

# SAFE STREETS NYC

### TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY







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### JUNE 2007

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Note:

All new content since the last publication of this report (April 2006) is identified by red bold fonts.

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# IMPROVING SAFE

# TRAFFIC

### FATALITIES

Over the past several years, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has actively accelerated its efforts to improve pedestrian and traffic safety by instituting a proactive and systematic approach to the identification of locations throughout the city where innovative safety mitigation measures need to be implemented. While the scope and scale of these projects vary in terms of improvements, there is no greater testament to the City's efforts than the decline of both pedestrian and vehicular fatalities over the past seventeen years. Some of the most

remarkable strides have been made over the past three years as the Department has seen fatalities reach historic lows. In 2004, a watershed year for traffic safety, traffic-related fatalities fell to 298, the lowest tally since 1910 when there were 332 fatalities. In 2005, fatalities increased slightly to 321, but by 2006 fatalities had fallen again to 315, the second lowest annual total.



Since 1990, traffic fatalities decreased by 55.1%. Some of the most noticeable improvements have occurred more recently as fatalities have declined 20% since 2001. An examination of fatalities by mode finds that all modes have experienced significant declines over the past 17 years. As indicated in the table and chart below, pedestrian fatalities have fallen by 55.7% since 1990, to 162 in 2006 from 366, and have, in the past 17 years, averaged approximately 50% of all fatalities. This is a dramatic improvement since 1950 when pedestrians made



up more than three-quarters of all fatalities. Driver fatalities reached an all-time low in 2006, declining 59.7% to 68 from a high of 169 in 1991. Passenger fatalities experienced the greatest decline of 62.8%, to 45 in 2006 from 121 in 1990. Particularly in the last three years, nearly all modes have experienced historic lows. Fatalities as a percentage by mode have remained fairly consistent on an annual basis. However, even with the sizeable decrease in overall pedestrian fatalities, this mode continues to be the largest at-risk group, as they are involved in approximately one-half of all fatal accidents. The table below represents these trends over the past 17 years.

YEAR	Pedestrians	Drivers	Passengers	Motorcyclists	Bicyclists	TOTAL
1990	52.2%	22.8%	17.3%	4.9%	2.9%	701
1991	48.6%	27.0%	16.1%	5.0%	3.4%	626
1992	49.2%	25.7%	15.7%	6.3%	3.2%	592
1993	53.0%	24.3%	14.2%	5.4%	3.2%	536
1994	50.4%	24.6%	17.6%	4.3%	3.1%	488
1995	50.0%	24.8%	16.3%	5.2%	3.7%	484
1996	55.2%	23.7%	14.8%	2.3%	4.0%	426
1997	51.5%	26.4%	15.0%	2.6%	4.5%	493
1998	49.7%	25.5%	15.5%	3.8%	5.4%	368
1999	48.1%	27.1%	11.0%	5.5%	8.3%	420
2000	49.2%	25.0%	15.5%	5.5%	4.7%	380
2001	49.0%	26.8%	14.8%	6.1%	3.3%	392
2002	49.0%	26.7%	13.7%	4.9%	5.7%	386
2003	49.0%	25.8%	15.2%	5.3%	4.7%	361
2004	52.3%	22.8%	12.1%	7.4%	5.4%	298
2005	48.6%	24.0%	14.0%	6.9%	6.5%	321
2006	51.4%	21.6%	14.3%	7.6%	5.1%	315
Percent of TOTAL						
1990-2006	50.4%	<b>25.0%</b>	15.1%	5.1%	4.3%	7587

Fatalities as Percentage (%) by Mode 1990-2006

### NYC COMPARED TO THE U.S.A.

Of all the cities in the nation with populations exceding 250,000, New York City has the lowest traffic fatality rate per 100,000 persons. A 2004 report by the U.S. Department of Transportation found that the City's rate of 3.7 traffic fatalities per 100,000 persons was the lowest of all major cities. Cities such as Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and Detroit had rates of 6.8, 7.8, and 13.7, respectively. Based on 2000 population data, the rate of traffic fatalities in New York City decreased by half from 1991 to 2005, while across the nation as a whole, the rate of total traffic fatalities *increased* during this same time period by 4.8%.



USA vs. NYC Traffic Related Fatalities Rates: 1991 - 2005

Not only has New York City achieved significant declines in total traffic fatalities, but pedestrian fatalities in New York City declined by 48.7% between 1991 and 2005, three times more than the 15.9% national decline.

This is even more remarkable given that in the 16 years between 1990 and 2005 annual subway ridership increased by 41%, thereby generating more pedestrian activity as people walk to and from the subway as part of their journey to work. During this same time period, pedestrian fatalities declined by 57.4%, to 156 from 366.



USA vs. NYC Pedestrian Fatalities: 1991 - 2005

### SEVERE INJURIES

Similar to the overall trend in fatalities between 2001 and 2005, severe injuries (also known as Type A or incapacitating injuries) decreased during this period. Severe injuries resulting from vehicular accidents decreased by 17.4%, while vehicular accidents involving bicyclists and pedestrians decreased by 16.9% and 11.9%, respectively. Not only has the number of the most severe injuries gone down, but Type B (minor bruising or bleeding) and Type C (no visible injury but complaint of pain) injuries have also declined. Between 2001 and 2005, Type B and C injuries declined by 28.4% and 36.4%, respectively.



