Open Streets in Prospect Heights

Emergency response program – May ‘20 to May ‘21
- Open Streets in Prospect Heights developed first as an emergency response program during COVID-19 pandemic
- Launched with NYPD management, then shifted to community partner managed model by The Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council

Permanent Open Streets – May ‘21 to present
- 2021 Local Law 55 made Open Streets permanent program in NYC
- As part of the legislation, DOT is required to evaluate existing Open Streets to determine whether any such Open Streets could benefit from additional traffic calming measures and streetscape elements.
- New partnership with the Horticultural Society of NY, who now provides day to day operations support, maintenance, and horticulture care

Outreach and Programming – ongoing
- Activating Open Streets through events and programming
- Robust community outreach since program’s inception
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Consists of neighbors, businesses, and other members of the Prospect Heights community working together collaboratively to create public space for all to enjoy and use
- Stepped in to manage Open Streets when City resources were limited at the height of the pandemic
More space for pedestrians and cyclists
Public Space Programming
Supporting Schools
PS 9 – Sarah Smith Garnet School
Community Outreach Overview
EFFORTS TO DATE

Open Streets program – May 2020 to present
• Open Streets on Underhill and Vanderbilt Avenues as an emergency response program during COVID-19 pandemic
• Made permanent through City Council legislation in May 2021
• Recently released program rules allowed for public comments

Community feedback survey – Feb. to May 2021
• 1,468 responses with feedback on how the existing Open Streets on Underhill + Vanderbilt Aves are operating and can be used in the future

3 Community Workshops – September 2021
• 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.

Virtual Visioning Workshop – November 2021
• Identifying ideas and opportunities in the long term for Underhill Ave

2 Community Workshops – May 2022
• 2 pop up workshops on Vanderbilt and Underhill Aves (5/19, 5/21) for the community to offer feedback on the design proposals

Community Workshop #3 – May 2023
• 1 pop up workshop on Underhill Aves (5/10) for the community to offer feedback on the design proposals ahead of project implementation

Community Board Presentations – 2021 to present
• Updates to CB 8 in Sept ‘21, June ‘22, Sept ‘22, and May ‘23

Other Targeted Engagement – 2020 to present
• Various other townhalls, stakeholder meetings, outreach events, etc.
2021 Community Survey Results

1,468 Community Survey Responses

80% of respondents lived within Community Board 8

Relationship to Prospect Heights Open Streets

- I live nearby: 95%
- I visit restaurants or bars nearby: 66%
- I shop/run errands nearby: 63%
- I visit friends and/or family here: 30%
- I work nearby: 17%
- I visit nearby medical facilities: 7%
- I’m just passing through: 5%
- I go to school here: 2%
- I have only visited once: <1%
- I attend nearby religious services: <1%

Survey taken Feb to May’21
2021 Community Survey Results

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

- Yes: 86%
- No: 7%
- Unsure: 6%

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

- Strolling: 94%
- Outdoor dining: 84%
- Socially distanced gatherings: 77%
- Socially distanced outdoor group activities: 62%
- As part of my daily commute: 56%
- Biking: 48%
- Exercise: 43%
- Driving: 10%

Survey taken Feb to May’21
### Sept. 2021 On-Street Workshop Feedback

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool Kit Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Diverters</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of day management</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared streets</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public art</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming and activations</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian plaza</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data collected at 3 in person workshops on Vanderbilt and Underhill Avenues – 9/11, 9/17, and 9/22
May 2022 Workshops: 5/19, 5/21

Based on the previous workshop feedback, DOT hosted another series of workshops for the community to have 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
May 2023 Workshop: 5/10

Ahead of project implementation, DOT hosted an in person workshop on the Underhill Avenue Open Street for members of the public to ask questions and offer final feedback about the Underhill Avenue Bike Boulevard project.
Project Data + Design Proposal
Vision Zero & Crash Data

- Vision Zero is a citywide initiative to eliminate death and serious injuries from traffic incidents.
- Berry Street falls within a Safe Streets for Seniors priority area

Underhill Ave Crash Data 2016 to 2020
(Eastern Parkway to Pacific Street)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury Summary, 2016-2020 (5 Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicyclist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Occupant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Motorized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- KSI – 9.9 per mile
- Crashes have increased every year since 2016

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

Project Goals

• Prioritize pedestrians and cyclists by improving visibility and shortening crossings at intersections

• Establish the corridor as a Bike Boulevard and add new two-way bike network connection

• Codify traffic calming and safety benefits of the Open Street through new traffic medians

• Reduce thru traffic by converting some blocks to one-way southbound only for vehicles
Design Proposal

Curb Extension at Gateway to BK Museum and Prospect Park

Shortened Crossings and intersection alignment

Bike Boulevard Treatments and Signage Throughout

Bike parking and planters throughout
Design Proposal

Sterling Pl to Prospect Pl

- Treatments
- Pedestrian refuge island
- Mid-block traffic calming
- One way conversion
- New two way bike connection
Design Proposal

Prospect PI to Bergen St

- Traffic calming on PS 9 block
- Bike Boulevard Treatments and Signage Throughout
- New two way bike connection
Design Proposal

Bergen St to Atlantic Ave

- Mid-block traffic calming
- Bike parking and planters throughout
- Pedestrian plaza (completed in Nov 22)
39th Ave Bike Blvd, Queens
Street Furniture - Lower East Side
NEXT STEPS

• Implementation Starting in July
• Post Implementation Evaluation when project complete
• Collect additional traffic volumes on Vanderbilt Ave and consider mitigations as needed
THANK YOU!
Email openstreets@dot.nyc.gov with any questions or concerns