QUEENSBORO BRIDGE SOUTH OUTER ROADWAY

Design Update

May 2021

Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway Redesign

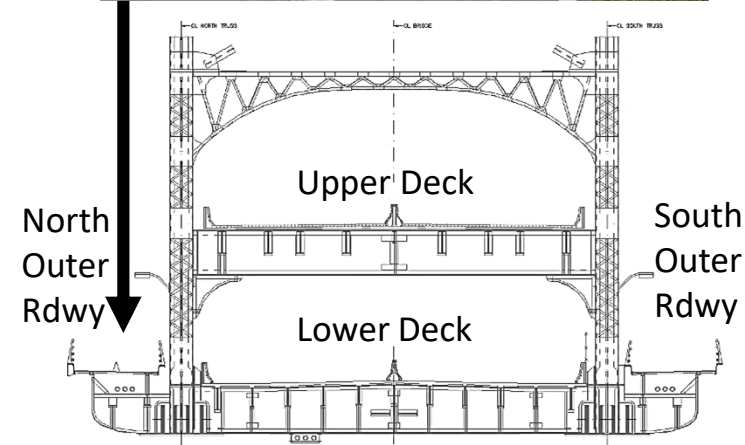## Background

East River Bridge Connections

- In 2007, DOT began prioritizing design changes that improve cyclist connections to the East River Bridges as well as on the bridge structure themselves.

Queensboro Bridge – DOT has focused on providing protected connections to and from the QBB, including on Second Ave, 61st/62nd St (temp), Crescent St, and Northern Blvd (temp lane). However, the path over the bridge is a bottleneck.

Bicycle Volumes on the East River Bridges

- Total cyclist volumes have grown by 14.4% over the past 5 years, and by an additional 29.8% during Covid.
  - Queensboro bridge had the greatest increase in cycling, growing by 45% during Covid

Shared Use Path – Continued conflicts between cyclists and pedestrian on existing bridge path.
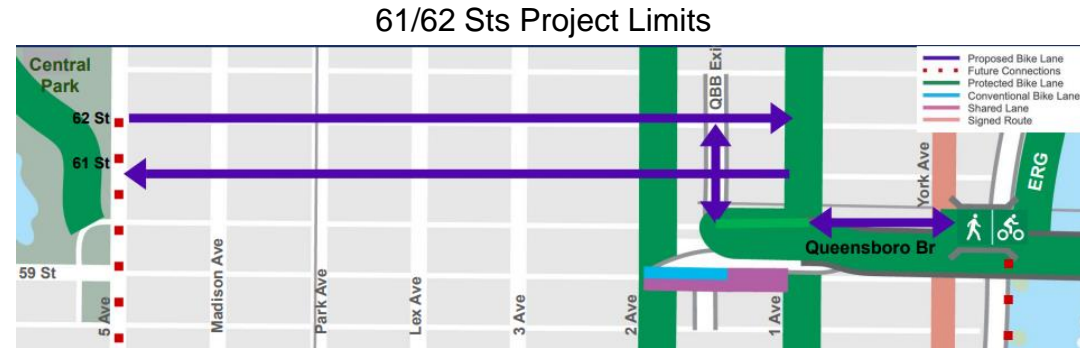

North
Outer
Rdwy

South
Outer
Rdwy

Upper Deck

Lower Deck

Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway Redesign

Background – Upcoming Bicycle Projects

61/62nd St – DOT

- PBLs are being installed on 61st and 62nd Streets from Bridge Exit Road, and onto 60th Street to the east

- Connection from bridge path to 61/62nd lanes in development

- Complements the 2nd Ave PBL project

61/62 Sts Project Limits

Northern Blvd – DOT

- 2021 project will connect Central Queens to Queensboro Bridge with high quality protected bike lanes

- Enhances safety and builds on NYC DOT's ongoing efforts to improve safety on one of the borough's major corridors

