

The background image shows a street scene with several cyclists riding away from the camera. On the left, a person in a dark shirt is partially visible, also on a bike. In the distance, a group of people, including a child in a pink hat, are walking. The street is lined with trees and has various traffic signs, including 'DO NOT ENTER' and 'ONE WAY' signs. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Project Status Update

Van Cortlandt Park South & Bailey Avenue: Phase 2

Community Board 8 Traffic and Transportation Committee
April 17, 2025



Previously Presented Summary

Pre-Project Implementation Conditions

Project Background

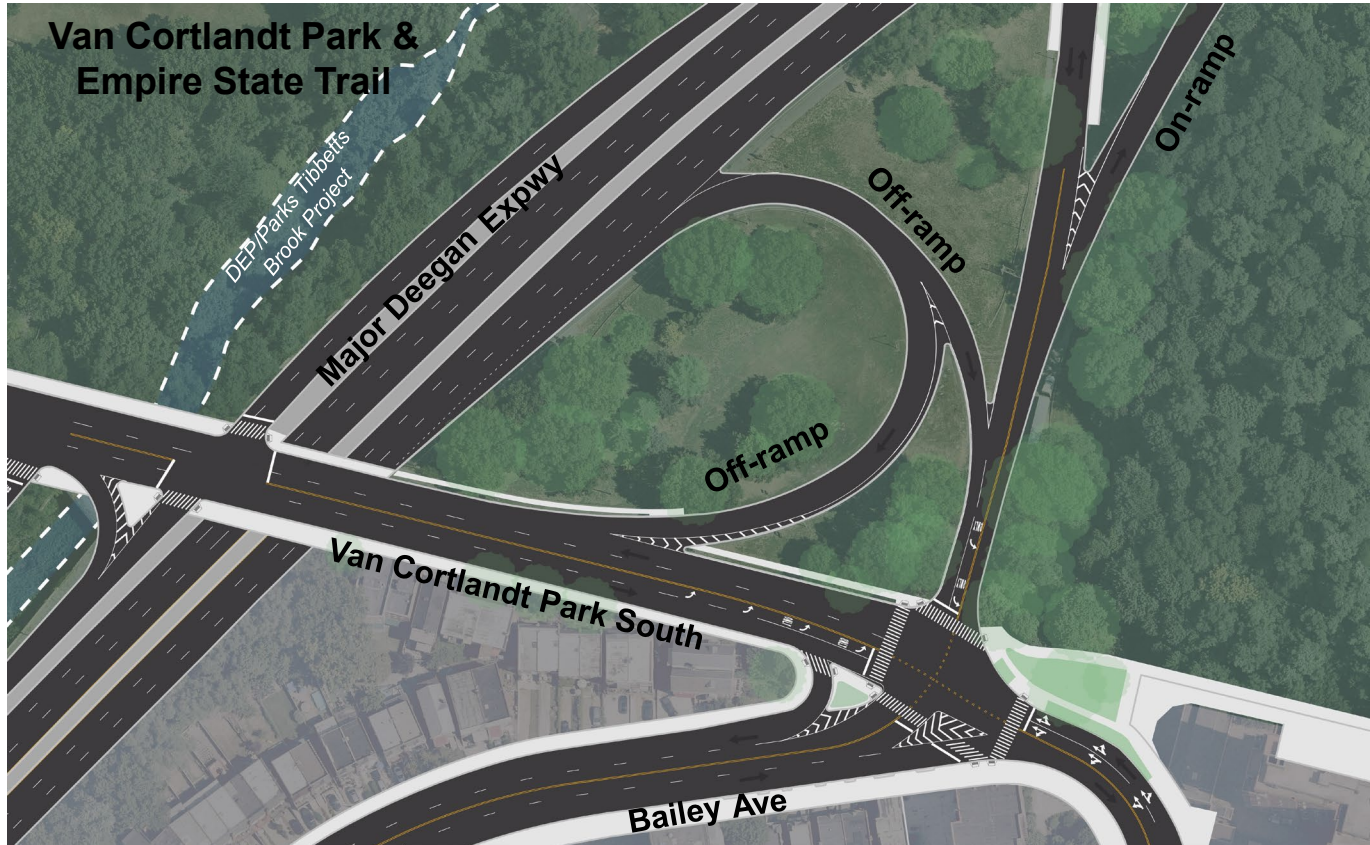
Missing Park Connection

- Park entrance inaccessible to pedestrians and bicycles due to Major Deegan Expressway on/off-ramps
- Over 100 pedestrians cross the expressway ramps during peak hour
- On-going Harlem River Greenway planning process
- Several nearby schools



