Union Street
One-Way Conversion & Safety Improvements

Presented to: Community Board 6
October 26, 2023
Background
Background

Why Are We Here?

• Union St, between 8th Ave and Grand Army Plaza (GAP) is currently a two-way street with:
  o On-street parking on the north side;
  o One westbound travel lane; and
  o Two eastbound travel lanes (majority of south curb lane posted as “No Standing, 7am-10pm, All Days”)

• During peak times, the south curb lane is frequently obstructed by illegally-parked delivery trucks and passenger vehicles.

• These conditions cause the south curb lane to be under-utilized for moving vehicles, effectively reducing the number of eastbound moving lanes from two to one.

• This results in severe congestion that spills back from GAP and gridlocks the 8th Ave/Union St intersection, degrading operations and compromising safety for all roadway users.
Existing Conditions
Existing Conditions

Study Area

• Project limits:
  o Union St and President St from 7th Ave to Prospect Park West

• Scope of study:
  o Conducted multiple site visits to observe field conditions and traveler behaviors.
  o Performed analysis using StreetLight to verify origins-destinations for rerouted westbound traffic on Union St.
  o Collected and analyzed turning movement counts and pedestrian crossing data.
  o Conducted intersection capacity analysis to evaluate traffic impacts of conversion on surrounding roadway network.
Existing Conditions

Union St dimensions

36-foot wide, two-way street

Most of south curb has: “No Standing, 7am-10pm, all days” restriction to provide for two eastbound travel lanes.
Existing Conditions

Moving-lane blockages along south curb

South curb lane is often obstructed by illegally-parking/standing vehicles performing deliveries or other curbside activity, effectively creating only one eastbound through lane.
Existing Conditions

Congestion spillback to 8th Ave/Union St

Congestion on eastbound Union St spills back from Grand Army Plaza onto 8th Ave, obstructing both the east crosswalk and northbound through vehicles on 8th Ave.
Proposed Improvements
Proposed Improvements:

Street Direction Conversion and New Lane Markings

- Convert Union St to one-way eastbound from 8th Ave to Plaza St West (1 block).
- Create two continuous lanes for eastbound traffic flow.
- Flares to three lanes approaching GAP to match existing three lanes at Plaza St West.
Proposed Improvements:

Parking Regulation Refinements

- Parking regulation modification on the south curb enhances intersection capacity approaching GAP and increases queue storage.
- Curb usage will be monitored and parking regulations refined as-needed.

**Existing**

**Proposed**

No Standing Anytime =

No Standing 7 AM – 10 PM All Days
Proposed Improvements:

Pedestrian Safety Improvement

Benefits:

- Reduces pedestrian crossing distance across east and south crosswalks.
- Increases space for pedestrian circulation on the SE corner.
- Improves visibility between pedestrians on corner and approaching drivers.
- Helps establish more orderly traffic movement from 8th Ave onto Union St by physically discouraging illegal double-right turns.

Install painted curb extension on SE corner of 8th Ave / Union St intersection.
Next Steps
Next Steps:
Future Implementation

• Implementation schedule will be dependent on feedback DOT receives from CB 6.

• DOT to implement split phase signal at the intersection of Union St and 8th Ave in 2024.

• DOT will coordinate internally on the Grand Army Plaza capital study as proposals for both projects progress.
Thank You!

Questions?