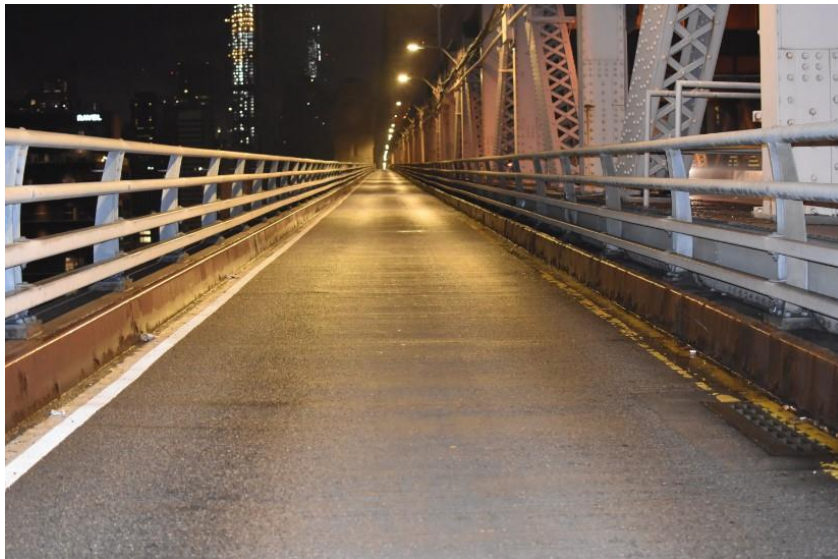- Complements the recent Crescent Ave PBL

Northern Blvd-Project Limits

Proposed Project

South Outer Roadway: Conversion to Pedestrian Only Scope

1. Add fencing to roadway to protect pedestrians (as exists on all other NYCDOT East River Bridge pedestrian paths)

> **North Outer Roadway to become a bicyclist-only path**

Existing Conditions

Planned Conditions

Proposed Project

South Outer Roadway: Conversion to Pedestrian Only Scope

2. Add gates to both sides of bridge to allow access for maintenance vehicles, but prevent general use traffic. Access will be maintained to NYCDOT operational facility under bridge.

Existing Conditions – Manhattan Approach

Planned Conditions – Manhattan Approach

South Outer Roadway: Conversion to Pedestrian Only Scope

3. Improve pedestrian connections to new path, including new crosswalks and other safety improvements on both sides of bridge. Will take into account maintenance and marathon requirements

4. Updates to wayfinding and signage to reinforce that North Outer Roadway should be bike-only

5. Traffic study to determine additional supportive changes to traffic patterns on bridge, or on bridge approaches to minimize traffic disruptions (coordinated with MTA CBD Tolling Program analysis).

Example Wayfinding – Williamsburg Bridge

Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway Redesign

Background – Upper Level Re-Decking

Project Overview

Bridge is over 100 years old

Bridge rating is **4.214 out of 7** as of 2018

Changes in bridge use over the years have added weight to bridge trusses; heavy vehicle loads have added to overstress in truss members

Since 2018, DOT has been working on a repair project on the upper deck to extend life by 50-75 years and increase fire safety

During construction at least one lane closed on upper level at all times; two lanes closed off-peak with crossover operation on upper level during staged work

SOR must be available for traffic at key times during upper deck construction to reduce local traffic issues, based on findings from traffic study and analysis

Queensboro Bridge South Outer Roadway Redesign

Proposed Project

South Outer Roadway: Timeline

2021
- Community Outreach (now and ongoing during project)
- LPC approval (anticipate June)
- Finalize change order with existing upper level contractor
- Begin installing fence and gates (in coordination with upper level construction work)
- Complete traffic study and propose any changes to traffic patterns (estimated Summer 2021)

Late 2022 (target)
- Complete upper level construction
- Open SOR to pedestrian traffic at completion of upper level construction

Questions?

THANK YOU!

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