



Smart Curbs Upper West Side

Community Board 7

June 11, 2024



Agenda

1. Overview
2. Process
3. Recommendations

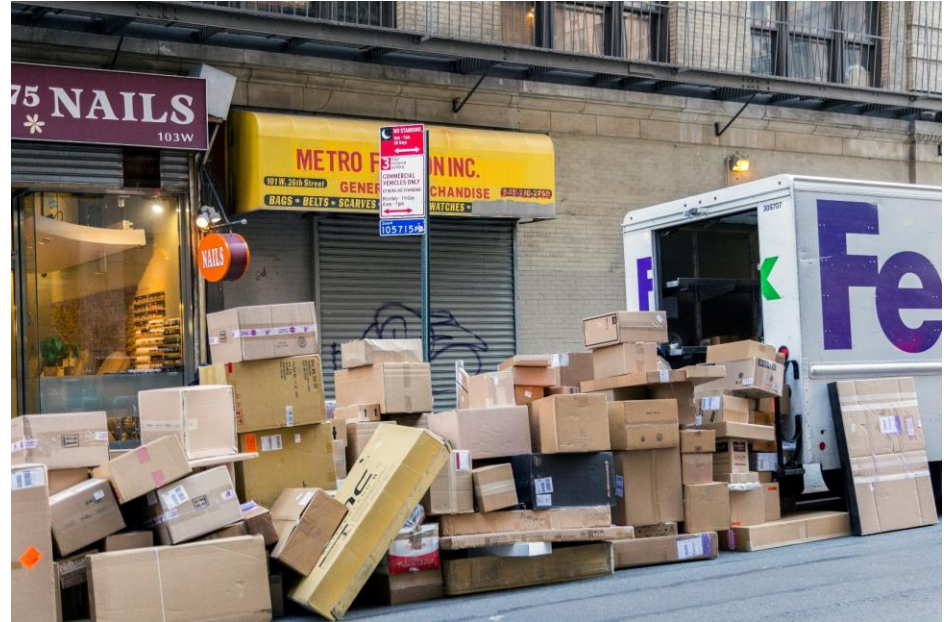


Overview

1

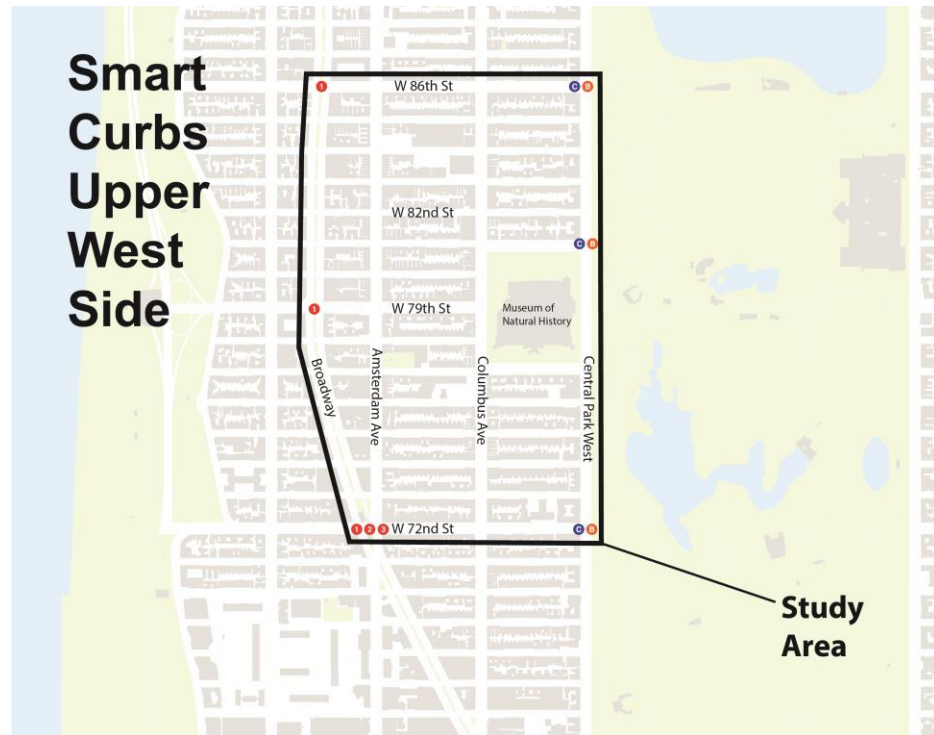
Growing demands on valuable public space