Pre-Project Conditions

Full Plan Overview



Pre-Project Conditions

Lack of Pedestrian infrastructure

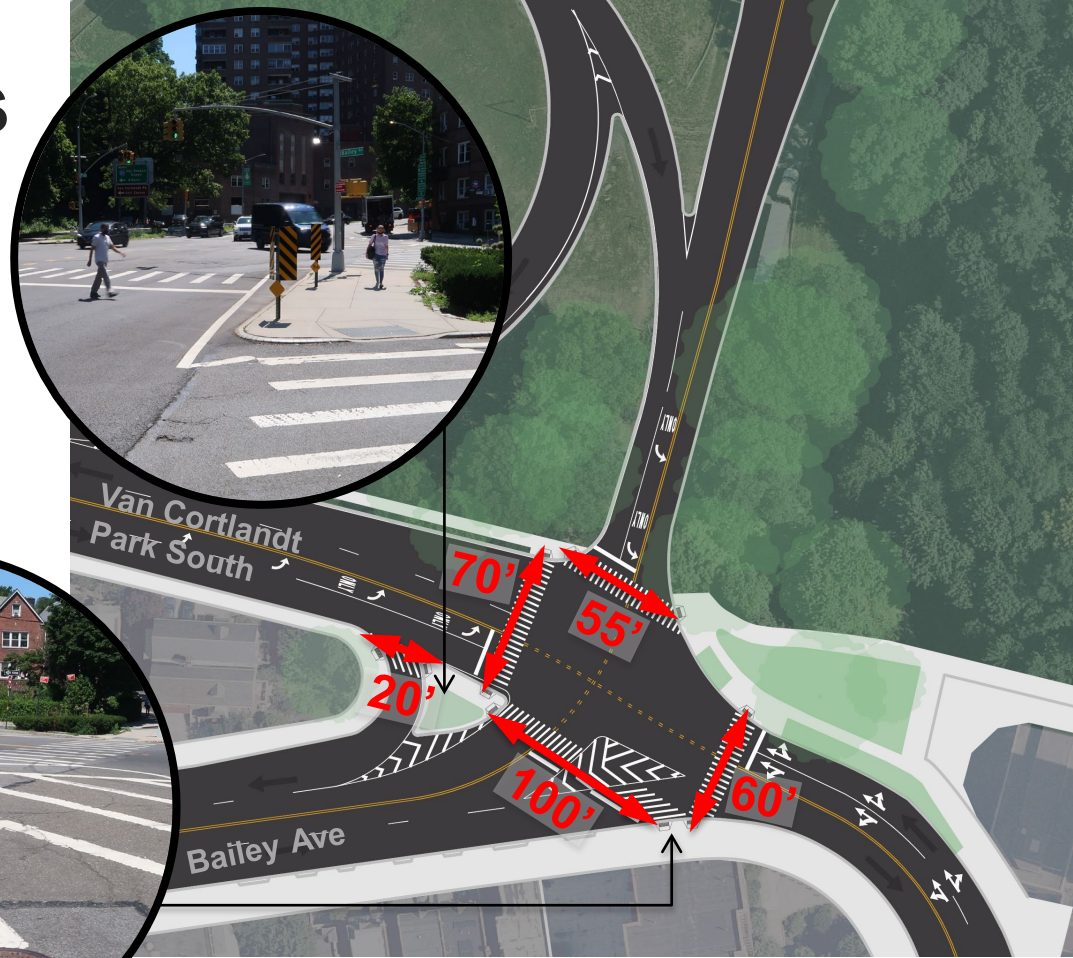
- Worn footpaths where there is no sidewalk
- Poor separation between street and sidewalk near park entrance
- No crosswalks at on- and off-ramps, located near pedestrian and bicyclist park entrances



Pre-Project Conditions

Long Crossing Distances at Bailey Ave & Van Cortlandt Park S

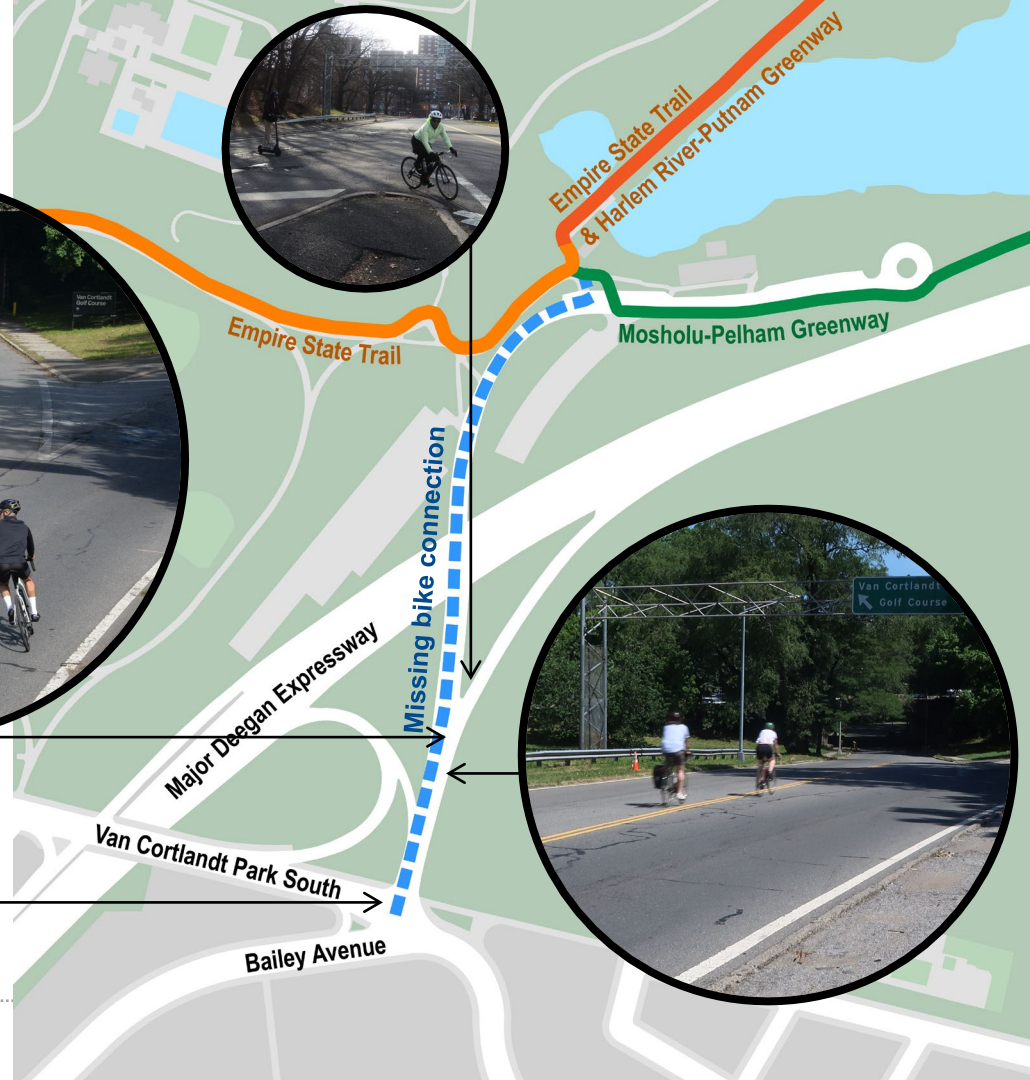
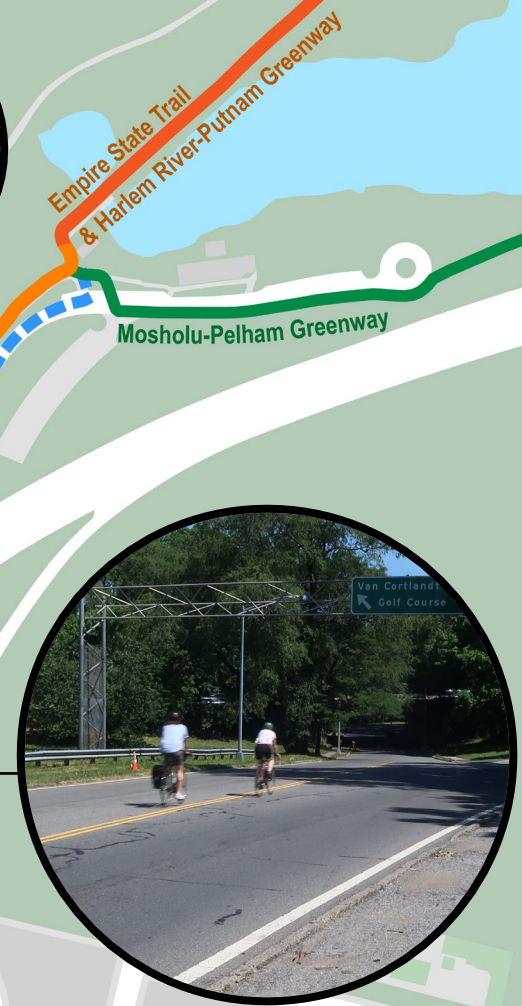
- Popular intersection between the Park and schools, libraries, and residential uses
- Pedestrians must cross three segments of traffic at Bailey Ave, 120' total
- Pedestrians cross through unprotected channelization



