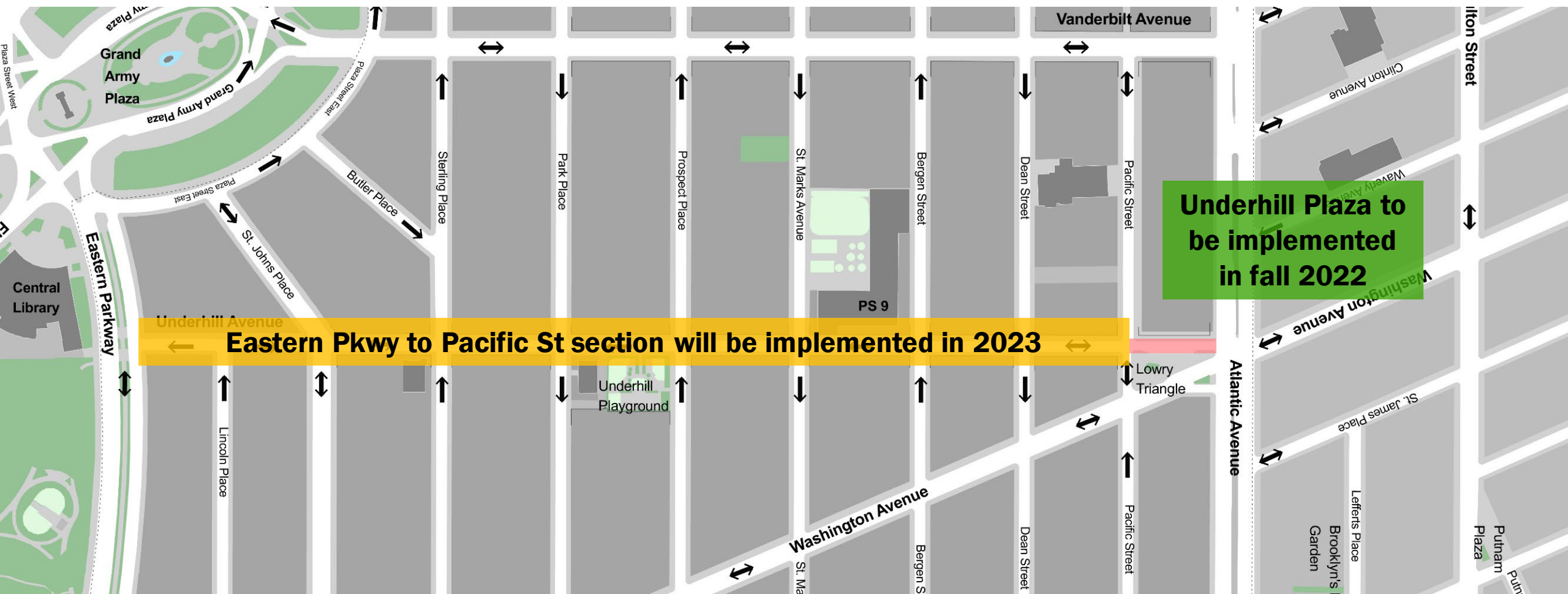
- Route planning: direct access to destinations
- Speed and traffic volume management: slow vehicle speeds and reduce vehicle volumes
- Signs, wayfinding, pavement markings easy to find /follow
- Street crossings: minimal cyclist delay at minor street crossings. Safe and convenient crossings at major streets