- Online shopping
- Food delivery
- Ride-hailing
- Evolving modes of transportation (increasing use of bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, etc.)
- Outdoor dining
- Public space
- Waste containerization
- Ever increasing average vehicle sizes and shift to SUVs



What is Smart Curbs?

- Comprehensive approach to neighborhood curb management.
- Community-driven process to re-evaluate current uses.
- New treatments and regulations to:
 - Improve safety
 - Reduce congestion
 - Create a vibrant and clean public realm
 - Support orderly local deliveries
 - Test new technologies



Proposals by the numbers

- 23 new loading zones
- 3 new freight microhubs
- ~120 new commercial metered parking spaces
- ~80 net new passenger metered parking spaces
- 5 new bike parking corrals
- 1 new Street Seat public space
- 2 new carshare provider agreements
- 5 new EV charging sites

Curb uses to be maintained

- Electric vehicle chargers
- MTA bus stops
- No Parking regulations for religious institutions
- School regulations
- Authorized Vehicle Only parking



Process

2

Engaged hundreds of community members

- Online feedback map
- In-person public workshop
- Virtual public workshop
- On-street survey
- Business surveys
- Meetings with Columbus Ave BID



What we saw and heard

Examples of issues identified through data collection and public outreach

- Double and illegal parking
- Delivery activity
- Package transloading
- Crash locations and intersections issues
- Taxi/FHV pickup/drop offs
- Short-term parking demand
- Bike parking needs
- Outdoor dining on avenues



Example: Field observations and public comments on double and illegal parked vehicles.