Pre-Project Conditions

Bike Conditions

- Popular bicycle route without connection to Park and Empire State Trail
- Bicyclists and vehicle conflict at expressway ramps



Pre-Project Conditions

Summary

- Long, unmarked pedestrian crossings
- Lack of crosswalks and other pedestrian infrastructure
- No bicycle connection to the Park and the Empire State Trail and Harlem River Putnam Greenway



Updates

Additional Project Background

Van Cortlandt Park/Northwest Bronx Neighborhood Planning Analysis

Near Term Outreach










Upcoming DOT Projects (2025)

- 1 Van Cortlandt Park S and Bailey Ave Phase 2*
- 2 Bailey Ave (Van Cortlandt Park E to W Fordham Rd)*
- 3 Jerome Ave and W 192nd St, 205th St
- 4 Reconstruction of Grand Concourse Phase 5 | In Construction

Other Agency Projects

- 5 MTA ADA Station Upgrades | In Construction
- 6 Tibbetts Brook Daylighting Project | DEP | Final Design*
- 7 Kingsbridge Armory Renovations | EDC | Pre-Design
- 8 Woodlawn Playground Reconstruction | DPR | Procurement
- 9 Northwest Bronx School Safety Improvements | DDC | Final Design

*Correlates with Harlem River Greenway Project

-  Area Being Explored for a Project
-  Community Board District
-  Open Street
-  DOT Plaza
-  Summer Street
-  Access Point to Van Cortlandt Park
-  Concentration of Educational/Medical Institutions
-  Commercial and Mixed Residential Area
-  Elevated Transportation Structure

Projects focused on major north-south corridors that connect between Manhattan/South Bronx and NW Bronx, including educational and medical institutions and Van Cortlandt Park



Project Background

Community Feedback during 2025 Harlem River Greenway Workshops

Van Cortlandt Park South
with the off ramps are very
challenging because of traffic

We (the Bronx) have the most
parks but lack equity to get to
them. Connect to Van Cortlandt
and to Empire State Trail

Excited to see improvements at Van
Cortlandt Park entrance - making it
easier to enter the park and avoid
conflicts with Major Deegan