Severe Injuries: 2002 - 2005

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Beginning in the late 1980's, DOT's efforts have significantly reduced the number of traffic related accidents throughout the city. The downward trend in accidents continues to solidify New York City's status as one of the safest large cities in the United States. Prior to 2002, the New York State accident statistics previously used in this report included total accidents, both reportable and non-reportable. During this time, total accidents decreased by 27.8%, to 221,983 in 2001 from 307,492 in 1990. Beginning in 2002, the State discontinued tabulating non-reportable accidents, making comparisons with previous years difficult. However, an analysis of reportable accidents from 2002 to 2005 reaffirms the downward trend of previous years; reportable accidents declined by 23.6%, to 73,046 in 2005 from 95,562 in 2002. Accidents in the four years from 2002 to 2005 have decreased nearly as much as they did in the previous 12 years, from 1990 to 2001, validating the Department's ongoing efforts to improve traffic safety.



### HIGH ACCIDENT LOCATIONS

Throughout New York City, there are several corridors and/or intersections which consistently experience a high number of accident occurrences. While each of these locations is unique in its characteristics and layout, these locations are generally more accident prone due to one of **four** factors: 1) Physical environment (e.g., grade, road alignment, visibility, roadway conditions, lighting, wet pavement); **2) Traffic Conditions (e.g., high volumes, heavy truck activity);** 3) Human factors (e.g., driving under the influence, misjudgment, speeding, aggressive or inexperienced driving, illness, unlicensed driver); 4) Equipment (e.g., faulty vehicles, over or under loaded larger vehicles.). Crashes usually involve several of these factors.

In past years, the city has ranked the top accident locations based upon data from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The Department uses the NYSDOT Accident Database to locate high accident locations as this database is the most complete and accurate source of accident information. NYSDOT has recently made reportable accident data from 2002 to 2005 available.

#### Identifying Locations for Improvement

Many of the high accident locations throughout the city have benefited from the implementation of engineering improvements. More recently, the Department's focus has been directed toward addressing corridors and intersections where available data and trends indicate that accidents are occurring more frequently. These locations may be identified through the Department's own review of accident data, as well as suggestions from elected officials, the Police Department and the community. This year, the Department will be initiating a comprehensive study of traffic fatality and severe injury accident locations to further identify intersections that may benefit from additional safety improvements.

Annually, most of the high accident locations have progressively experienced a decline in the total number of accidents. This trend is similar to the overall decline in fatalities, severe injuries and accidents occurring citywide.

This downward trend is confirmed when looking at the sum of reportable accidents per year at the five highest accident intersections in the City. As indicated by the overall decline of 35.5% since 2001, accidents at each of the top five high accident intersections each year have declined. An even more striking trend is the decline at the highest ranked location each year. The top ranked location had the least amount of reportable accidents to date (32) in 2003, a 55% decline from 2001. Although the number of accidents has increased slightly since 2003, the number one ranked location in 2005 still exhibited a 41% decline (to 42 from 71 in 2001).

The range between the top twenty reportable accident locations from year to year has also been shrinking. In 1996 the highest ranked location, the intersection Highway, of Kinas Linden Boulevard and Remsen Avenue, experienced 81 reportable accidents, while the eight-way tie for twentieth location experienced 33 reportable accidents. This accounts for a range of 48. Since then, the range between the top location and the twentieth has become progressively smaller. By 2005, the range between the top ranked (Linden Boulevard



Sum of Reportable Accidents at Five Highest Accident Locations

and Pennsylvania Avenue with 42 reportable accidents) and the seven-way tie for sixteenth ranked location (which only reported 25 accidents) shrank to only 17. Given the smaller range, and the significantly lower accident numbers, even if a location is highly ranked in 2005, the annual accident experience at these locations is frequently lower than those in any preceding year. Cumulatively, these account for a significant reduction in total accidents at these locations.

While there are numerous locations throughout the city that are indicative of these trends, there are some notable locations that have experienced a dramatic decline in their accident experience that can be directly related to the implementation of safety improvements and the declining overall trends.

One such location is Kings Highway at the Linden Boulevard and Remsen Avenue intersection. This is a multi-legged, complex intersection that experienced a high number of accidents before improvements were implemented in 2000 and 2001. From 1998 to 2001, this intersection experienced an average of 71 reportable accidents per year. Data from the first four years after improvements were implemented, 2002 through 2005, show that the average number of accidents per

year declined substantially to 23, a 67.6% decline.

Some of the improvements that were implemented at this intersection involved signal timing changes, installation of oversized street name signs, new curbside regulations and modifications to bus stops.



Another location that has shown considerable improvement in safety over the past few years is the Grand Concourse corridor. Beginning with improvements implemented in 1992, the Grand Concourse represented the first corridor-wide safety initiative the Department undertook to improve both pedestrian and vehicular safety along an entire corridor. This approach and several of the treatments that were implemented served as a model for other corridors in the city, most notably Queens Boulevard.





Beginning in 1993 and coinciding with improvements made on the Concourse, annual fatalities (both vehicular and pedestrian) began to drop significantly. In 1993, total fatalities decreased 60% (to six from 15 in 1992) and pedestrian fatalities decreased 50% (to five from 10 in 1992). This downward trend in fatalities has continued each year. In 2003, there was only one pedestrian fatality on the corridor. Although fatalities increased slightly to three in 2004, they declined back to one in 2005 and 2006. A comparison of total fatalities for the corridor between the ten years prior to 1993, as compared to the years since (13), indicates that fatalities have declined by 70% (36 Fatalities/29 Pedestrians between 1993-2005 vs. 120 fatalities/101 pedestrians between 1983 and 1992).