Underhill Bike Boulevard Proposal



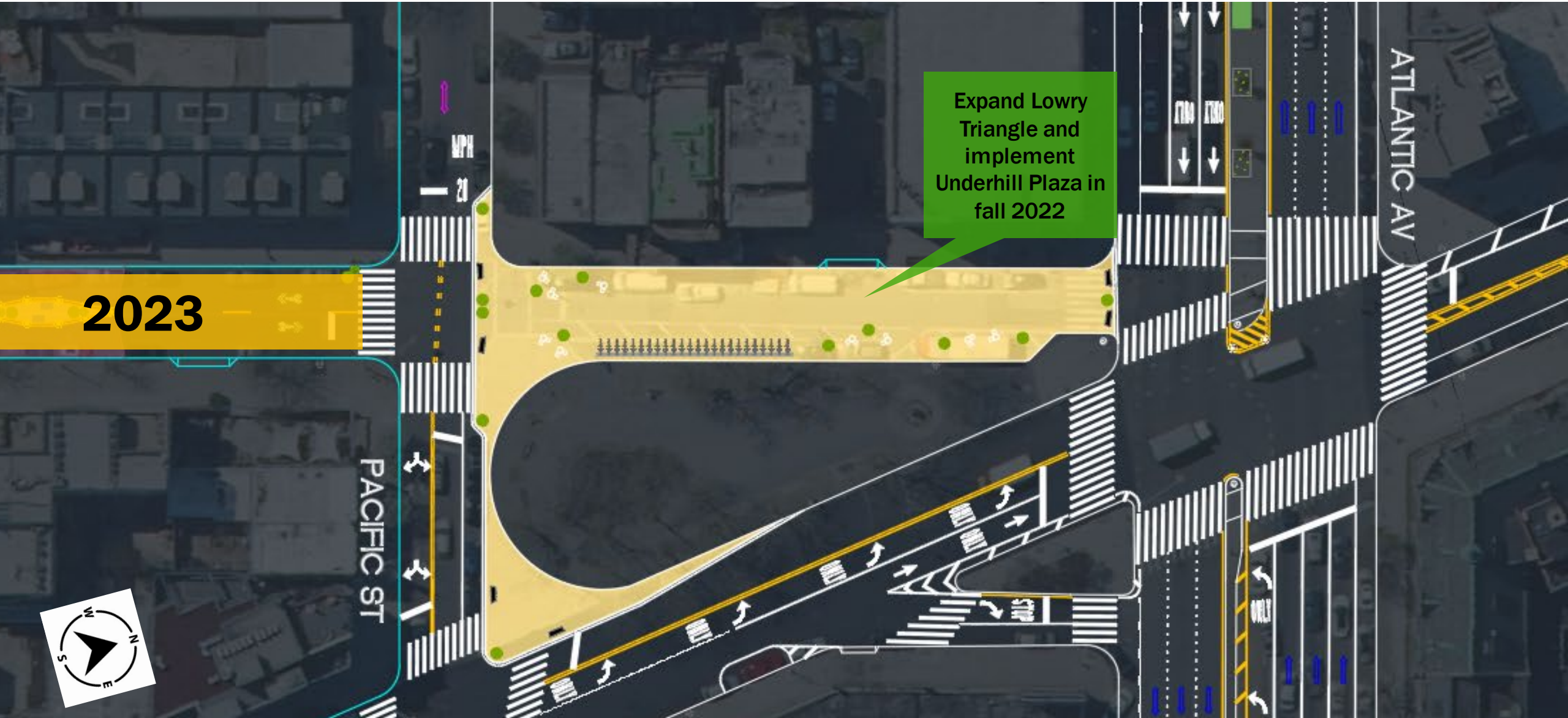
- Full Closure Blocks for Expanded Plaza Space**
- One-way Blocks with Two-way Cycling and Additional Pedestrian Space**
- Two-way Blocks with Median Traffic Calming**
- Bike Corrals**

Underhill Bike Boulevard Proposal



- Full Closure Blocks for Expanded Plaza Space
- One-way Blocks with Two-way Cycling and Additional Pedestrian Space
- Two-way Blocks with Median Traffic Calming
- Bike Corrals

Underhill Plaza (Pacific St to Atlantic Av)



