

Washington and Greenwich Streets

Fall 2007

Over the past half century, the West Village has undergone major changes in land use and demographics. Northbound Greenwich Street and southbound Washington Street are the westernmost arterials through the neighborhood. Both these roadways parallel the West Side Highway. Between Canal Street to the south and Gansevort Street to the north, there is a variety of land uses bordering these streets. Toward the southern end, there is a larger concentration of commercial enterprises, with Greenwich Street being more residential in nature. With the proximity to both the West Side Highway and Hudson Street, most of the traffic on these two streets is localized in nature. Accordingly, the existing roadway is over designed for the volume and type of traffic uses it currently accommodates. This includes an excessively wide roadway, a mix of stop controls and changing land uses.

The Department is examining the existing parking regulations, roadway geometries, signals and stop controls to better balance the needs of the community as well as street users (motorized, pedestrian and bicyclists) to provide a more equitable balance. This contextual redesign may include the use of channelization to narrow the roadway, new markings and crossings, signage, stop controls and other traffic calming and street redesign elements. The Department will be evaluating the various alternatives over the summer with the goal of implementing these improvements in the late fall.



Top: Typical configuration of a residential portion of Washington Street. Note the placement of parking stalls along the roadway. There are some streets and corners that have painted neckdowns.

Bottom: Similar to Washington Street, Greenwich Street is a bit more commercial in character and has instances of double parked service vehicles, as depicted.