Some of the initial treatments that were implemented on the Concourse included the installation of nearly 3,800 linear feet of pedestrian fencing at high pedestrian volume locations to discourage midblock crossings, the modification of traffic signal timing (to a 120 from a 90 second cycle length) to provide increased time for pedestrians to cross the Concourse, the installation of pedestrian signals at 25 intersections, the installation of red light cameras and the simplification of advance and exit directional signage for motorists travelling between the service and main roadways.

Over the next decade, the Department continually monitored and implemented improvements to enhance these earlier efforts. These treatments included numerous improvements to signage, markings and signals along the entire Concourse. Initiatives such as oversized street name signs, improved lane assignment treatments for turning movements, and additional signal improvements provided for a safer pedestrian and vehicular environment.

In 1998, the Department focused its efforts on improving pedestrian safety at specific locations along the Grand Concourse. This included a targeted Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project between East 165<sup>th</sup> and 170<sup>th</sup> Streets and at two high accident locations, East 170<sup>th</sup> Street and East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street.

At both East 170<sup>th</sup> and East 183<sup>rd</sup> Streets, the Department implemented treatments to improve pedestrian safety. These treatments included high visibility crosswalks at all legs, larger red signal



Example of innovative treatment used as part of the Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project

lenses and the installation of additional pedestrian signage. At East 170<sup>th</sup> Street, dual left turn signal phases were installed, and at East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street we increased the all red interval to ensure that left turning vehicles cleared the intersection. These improvements dramatically reduced the incidence of pedestrian accidents. At East 170<sup>th</sup> Street, pedestrian accidents have decreased significantly by 87% (to one in 2005 from eight in 1999). At East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, pedestrian accidents also decreased significantly by 70% (to three in 2005 from ten in 1997).

The Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project between East 165<sup>th</sup> and East 170<sup>th</sup> Street was a more ambitious endeavor. This project narrowed the service roads in each direction to one moving lane by widening the medians from 10 to 18 feet through the use of planters and the installation of a bicycle lane. Additional motorist advisory signage and roadway markings were also installed. Along this segment of the Grand Concourse, pedestrian accidents decreased by 69% (to eight in 2005 from 26 in 1998).

### LOCATIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT

At each location selected for study, an extensive historical accident review is conducted to ascertain whether any particular type of accident was being repeated or if any other patterns existed. In addition, an on-site investigation is conducted involving various disciplines within the Department. Based upon the investigation, the Department develops sets of mitigation measures to address the noted issues and conditions at each respective location. These may include immediate measures that can be implemented in the near term such as the replacement of missing, defaced or outdated signage or the installation of new or improved signal, street lighting upgrades that require minimal repair work or bulb replacement, improved signal timing, phasing or displays, and the refurbishment or addition of roadway markings. At certain locations, recommendations may involve longer term efforts that usually involve roadway reconfiguration or capital work. However, at many of these locations, the Department tries to utilize shorter-term, temporary measures until the projects can be completed through capital work.

This report describes, in detail, the work undertaken at specific locations or corridors. In many cases, improvements have been implemented over the course of several years, and the Department continues to monitor and improve these locations accordingly.



# THE BRONX



### Background

The Department has performed considerable work in the last two decades to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety on the Grand Concourse. In 1992, the Department initiated a safety study on a four-mile stretch of the Grand Concourse between East 161<sup>st</sup> Street and the Mosholu Parkway. This location was selected as the site for a Pedestrian Safety Engineering Demonstration Project because, at that time, it was identified as the signalized arterial with the most pedestrian fatalities citywide. This study included comprehensive traffic analyses and the implementation of the following safety improvements throughout the study area.

- Modification of traffic signal timing to increase time for pedestrians to cross the Grand Concourse, installation of pedestrian signals at 25 intersections, installation of dual left turn phasing at the East 167<sup>th</sup> Street and Mt. Eden Avenue intersections, installation of a red light camera at East 167<sup>th</sup> Street, installation of larger red signal displays, and an increase of the cycle lengths from 90 to 120 seconds to further improve pedestrian crossing during the midday period, at night, and on weekends.
- Installation of 3,750 linear feet (nearly <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-mile) of pedestrian barriers in high pedestrian volume locations to prevent midblock crossings.
- Simplification of service road entrance and exit directional signs.
- Installation of thermoplastic pavement markings including the refurbishment of lane lines and all crosswalks, and new directional arrows, stop bars, peg-a-tracs to guide motorists making left turns, and the installation of edge lines adjacent to raised medians.

These improvements (implemented in 1993) resulted in impressive accident reductions. A comparison of statistics for the three years before (1990-1992) and the three years after (1994-1996) the implementation of these measures showed a significant reduction in overall accidents (-27%) and a dramatic decrease in fatalities (-67%).