great connection
to make to park

Update

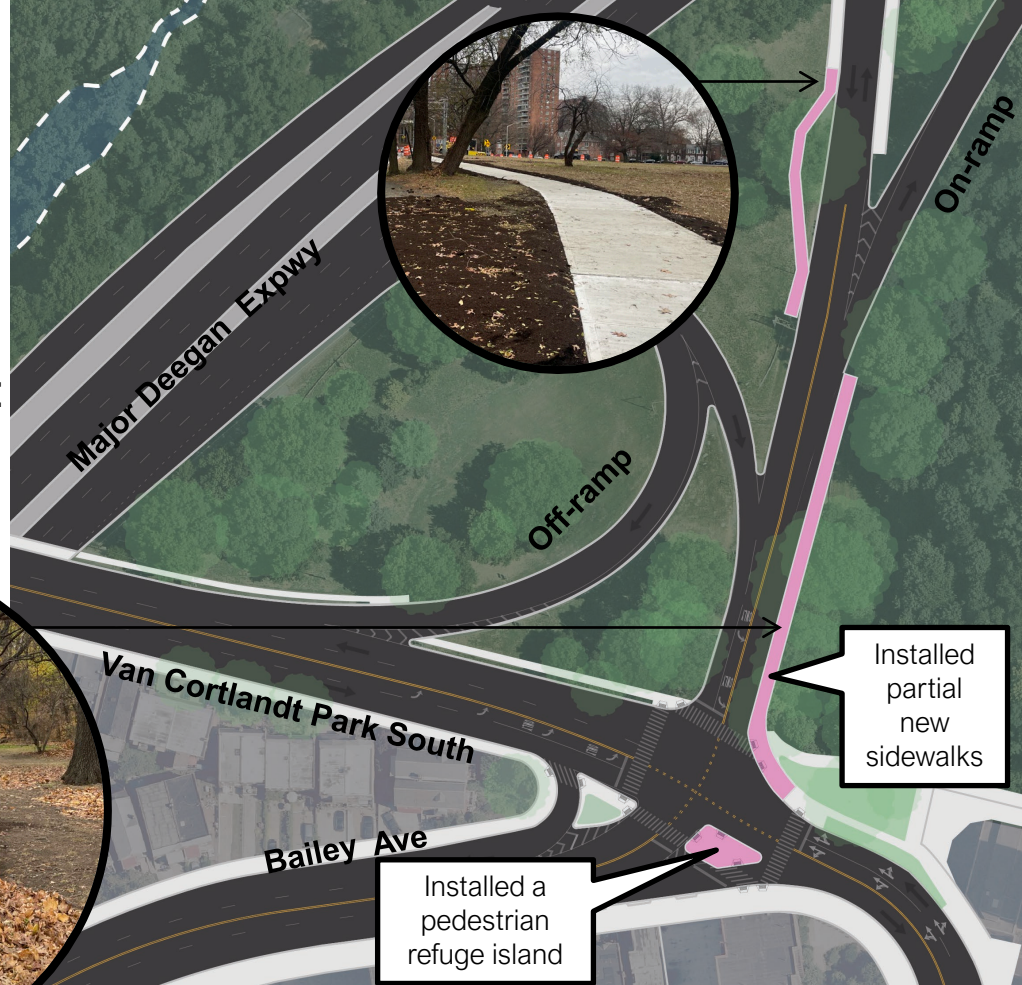
Phase 1: Completed

1

Phase 1 Completed

Fall 2024 Work Summarized

- To expedite completion of the project, NYC DOT installed Phase 1 in Fall 2024:
 - Sidewalk on the east and west side of the Park Drive
 - A pedestrian refuge island
 - Guiderail along the east curb



Update

Phase 2: Design + Implementation

2

Phase 2 Updates

State DOT Approved Design: Expressway Ramps

Off Ramps: Relocate and normalize intersection geometries

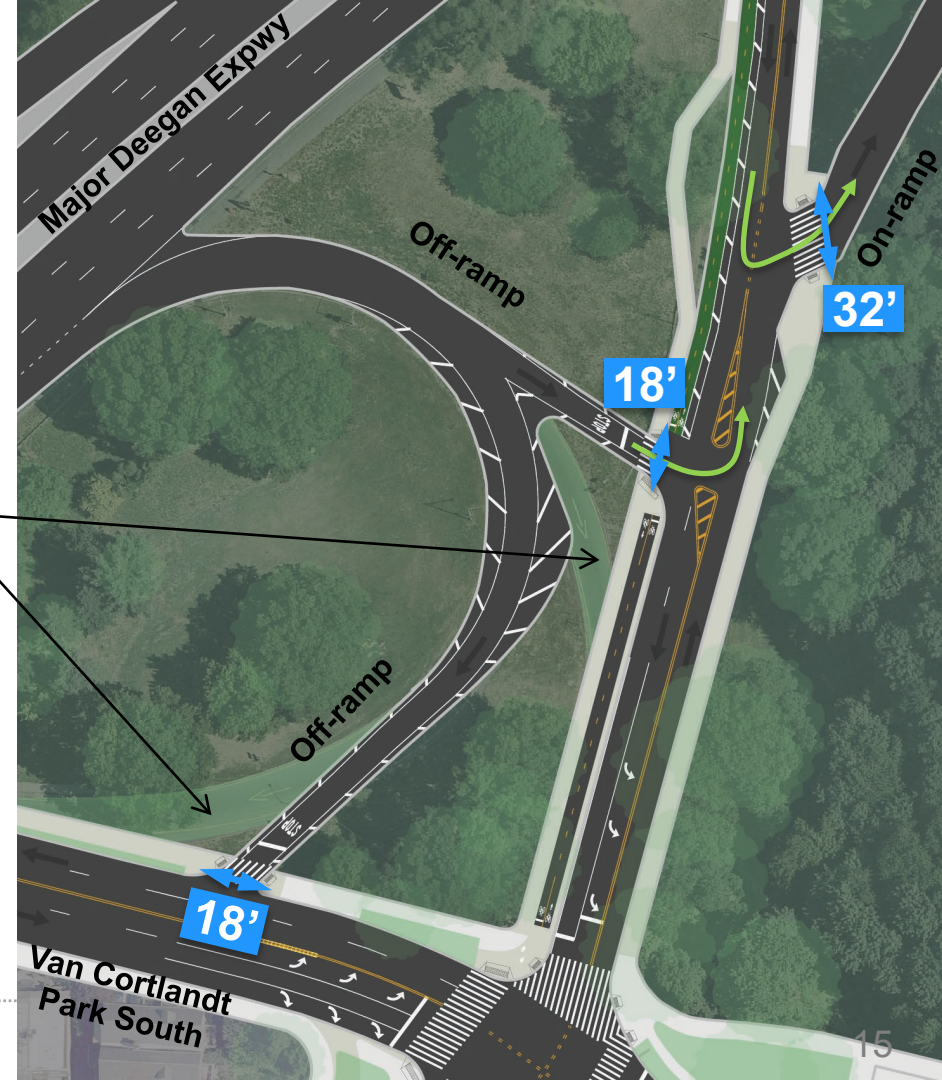
- ↔ Add stop controls and pedestrian crossings
- ↪ Legalize north ramp's left-turn to park
- Integrate old ramps into existing vegetated area

On Ramp: Slow right turn movement

- ↔ Add pedestrian crossing
- ↪ Legalize left-turn onto ramp for passenger vehicles from park

Benefits:

- Calm vehicles exiting + entering the Expwy
- Reduce crossing distance
- Improve visibility at new crosswalks