Plaza Toolkit

Umbrellas

Greenery

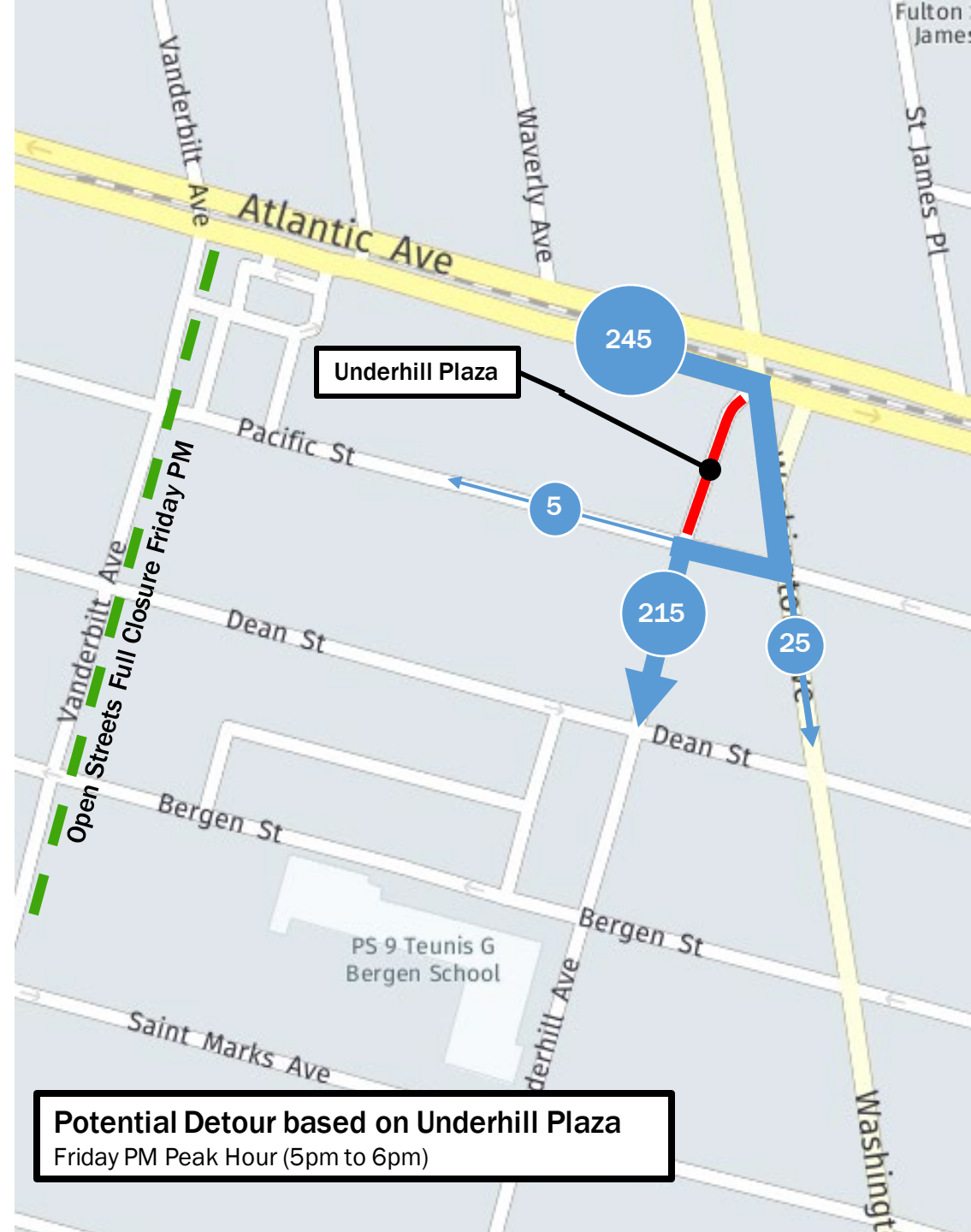
**Granite
Blocks**

**Movable
Furniture**

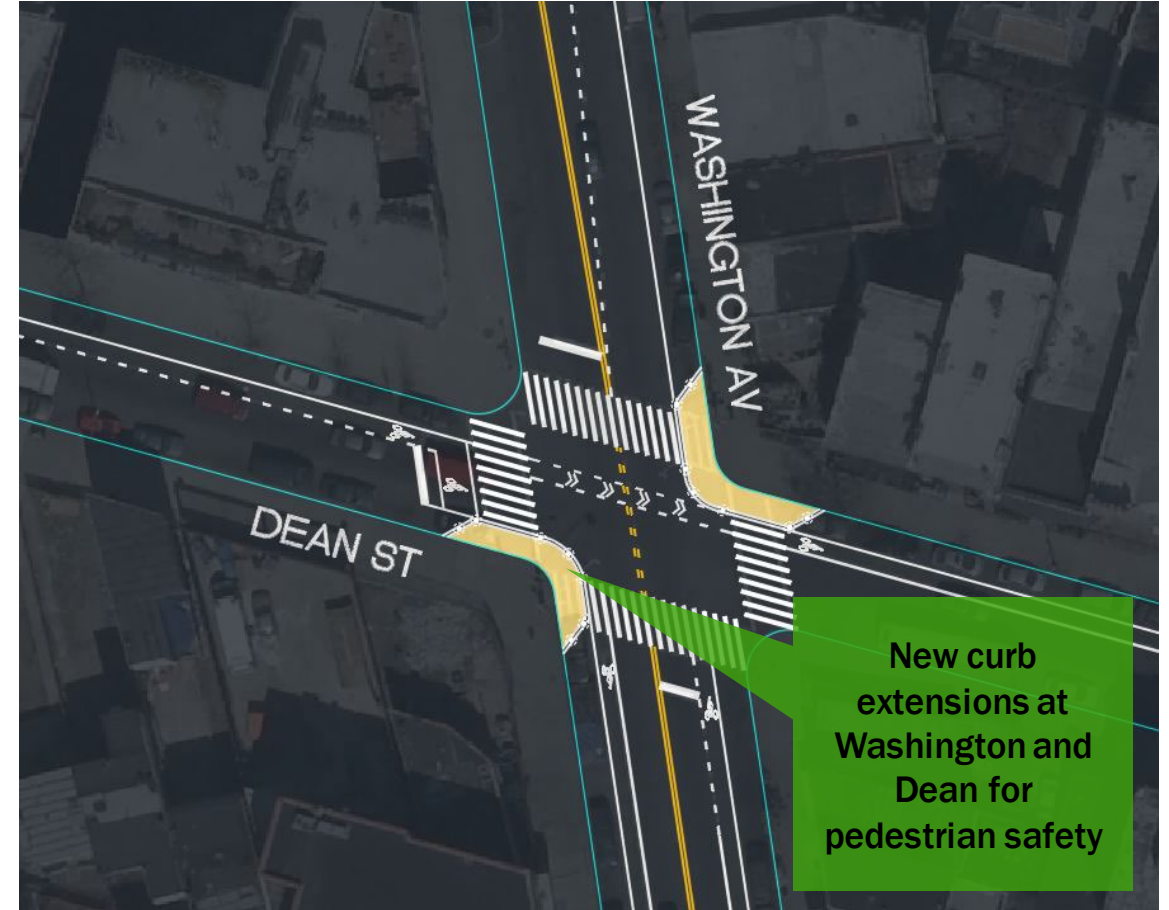
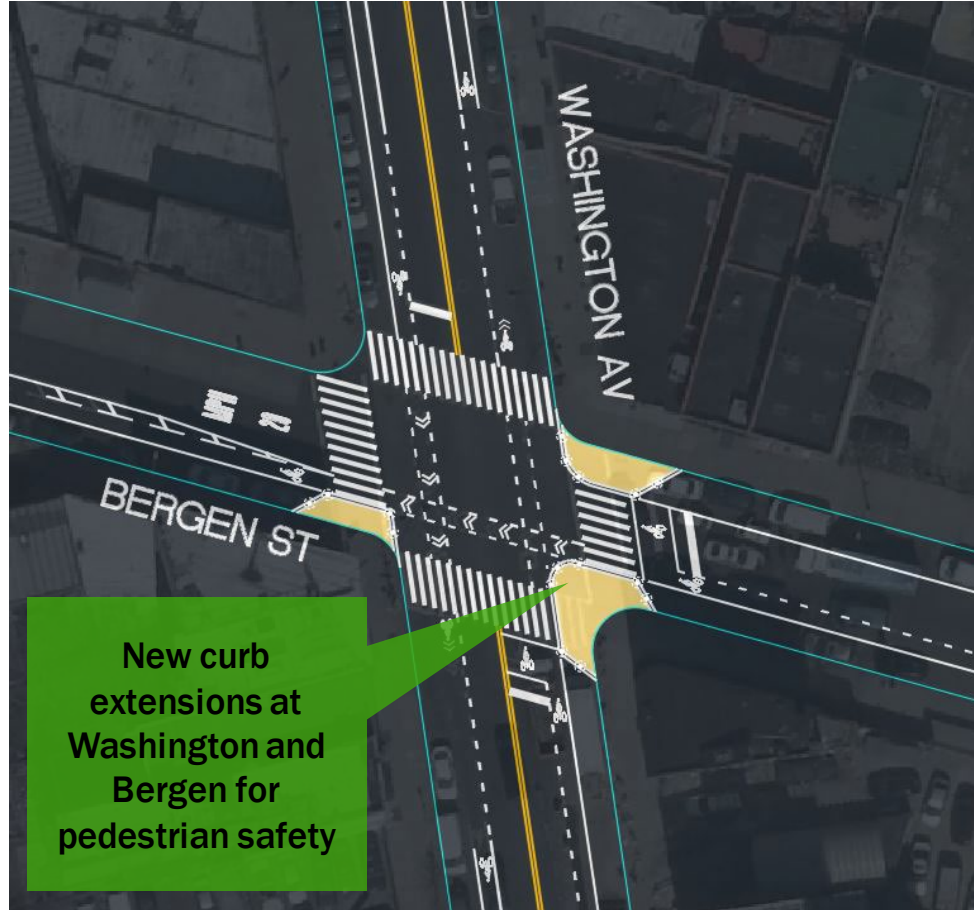
**Ground
Treatment**

Traffic Network Analysis

- Modeled impact of plaza based on traffic counts taken during the PM peak hour on Friday evenings
- Vehicles that would have made SB turn onto Underhill will now have to use SB Washington Ave to continue on Underhill
- Traffic signal timing changes will be implemented to mitigate expected increase in queue lengths after plaza implementation
- To ensure pedestrian safety with longer vehicle queues, new curb extensions at Washington/Dean and Washington/Bergen will be added



Washington Improvements



Next Steps and Looking Ahead

Underhill Plaza Implementation – Fall ‘22

- Implementation to start this fall, featuring a new public art mural
- Continued observations of traffic network

Vanderbilt Ave Implementation – Fall ‘22

- Implement new no standing parking regs, loading zones, and curb extensions

2023 Implementation + Continued Evolution

- Implement Underhill: Pacific to Eastern Pkwy section
- Implement Vanderbilt geometric changes
- Capital project scoping





THANK YOU!

Email openstreets@dot.nyc.gov with any questions or concerns

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