### **Additional Improvements**

Additional improvements were implemented to enhance these earlier efforts. These are described below:

- Existing regulatory signs (e.g., Yield, One-Way Arrows, Stop, and turn restrictions) were refurbished and upgraded in September 1999 to meet current standards. In addition, 75 school crossing signs were refurbished as part of the citywide contract in March 2000.
- All crosswalks and Stop bar pavement markings were surveyed and refurbished in August 1999.
- All school crosswalk and School Crossing pavement messages were installed in October 2000 as part of the citywide contract.
- 140 feet of damaged pedestrian barriers were repaired in August 1999.
- Dual left turn signal phases were installed at the East 165<sup>th</sup> and East 170<sup>th</sup> Street intersections in September 1999.
- Additional pedestrian signals were installed on the center median at the East 183rd Street intersection in March 2000. These were upgraded to international pedestrian signals in October 2000.
- A study was conducted to determine the need for a left turn phase at the East Tremont Avenue intersection. Left-turn phases for both directions of the Concourse were approved and were installed in April 2001.
- A left turn signal phase for the southbound Grand Concourse at East 188<sup>th</sup> Street was installed

in June 2000.

- Removed "Trucks with Overweight Permit" and "Truck Restriction Ahead" signs at seven locations along the Grand Concourse (southbound at East 196<sup>th</sup> Street, southbound at East 183rd Street, northbound at Mt. Eden Avenue, southbound at Morris Avenue, southbound at East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, southbound at East Kingsbridge Road, and northbound at East 170<sup>th</sup> Street).
- All crosswalks and Stop bar pavement markings were surveyed and refurbished in May 2002.
- All vehicle and pedestrian signals on the Grand Concourse between East 138th Street and East Tremont Avenue were upgraded to LED and international displays in March 2003.
- Left turn signals were installed in both directions of the Grand Concourse at both East Tremont and East Burnside Avenues in September 2003.
- Older "Yield to Pedestrian" signage was upgraded to the newer "Attention, Drivers Yield to Pedestrian" signs in July 2004.
- "Left Turn on Left Green Arrow" or "Left Turn Signal" signage was installed at intersections with left turn signals in July 2004.
- All signage designating individual lanes for various traffic movements were installed at the following intersections in July 2004:
  - East 170<sup>th</sup> Street
  - East Tremont Avenue
  - East 161<sup>st</sup> Street
  - East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - East Kingsbridge Road
  - Bedford Park Boulevard
  - East 196<sup>th</sup> Street
  - East Mt. Eden Avenue

- East Burnside Avenue
- East 165<sup>th</sup> Street
- East 192<sup>nd</sup> Street
- East 181st Street
- East 184<sup>th</sup> Street
- East 198<sup>th</sup> Street
- East 204<sup>th</sup> Street
- Van Cortlandt Avenue East

### **Pedestrian Separator Improvements**

As part of the continuing efforts to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety, the Department repaired and replaced several pedestrian separators along the Grand Concourse in January 2003. In total, 275 linear feet of new fencing was replaced. The locations of these improvements included:

- East median north of East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street
- West median north of East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street
- West median in front of 1675, 2017, 2403, 2295 and 2039 Grand Concourse
- West median south of East 177<sup>th</sup> Street
- East median south of Echo Street
- East median north of Mt. Eden Avenue in front of Bronx Lebanon Hospital

In October 2005, 370 linear feet of pedestrian separators were repaired on the Grand Concourse southbound between Clifford Place and Mount Eden Avenue.

In the summer of 2006, the Department installed approximately 2,750 linear feet of pedestrian separators along the entire stretch of the Grand Concourse in the southbound direction and installed approximately 2,010 feet in the northbound direction. In 2005 and 2006, a grand total of 4,760 linear feet of pedestrian fencing was installed along this corridor.



### Description

A targeted pedestrian safety demonstration project was implemented in November 1999 for the 0.7mile stretch of the Grand Concourse between East 165<sup>th</sup> and East 170<sup>th</sup> Streets. The plan narrowed the service roads in each direction to one moving lane by widening the medians from 10 to 18 feet and adding a bicycle lane. The width of the service roads was reduced from 35-37 feet to a continuous

27 feet. Our intention was to further improve vehicular and pedestrian safety by reducing traffic speeds and pedestrian crossing distances, while increasing pedestrian refuge space. The plan, implemented as a pilot, included the following elements:



Panoramic View of Grand Concourse prior to implementation of Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project

#### Roadway Markings:

Bicycle lane installation, median widening with striping, lane transitions prior to and at the end of the study area. In addition, existing striping on the service roads were scarified. The markings work was completed in mid-November 1999. The markings were refurbished in April 2002.



Grand Concourse/East 169  $^{\rm m}$  Street Service Road after implementation of safety project with planters and bike lane

- <u>Sign Manufacture and Installation</u>: "Left Lane Ends", "Left Lane Ends 200 Feet", "Left Lane Ends 500 Feet", "Lane Transition", "Bicycle Lane", "Bike Lane Ahead" and "Bike Lane Ends" signs were manufactured and installed in November 1999.
- Planters and parking stops delineating the widened median were installed in November 1999 (following completion of sign and marking work). This included the following:
- Placement of 24 concrete planters in six sections with three inches of stone placed in the bottom of each planter



Typical roadway planter and parking stops along the Grand Concourse

- Placement of 42 large plastic planters with three inches of stone placed in the bottom of each planter.
- Placement and bolting down of concrete (495 pieces) and plastic (367 pieces) parking stops.
- Landscaping, including soil was provided by the Parks Department's "GreenStreets" Program. DOT provided gravel/millings for drainage.