Phase 2 Updates

Closed Slip Lane + Bx10 Bus Bulb **+ Right Turn Lane**

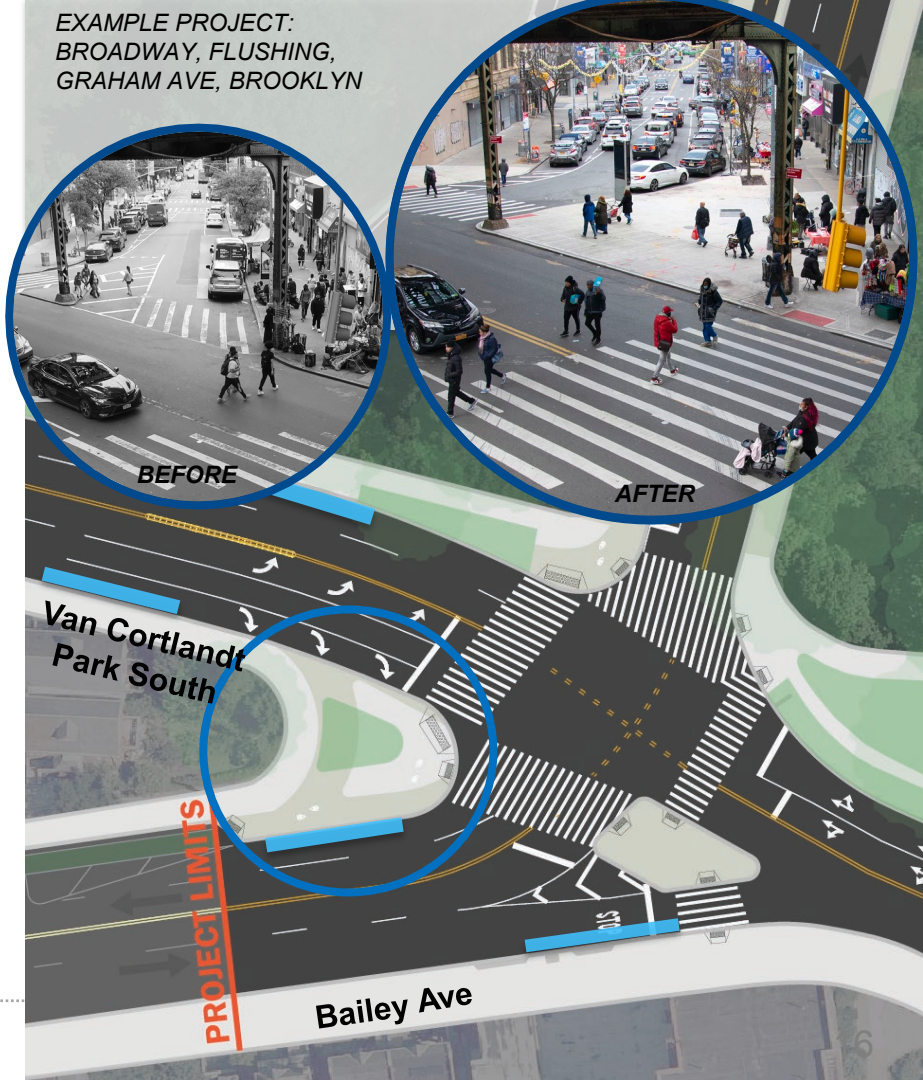
Changes:

Added a **right turn lane** in response to Community Board's concern raised at Feb 2024 meeting regarding vehicle queuing on Van Cortlandt Park S

Other Benefits:

- Eliminates a conflict point between pedestrians, vehicles, and bicyclists
- Relocates crosswalk and creates a smaller intersection
- Improves pedestrian infrastructure near **bus stops**