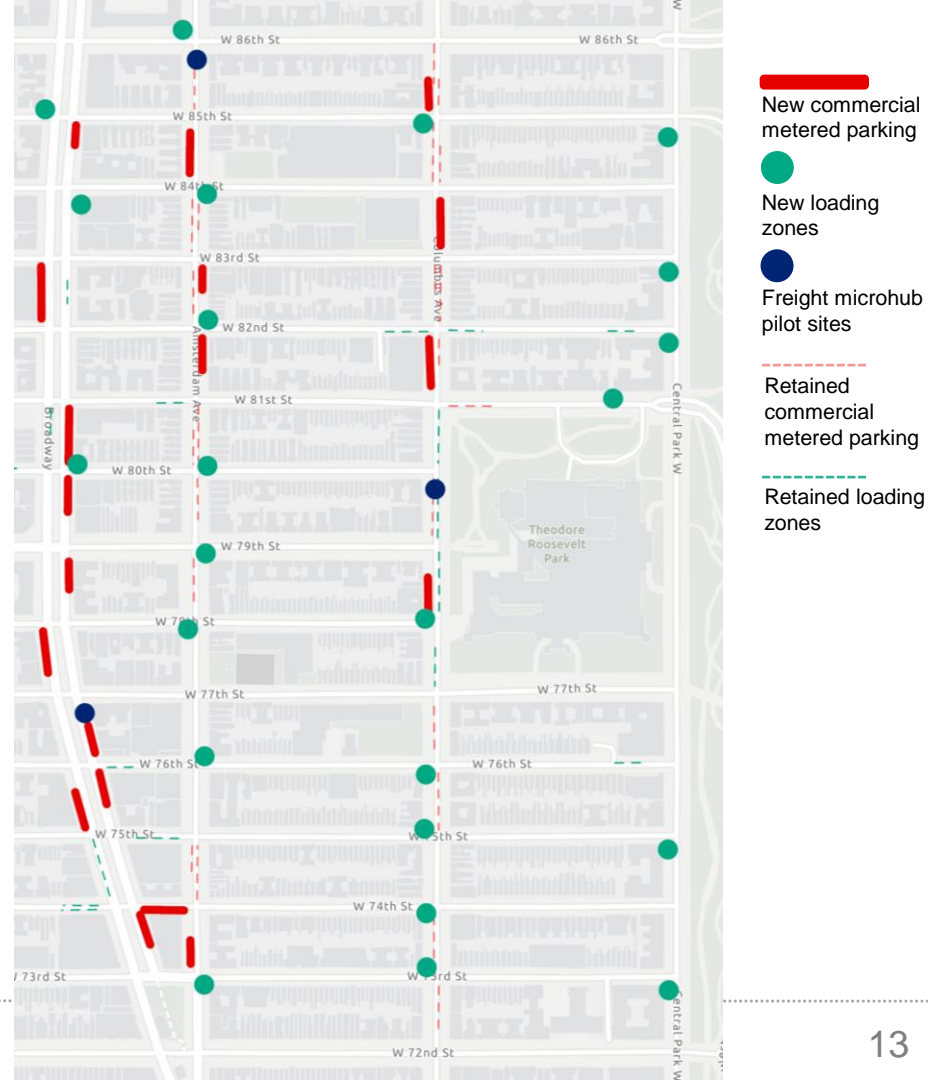
Recommendations

3

Short-term
Anticipated to begin in 2024

Increase turnover and business activity

- **23 new daytime loading zone locations**, which have been found to reduce double parking up to 73%.
- **3 freight microhubs** for package transloading in a safe, organized location, with at least 1 to be installed this fall.
- Approximately **120 new commercial metered parking spaces** to accommodate business activity and service vehicles.
 - Commercial metered hours proposed during the peak daytime periods, changing to regular parking regulations during the evenings and weekends.
 - Some meters in 2024, full expansion in future years.