A monitoring plan (completed in June 2000) was developed to evaluate the impacts of the demonstration project. This included comparing "before" and "after" implementation levels of service, accident data, vehicle travel time runs and radar speed surveys. Our findings were quite encouraging. Speeds on the service roads are slower and, since significant numbers of vehicles have diverted to the main roadway, speeding on the main roadway has been reduced as well.

### **Key findings:**

### Accidents

Overall, the accident experience along this section of the Grand Concourse has shown a significant improvement in pedestrian and vehicular safety since 1998. In 1998, there were a total of 105 reportable accidents, of which 26 involved pedestrians. In 1999, the year in which the pedestrian safety demonstration project was implemented (November), reportable accidents declined to 101, of which only 17 involved pedestrians. For comparison purposes Accident Experience on Grand Concourse from East 165th St - East 170th St



we are using the full year (1998) for "before" data because the project was not implemented until late 1999. In 2000, although reportable accidents increased to 110, pedestrian accidents decreased by 31% (to 18 from 26 in 1998). In 2001, reportable accidents fell 30% (to 74 from 105 in 1998) and pedestrian accidents fell significantly by 50% (to 13 from 26 in 1998). In both 2003 and 2004, pedestrian accidents declined significantly when compared to the previous year (to 12 in 2003 from 16 in 2002, a 25% decline, and to eight in 2004 from 12 in 2003, a 33% decline). In 2004, reportable accidents decreased by 62% (to 40 from 105 in 1998), while pedestrian accidents decreased by 69% in both 2004 and 2005 (to eight from 26 in 1998). In 1998, there was one fatality and in June 1999 there were two fatalities, both of which were the result of a single accident. Since 1999, there have been no fatalities along this portion of the Grand Concourse.

Overall, the Department believes the impacts of the treatments implemented at this location have been successful, especially in reducing the number of pedestrian accidents along this stretch of the Grand Concourse. The Department continues to support these treatments and is actively engaged in trying to make these safety improvements permanent.

### Midday Speeds (11am-2pm)

- Northbound service road 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed decreased 33% (from 33 to 22 mph); average speed decreased 36% (from 28 to 18 mph).
- Southbound service road 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed decreased 12% (from 33 to 29 mph); average speed decreased 11% (from 28 to 25 mph).
- Northbound main road 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed decreased 10% (from 40 to 36 mph); average speed decreased 9% (from 33 to 30 mph).
- Southbound main road 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed decreased 8% (from 40 mph to 37 mph); average speed was unchanged (33 mph).

### **Evening Speeds (8–10pm)**

• Spot speed surveys conducted on the northbound service road showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed decreased 16% (from 37 to 31 mph).

### **Bus Speeds**

• During the midday and PM peak periods, speeds decreased 9% (to 7.3 mph from 8.0 mph)

### **Traffic Volumes**

- Service road volumes decreased 40% (from 928 to 551 vehicles) in the AM peak hour and 29% (from 856 to 609 vehicles) in the PM peak hour.
- Main road volumes increased 19% (from 1293 to 1544 vehicles) in the AM peak hour and 15% (from 1233 to 1419) in the PM peak hour.
- Total volumes on the Concourse decreased 4% (from 2155 to 2062 vehicles).

### Level of Service (LOS)

 During the peak hour in the peak direction, LOS at East 167<sup>th</sup> Street declined but remained acceptable, especially given the substantial increase in main roadway volume and reduction in capacity on the service roads. The main roadway changed from LOS B in 1995 to LOS C, and the service roadways changed from LOS B to LOS D.

### Observations

• Traffic on the service roads flowed smoothly, but is occasionally stopped when a vehicle is illegally parked at a bus stop, or when a bus is unable to pull sufficiently into a bus stop.

### Recommendations

- The one-lane service road design can be extended throughout the Grand Concourse from East 163<sup>rd</sup> Street to Mosholu Parkway with the exception of the East Fordham Road area which warrants further study. The width of the service road should be 28 feet (12 feet wide moving lane, five feet wide bicycle lane with a three feet wide channelized buffer separating the bike lane from motor vehicle traffic, and an eight feet wide parking lane). This is one foot wider than the test configuration to enable traffic to pass buses and other vehicles temporarily double parked.
- The section of the Concourse between East 161<sup>st</sup> Street and the Bronx Museum of the Arts (north of East 165<sup>th</sup> Street) will be reconstructed as part of the East 161<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge reconstruction project, which began in late March 2006. During these reconstruction projects, NYCDOT will replace the East 161<sup>st</sup> Street Underpass Arch Structure, incorporate landscaped urban design features for Lou Gehrig Plaza and add more open space to the neighborhood. Additionally as part of the bridge reconstruction project, the Grand Concourse/East 161<sup>st</sup> Street intersection, where the service and main roads merge in the center of the intersection resulting in multiple conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians and between vehicles with other vehicles, will be reconfigured. The plan shifts the northbound merge between the service and main roads to a midblock non-pedestrian location, and lengthens the merge for a smoother transition. The southbound merge between the service and main roads will be removed by forcing traffic on the service road to turn right onto westbound East 161<sup>st</sup> Street.

The roadway realignment is shown on the following page.