EXAMPLE PROJECT:
BROADWAY, FLUSHING,
GRAHAM AVE, BROOKLYN

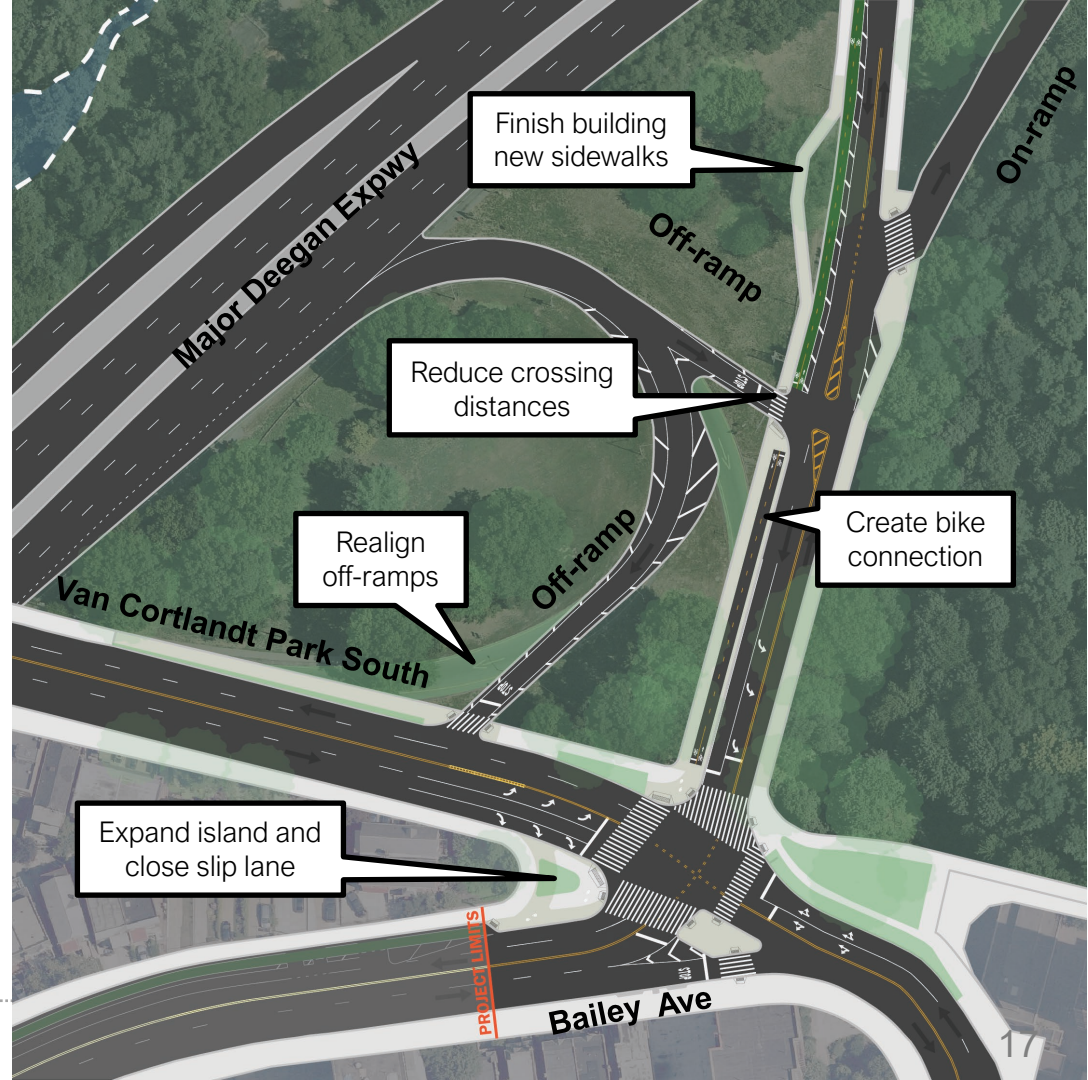


Phase 2 Updates

Summary

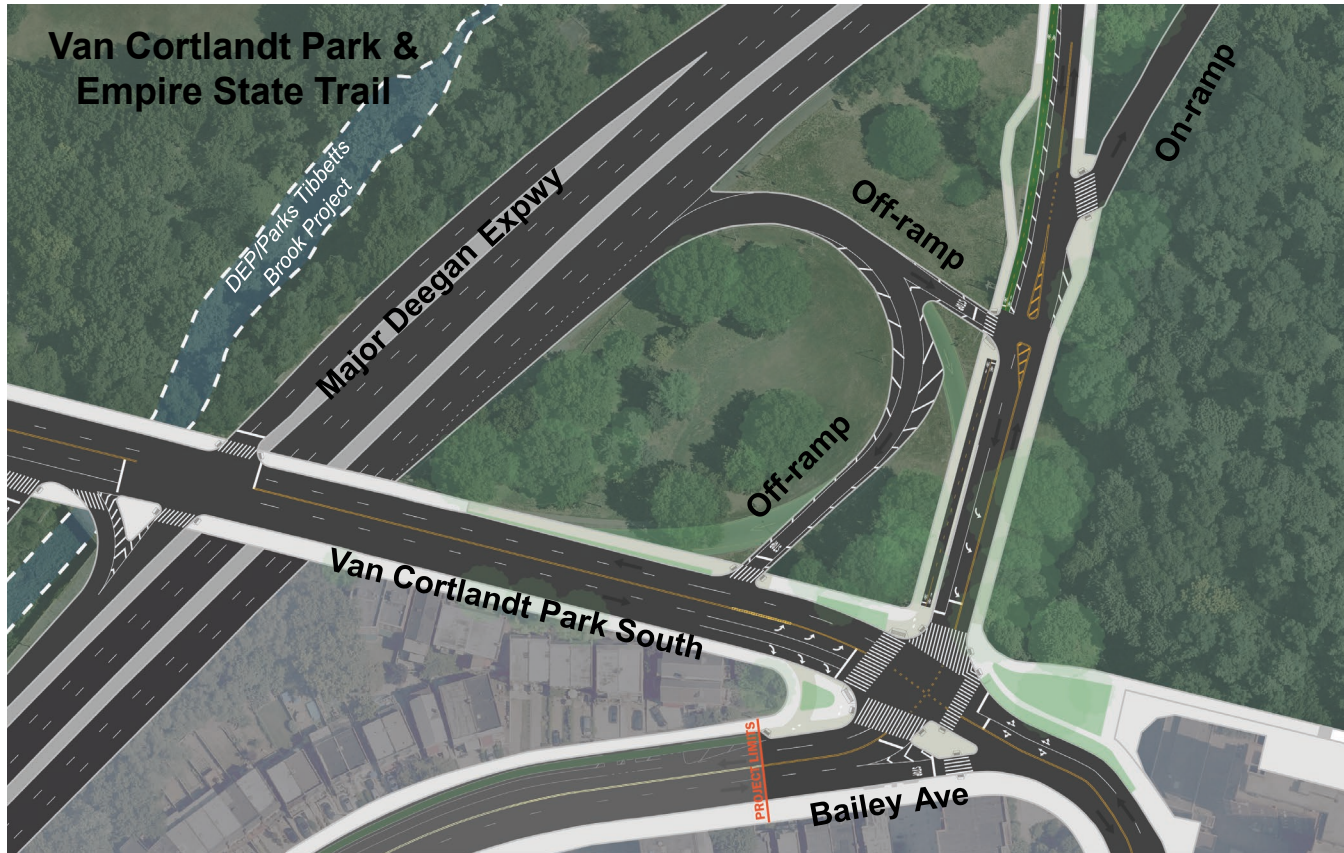
Benefits:

- Improve pedestrian infrastructure
- Safer, shorter, and more visible pedestrian crossings
- New bike connection to Park and Empire State Trail
- Stop and calm vehicles entering and exiting the Expressway
- Reduce vehicle and pedestrian/bicyclist conflicts



Project Proposal

Full Plan Overview



Other Nearby 2025 Project

Bailey Avenue Safety Project

- Project is being coordinated with the Bailey Avenue Safety Project to the south



Timeline

Next Steps



Thank You!