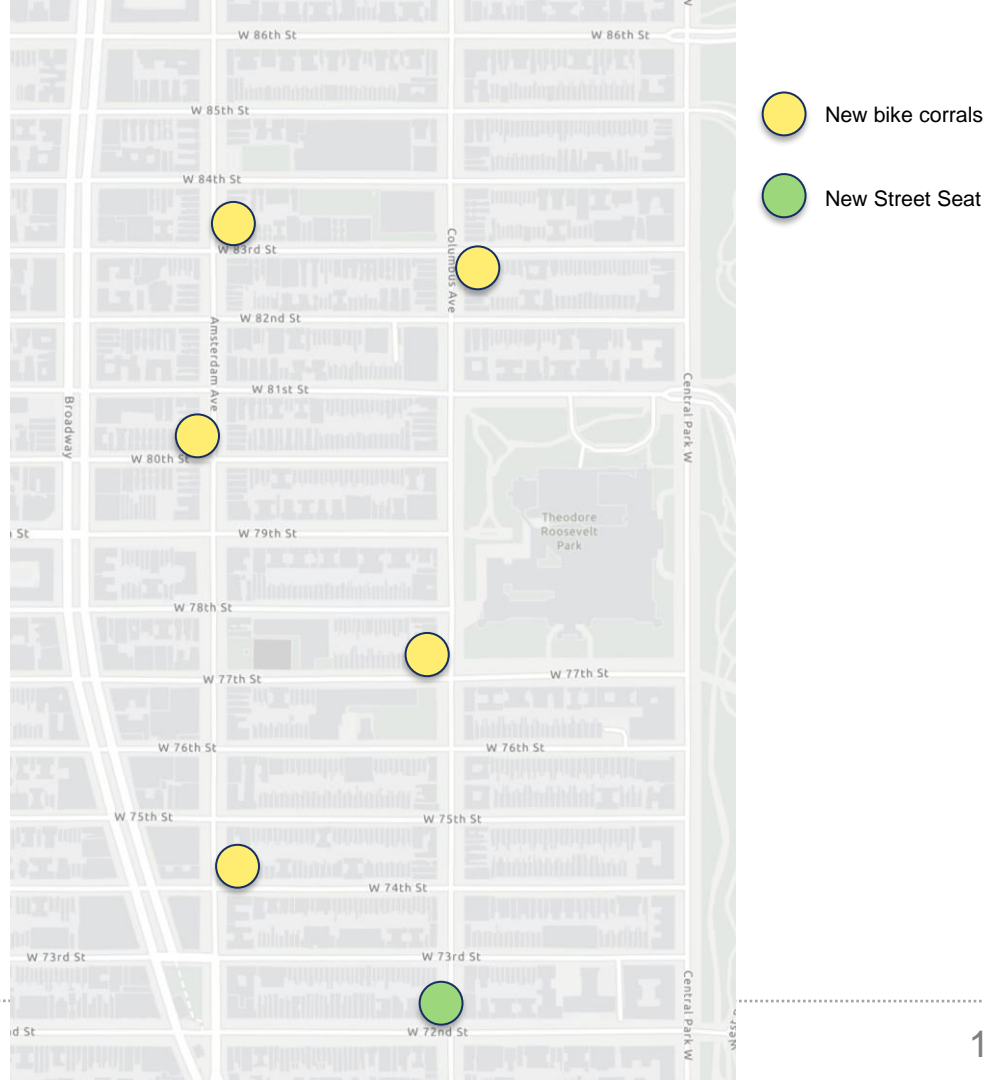
Expand parking meters

- **Approximately 80 net new passenger metered parking spaces.**
- Most new metered spaces will be short segments on side streets directly adjacent to the avenues.
- Phased implementation; some initial meters in 2024.



New public space treatments

- **5 new bike parking corrals** to move bike parking to the curb lane and daylight intersections.
- **A new Street Seat parklet** in collaboration with the Columbus Ave BID.
- Future secure bike parking program.
- Additional hardened intersection daylighting to be identified.



Additional short-term curb initiatives

- **Remove Columbus Ave curbside no standing restriction** on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. to allow more uses.
- **Identify new Carshare provider** for 2 dedicated Carshare spaces.
- **Operate the new Dining Out NYC** program which will be seasonal (April-November).
- **Add new parking regulations on 83rd St**; coordination with FDNY ongoing.



Transit Tech Lab

- “How can we maximize the city’s curb space to serve the multiple and varied needs of New Yorkers?”
- 4 companies to test:
 - “Digitizing the curb:” Provide real-time information to planners and the public.
 - Curb activity: Better data collection about who is using the curb in what way to support smarter planning.