# GRAND CONCOURSE / EAST 170<sup>th</sup> Street

HIGH PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT LOCATION IMPROVEMENTS

### **Description**

The intersection of East 170<sup>th</sup> Street and the Grand Concourse is signalized and very wide (142 feet). On the Grand Concourse main roadway approach, there are two moving lanes and a left-turn lane in each direction and two moving lanes and one parking lane in each direction on the northbound and southbound service roads. There are raised medians between the main and service roads that provide refuge for pedestrians. The east side of East 170<sup>th</sup> Street has one moving lane in each direction separated by angle parking in the center. The west side of East 170<sup>th</sup> Street has one lane in each direction separated by a tunnel. The BX1 and BX2 buses run along the Grand Concourse and the BX11 and BX18 run along East 170<sup>th</sup> Street. The C and D subway entrances are on the southwest and southeast corners of the intersection.





In terms of the accident experience, in 1997 this location ranked second amongst the top 20 pedestrian accident locations with a total of 14 accidents involving pedestrians. Most of these accidents were the result of pedestrians crossing against the signal or negligent driving on the part of the vehicle operator. In 1998, pedestrian accidents decreased 50% (to seven from 14). In 1999 and 2000 there were eight pedestrian accidents. In 2001, 2003 and 2004, pedestrian accidents decreased significantly to three which is 79% less than 1997. Pedestrian accidents declined to two in 2002 and in 2005, pedestrian accidents had declined to just one.

### Concerns

- Northbound articulated buses destined to far side bus stop spill back across intersection
- Pedestrians cross against signals
- Vehicle operators make U-turns on the main roadway
- Pedestrians cross mid-block on the Grand Concourse
- Steep upgrade causes visibility problems on eastbound East 170<sup>th</sup> Street approaching the Grand Concourse

### **Implemented Improvements**

- Installed 12" Red Lenses on all signals
- Installed Peg-a-Tracs to guide traffic across wide intersection
- Replaced all missing signs (September 1999)
- Upgraded Yield to Pedestrian signs
- Installed additional No U-turn signs
- · Upgraded all crosswalks to high visibility
- Installed pedestrian crossing signals on all medians and upgraded them to international pedestrian signals in October 2000
- Installed dual left turn signal phases (October 1999)
- Installed signs stating "Left Turn on Green Arrow Only" in coordination with the installation of the left-turn signal
- Installed "Wait For Walk Signal" signs on all signal posts



### **Description**

The intersection of East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and Grand Concourse is signalized. There are two moving lanes and a left-turn lane in each direction on the Grand Concourse main roadway approach and two moving lanes and one parking lane in each direction on the northbound and southbound service roads. There are two raised medians between the main and service roads that provide refuge for pedestrians. The east side of East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street has one moving lane in each direction and two parking lanes. The west side of East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street has one moving lane in each direction and two parking lanes. The BX1 and BX2 buses run along the Grand Concourse. In the northbound direction (just south of the intersection) on the Grand Concourse approaching East 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, there is a slip ramp from the service road to the main road. PS 115 is located one block east of the Grand Concourse. School 'ladder' crosswalks and school crossing signs are specified on the south and west legs and high visibility crosswalks are on the north and east legs.

Accident Experience at Grand Concourse and East 183rd St



One of the primary safety concerns at this location is pedestrians crossing against the signal, as well as the distance involved for pedestrians to cross the Grand Concourse. As such, the improvements implemented in 1999 were aimed at improving pedestrian safety at this location.

In terms of the accident experience at this location, in 1997 this intersection ranked eight amongst the top 20 pedestrian accident locations for that year with a total of ten accidents involving pedestrians. In 1998, pedestrian
accidents decreased 20% (to eight from 10 accidents). In 1999, pedestrian accidents decreased to six from eight accidents, which is 40% less than 1997. In 2000, the first full year after the treatments were installed, pedestrian accidents decreased to four, which is 60% less than 1997. In 2001, pedestrian accidents declined to three, which is 70% less than 1997. In 2002, pedestrian accidents declined even further to one. Before improvements were implemented, accidents averaged nine per year. From 2000 to 2005, after implementation, the average decreased to 3.3 accidents per year. There was one pedestrian fatality in both 2001 and 2005.

The overall decline in accidents since 1997 represents a major accomplishment for the Department at this location. The decline can be attributed to the Department's ongoing efforts along the Grand Concourse corridor and the targeted pedestrian improvements made at locations along the corridor.

### **Improvements Implemented in 1999**

- 12" red lenses on signal faces
- High visibility crosswalks installed at all four legs of the intersection
- · Pedestrian barriers installed at medians to prevent mid-block crossings
- · Modified the signal timing to allow for increased time for pedestrian crossing
- Replaced all missing signs
- Installed "Wait for Walk Signal" signs
- Installed pedestrian crossing signals on all medians and upgraded them to international pedestrian signals in October 2000
- Repaired three streetlights
- Increased the all-red interval to ensure that left-turning vehicles clear the intersection



## **Description**

South Bronx Churches (SBC) is a 15-year old organization whose membership includes area congregations and resident/tenant organizations. In the past few years, the housing stock, population and environment of the South Bronx has changed dramatically. SBC has constructed 146 new Nehemiah homes just south of St. Mary's Park in the past three years and traffic congestion has increased in the area.

# **Implemented Improvements**

In October 2001, SBC submitted their recommendations to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety in the area bounded by East 138<sup>th</sup> and East 163<sup>rd</sup> Streets between Bruckner Boulevard and Willis Avenue. All recommendations were reviewed and the following improvements were implemented:

- Installed truck loading zones on St. Ann's Avenue between East 138<sup>th</sup> and East 139<sup>th</sup> Streets in January 2002.
- Installed an All-Way Stop control at the East 139<sup>th</sup> Street/Cypress Avenue intersection in February 2002.
- Installed "No Parking Anytime" signs on the east curb of Cypress Avenue between East 138<sup>th</sup> and East 139<sup>th</sup> Streets in January 2002.
- Installed "Do Not Enter" signs at Brook Avenue near the Major Deegan Expressway

southbound exit ramp in January 2002.