Questions?



NYCDOT



nyc_dot



nyc_dot

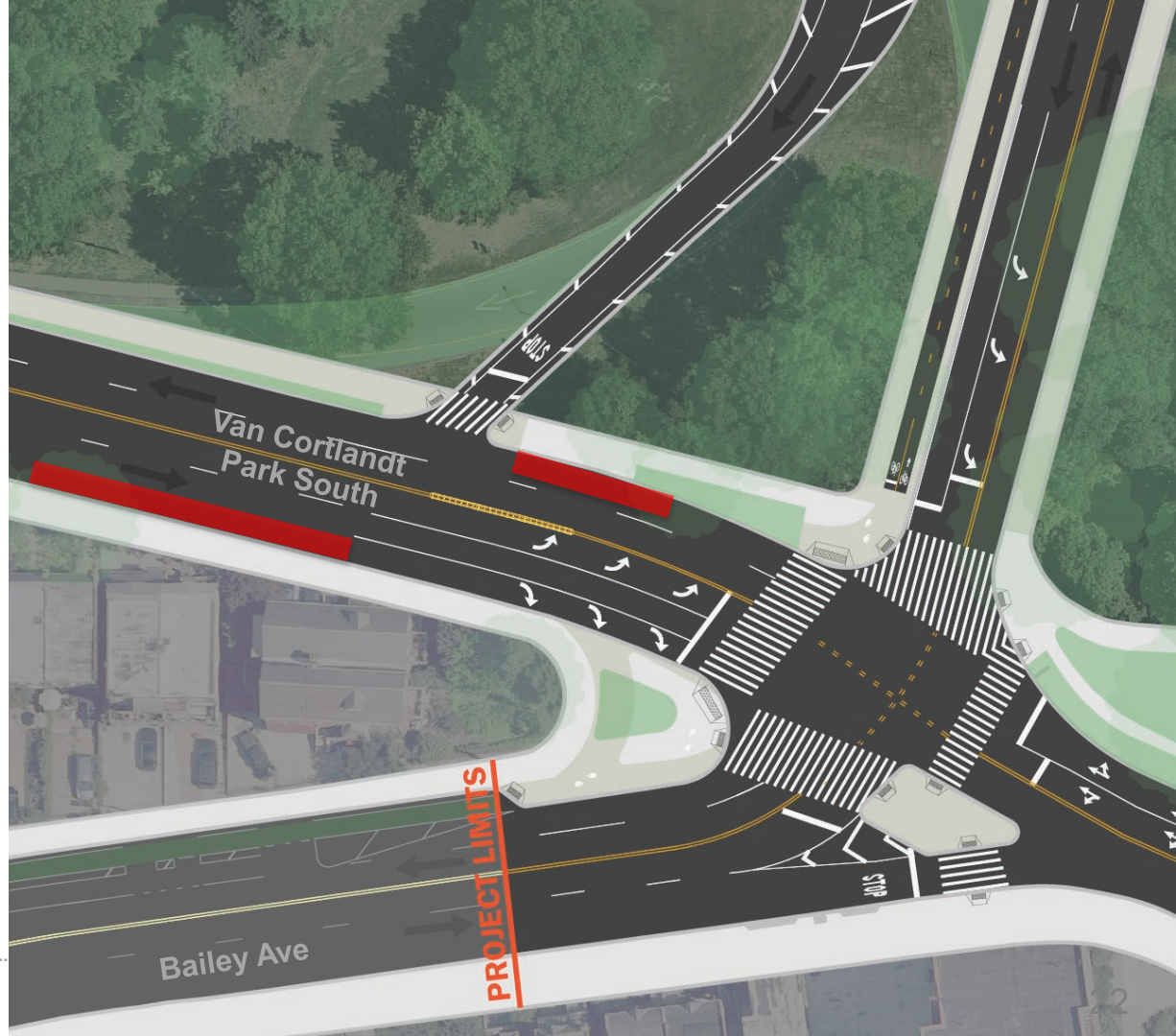


NYCDOT

Appendix

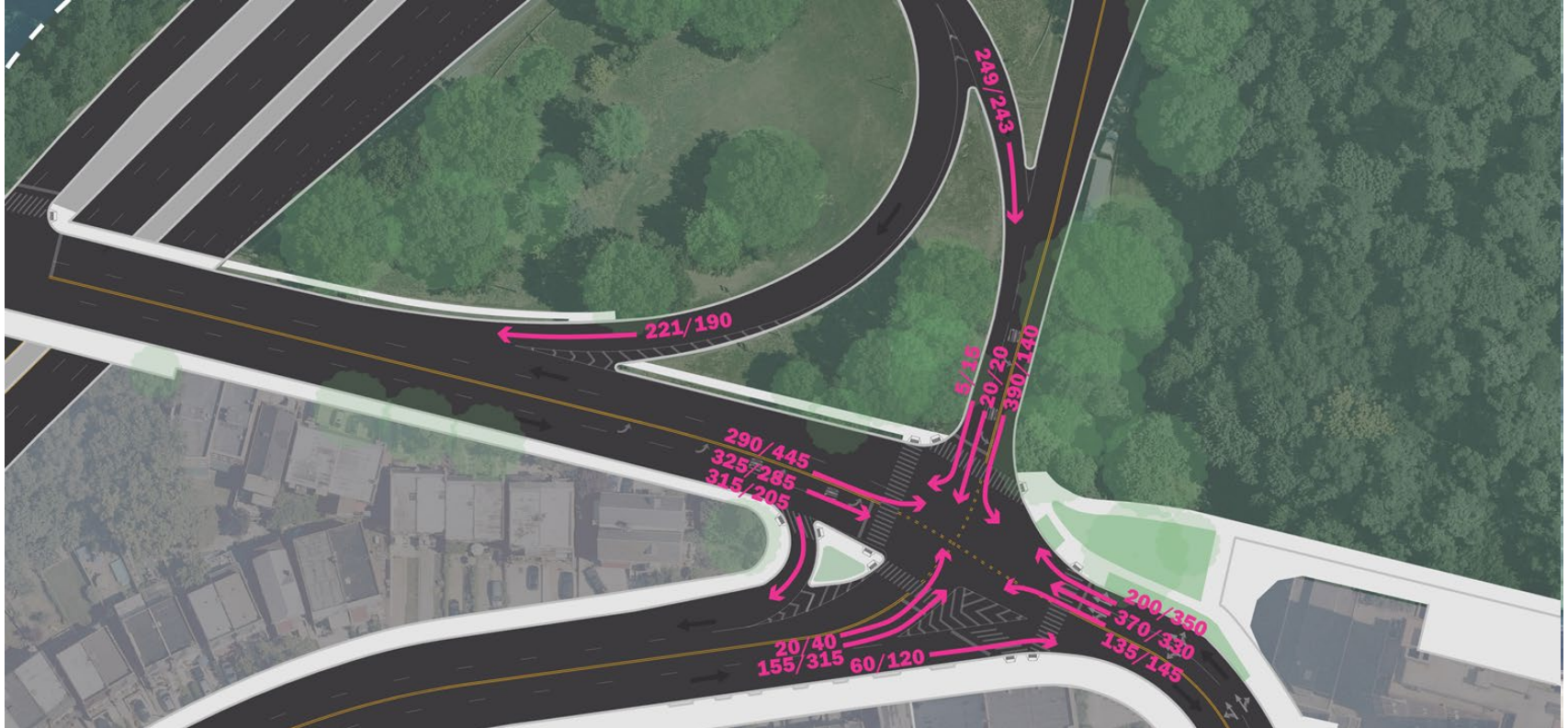
Parking Loss

- 5 regular parking spaces repurposed on south curb of Van Cortlandt Park South