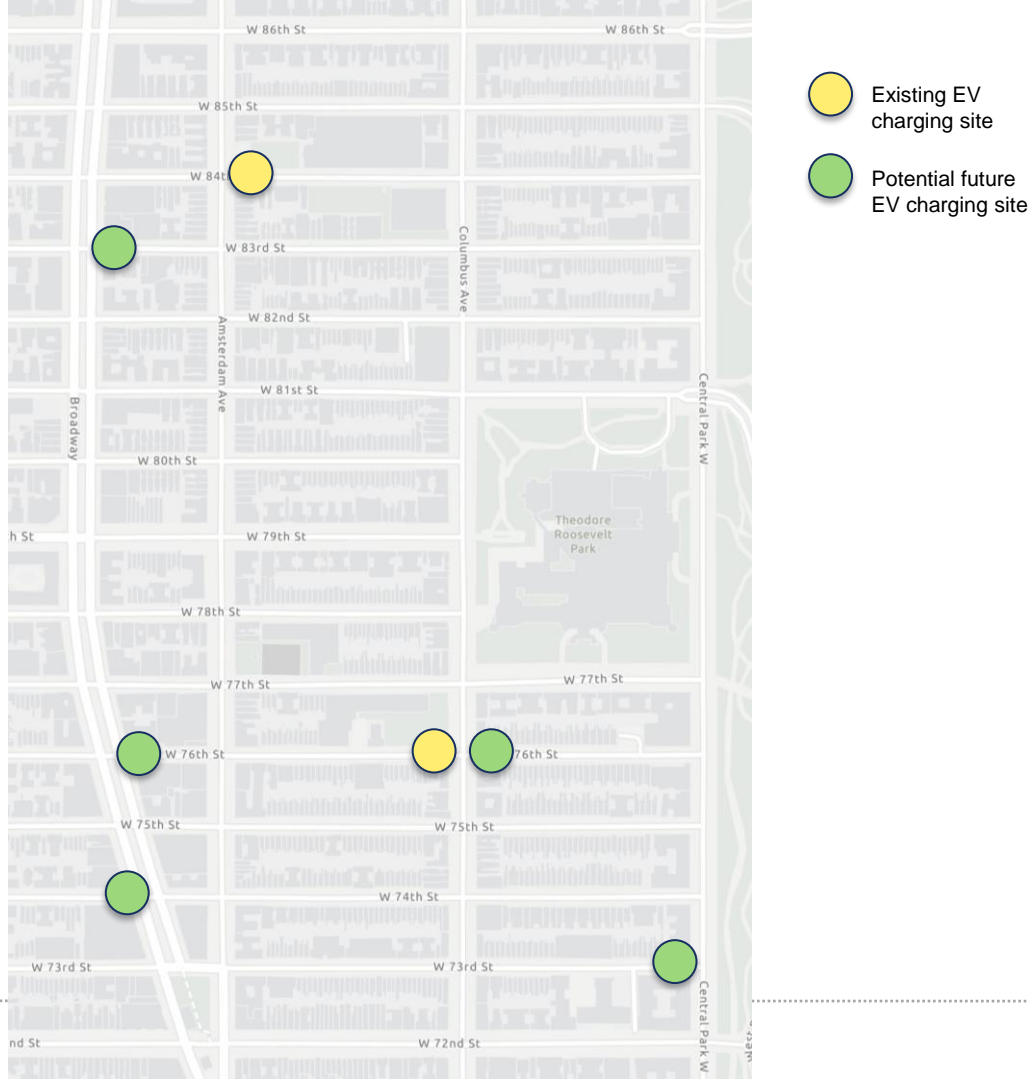


Medium-term

Anticipated to begin winter 2025

Install new EV charging sites

- 1-2 initial new sites
- Existing sites will continue to operate
- Installation in 2025-2026 pending procurement
- Part of citywide plans for expanded curbside charging in all five boroughs



Redesign Columbus and Amsterdam Aves intersections

- Columbus and Amsterdam Aves have “mixing zones” at intersections where vehicle left turn lanes merge with the protected bike lane.
- Where feasible, mixing zones will be replaced with offset crossings, which improve bicycle visibility, or dedicated “split phase” signals which separate the through movement of bicycles from turning vehicles.
- Redesigning intersections adds curb lane space which could be used for loading, parking, etc.



Long-term/policy development

Dynamic parking pricing pilot

- Pricing is one of the most powerful tools to influence parking behavior and improve curb operations.
 - Other cities have found demand-responsive pricing resulted in decreases in parking search time and congestion from circling for parking.
- Potential pilot:
 - Charge different rates by time of day based on demand
 - Adjust rates 2 to 4 times a year based on observed activity

Study upgrades to Central Park West

- Explore upgrades to the bicycle lane and restored east curb access to accommodate loading zones, microhubs, and parking regulations.
- Future community discussion.



Sunday parking meters

- Policy considerations:
 - In accordance with City Council legislation passed in 2005, metered parking and enforcement of such regulations is prohibited on Sundays.
 - For many retail and commercial districts citywide, weekends represent the times of highest passenger parking demand and lowest curb availability and turnover.
- Recommendation:
 - Explore changes to Local Law to allow Sunday meters in high demand locations.

Residential parking concerns

- UWS has a low household vehicle ownership rate (27%), however demand is still far greater than available space.
- Other users: Contractors, home workers, visitors, etc.
- Residential permit parking would require state legislative authorization.
- Other strategies (such as charging for parking) for a successful program could:
 - Reduce overall parking demand.
 - Provide priority for local residents.
 - Allow opportunities for workers and visitors.

Thank You!

Questions?



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