- Installed a bus stop on the west curb of Bruckner Boulevard near the East 138<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in December 2001.
- Added five seconds (from 35 to 40 seconds) to cross Bruckner Boulevard at East 138<sup>th</sup> Street in February 2002.
- Installed "Keep Intersection Clear" signs at the Jackson Avenue/East 138<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in February 2002.
- Installed "Dead End" signs on Beech Terrace at St. Mary's Park South in December 2001.
- Removed one parking space on the northwest corner of Westchester Avenue in January 2002.
- Installed additional "Yield to Pedestrian", curve warning and reduced speed signs on St. Mary's Park South in February 2002.
- Installed two speed reducers on Tinton Avenue between East 150<sup>th</sup> and East 152<sup>nd</sup> Streets and one on Union Avenue between East 150<sup>th</sup> and East 151<sup>st</sup> Streets in February 2002.
- Daylighting was installed at the intersection of East 137<sup>th</sup> Street and Cypress Avenue in April 2002.
- A painted median was installed on Tinton Avenue between East 156<sup>th</sup> and East 152<sup>nd</sup> Streets to narrow the roadway width in September 2002.
- Two speed reducers were installed on Jackson Avenue between East 147<sup>th</sup> and East 149<sup>th</sup> Streets in June 2002, and one reducer was installed on East 140<sup>th</sup> Street between Cypress and St. Ann's Avenues in January 2003.
- Additional markings were installed or refurbished at the following locations:
  - Bruckner Boulevard/ East 138<sup>th</sup> Street peg-a-tracs were installed in July 2002 to guide motorists across Bruckner Boulevard.
  - Tinton Avenue between East 152<sup>nd</sup> and East 156<sup>th</sup> Streets a center median and a midblock school crosswalk (along with necessary school crossing signs and word messages)

were installed in October 2002.

- East 152<sup>nd</sup> Street between Jackson and Union Avenues a lane line was installed in August 2002 to better define the moving lanes.
- Jackson Avenue/Westchester Avenue/East 152<sup>nd</sup> Street high visibility crosswalks, school crosswalk, and school crossing messages refurbished in October 2002.
- Westchester Avenue/Tinton Avenue/East 156<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian and school crosswalks refurbished and Stop lines installed in October 2002.
- Tinton Avenue/East 152<sup>nd</sup> Street school crosswalks, school crossing messages, Stop lines refurbished in October 2002.
- Cypress Avenue/East 138<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian and school crosswalks, school crossing messages refurbished in August 2002.
- Cypress Avenue/East 139<sup>th</sup> Street school crosswalks, school crosswalk messages, Stop line, Stop messages refurbished in August 2002.
- Cypress Avenue/East 139<sup>th</sup> Street Installed All-way stop with 'Stop Ahead' and 'Stop' message in Winter 2003.
- Cypress Avenue/East 137<sup>th</sup> Street Completed daylighting of intersection in Winter 2003.
- Jackson Avenue/East 138<sup>th</sup> Street Repositioned two 'Keep Intersection Clear' signs in January 2003.
- A two-way modified Class 3 bicycle route (signs and bike symbol pavement markings) was installed on St. Ann's Avenue between East 135<sup>th</sup> and East 149<sup>th</sup> Streets (.8 miles in each direction) in April 2003. A Class 2 bicycle lane (signs and bike symbol and long line pavement markings) was installed on St. Ann's Avenue between East 149<sup>th</sup> and East 161<sup>st</sup> Streets (.8 miles in each direction) in April 2003.

Street lighting improvements were completed in May 2003 at:

- Franklin Avenue between East 167<sup>th</sup> and East 168<sup>th</sup> Streets
  - Upgraded four existing luminaries in this area to the newer, more efficient 250 watt High Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures. Added light pole with new 250 watt HPS directly in front of St. Augustine Church.
- Morris Avenue between 163<sup>rd</sup> and 164<sup>th</sup> Streets
  - Installed two new 250 HPS lighting fixtures to improve visibility.

Additional markings and signs were installed in the vicinity of Our Lady of Victory Church (the intersection of Claremont Parkway @ Webster Avenue) in May 2003. Implemented improvements include:

- Installed school crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection
- Installed stop word messages on the north service road
- Installed three school crossing messages on the north leg, two on the south leg, two on the main road, and one on the service road
- Added stop lines at all approaches
- Installed peg-a-tracs to guide turning vehicles through the intersection
- · Added new yield markings
- At the intersection of Webster and Clay Avenues, installed stop lines on the north, south and west legs
- Installed new advance school crossing signs on the north and south legs

The improvements are shown on the following page.