- 3 regular parking spaces repurposed on north curb of Van Cortlandt Park South



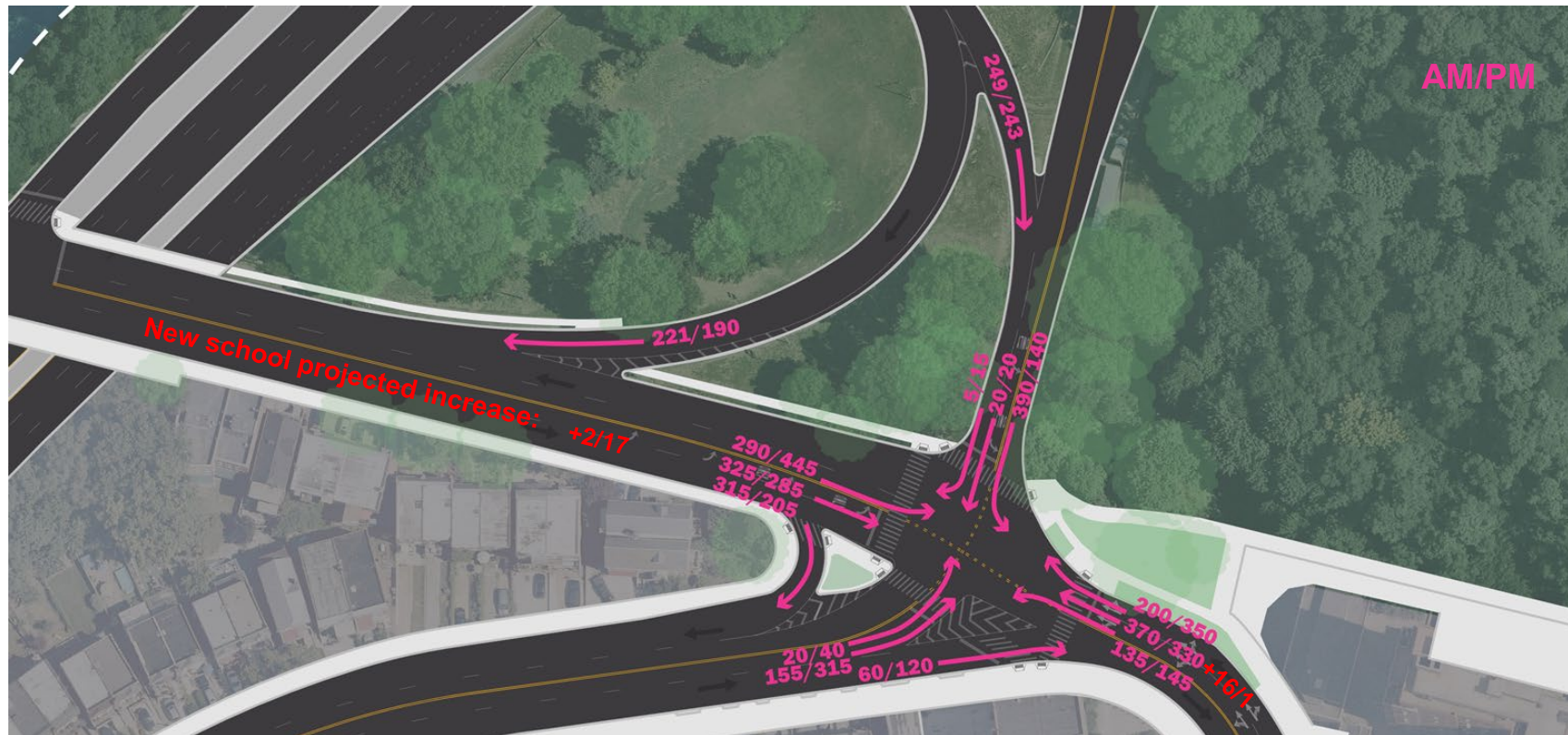
Appendix

Vehicle Counts, Oct/Nov 2023



Appendix

Projected school impact on Vehicle Counts from Oct/Nov 2023



Appendix

Pedestrian Counts, March 2021