# EAST FORDHAM ROAD/ EAST KINGSBRIDGE ROAD/ BAINBRIDGE AVENUE

# Description

East Fordham Road/East Kingsbridge Road/Bainbridge Avenue is a graded irregularly aligned intersection located in the heart of the Fordham Road retail center and is surrounded by dense residential land use. There is a triangularly-shaped Parks Department GreenStreet located between Bainbridge Avenue and East Kingsbridge Road with several benches that are utilized by people waiting for the bus, as well as shoppers and area residents. There is a two-way (eastbound and westbound) slip off the mainline of East Kingsbridge Road that connects to East Fordham Road. East Fordham Road is a major bus route for both MTA and Liberty Line Westchester County buses. Many of the shoppers in the area use mass transit and pedestrian activity and volume is very high.

One of the primary concerns at this intersection is that even though the intersection is signalized, the geometry of the roadway guides pedestrians to cross diagonally creating unnecessarily risky vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.

In terms of the accident history for this location, there were a total of seven reportable accidents in 1998, of which one involved a pedestrian and one involved a bicycle. Reportable accidents more than doubled in 1999 to 15. In 2000, vehicular accidents decreased by 36% (to nine from 14) while pedestrian accidents increased significantly to six. From 2001 to 2004, reportable accidents decreased approximately 50% from the previous years, remaining between six and eight, but increased to 11 in 2005.



Original Configuration of Intersection



Accident Experience at E Fordham Rd - E Kingsbridge Rd - Bainbridge Av



Detailed view of several of the improvements including one-way conversion of slip ramp, modified neckdown and flexible delineators surrounding the park



Flexible delineators and markings for increased pedestrian and vehicular safety

# Improvements Implemented in September 2002

- Converted the East Kingsbridge Road slip roadway to one-way westbound from East Kingsbridge Road to East Fordham Road mainline to reduce conflicts and improve safety.
- Widened the triangular park to the west and north with pavement markings and flexible delineators to narrow the street, discourage double parking, increase pedestrian sidewalk space, and decrease crossing distance.
- Installed a modified neckdown on the northwest corner of the East Kingsbridge Road slip/East Fordham Road intersection to increase pedestrian

sidewalk space and decrease crossing distance.

- Widened the East Fordham Road north sidewalk (and installed delineators) approaching Bainbridge Avenue/East Kingsbridge Road and widened the east sidewalk of East Kingsbridge Road west of Bainbridge Avenue to reduce pedestrian crossing distance and provide more sidewalk space.
- Installed Stop bars, lane assignment arrows, and double yellow and lane lines as appropriate.
- Modified signal faces as appropriate.

The improvements are shown on the following page and were done in coordination with the installation of priority rush hour bus lanes (in both directions) on Fordham Road between University Avenue and Southern Boulevard.





#### GENERAL NOTES:

\* INSTALL REFLECTIVE EDGE MARKINGS ON SIDESOF ZEBRA PAVERS TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY OF CROSSWALKS AT NIGHT TO APPROACHING MOTORISTS. \* INSTALL STOP BARS ON ALL APPROACHES. \* EXISTING ZEBRA PAVERS SHOWN TO REMAIN.

Reconfigured Intersection

East Fordham Road @ East Kingsbridge Road Safety Improvements

Original Configuration

# UNIVERSITY AVENUE/ WEST 181<sup>st</sup> Street/ HALL OF FAME TERRACE

# **Description**

In its original configuration, the intersection of University Avenue, West 181<sup>st</sup> Street and Hall of Fame Terrace was unusually wide. Due to this configuration, the roadway was configured with large painted islands that channelized traffic resulting in Stop controlled roadways and unusual approaches and turning movements. Hall of Fame Terrace is offset from West 181<sup>st</sup> Street across University Avenue and there is a steep grade on Hall of Fame Terrace approaching the intersection. Surrounding land uses include Bronx Community College, a park, a library and a church all generating high pedestrian activity.

One of the primary concerns at this location was frequent jaywalking across University Avenue, (approximately 230 feet south of the signal) which was the result of a natural pedestrian path from a park on the east side of University Avenue to the entrance of Bronx Community College on the west. While not a high accident location, this intersection was of concern to the Department due to the surrounding land uses and increase in accidents in 2000, leading the Department to take a proactive approach at this location to address the safety concerns. In terms of the accident experience at this intersection, there was a 36% increase to 11 in 2000 from 7 in 1999, but in 2001 and 2002 they declined by 45% and 73% to six and three, respectively. After improvements were made in 2002, the average number of accidents per year decreased by 46% to 4.3 from an average of 8.0 from 1999 to 2001. Overall, the Department believes the improvements made at this intersection will continue to improve both pedestrian and vehicular safety.



Original Configuration of Intersection



Accident Experience at University Av - West 181st St - Hall of Fame Terrace



Detailed views of additional pedestrian space created by the use of curb mounted delineators and markings



# **Improvements Implemented in October 2002**

- Reconfigured the intersection with new channelization markings in combination with curb mounted delineators to create additional pedestrian space.
- Reconstructed the existing signal to conform to the new geometry. The signal provides separate phases for Hall of Fame Terrace and West 181<sup>st</sup> Street which now operate concurrently.
- Removed "Stop" controlled slip roadways to improve pedestrian safety.
- Installed a left turn lane for northbound University Avenue.
- Upgraded crosswalk markings to high visibility on the south leg of University Avenue and West 181<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Installed a new pedestrian crossing signal with a high visibility crosswalk (approximately 230 feet south of West 181<sup>st</sup> Street) at the park walkway.
- Installed a pedestrian separator on the west side of University Avenue (in front of the entrance/exit of Bronx Community College) to direct pedestrians to the signalized crossings.

The improvements are shown on the following page.

