



Watkins St Plaza

June 13th, 2024 – Community Board 16



Public Realm Feedback



Open Streets



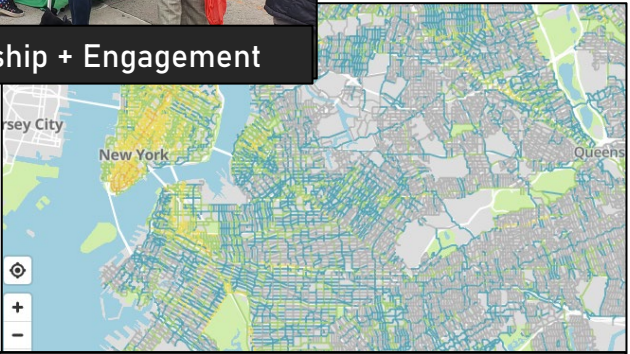
Crossings + Intersections



Dynamic Curb + Corridor Strategies



Community Partnership + Engagement



Comprehensive Planning + Policy



Equity Focused Maintenance



Premier Public Spaces



Programming + Concessions

Project Background

1

Project Area

Key Facts



11% of Residents are Older Adults



40% of Residents are Low Income






11% of Residents have Limited English Proficiency



48% of Workers Live in Households with No Vehicle

Data Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



-  Project Area
-  15-Minute walk Area
-  Vision Zero – Priority Corridor

Safety Data

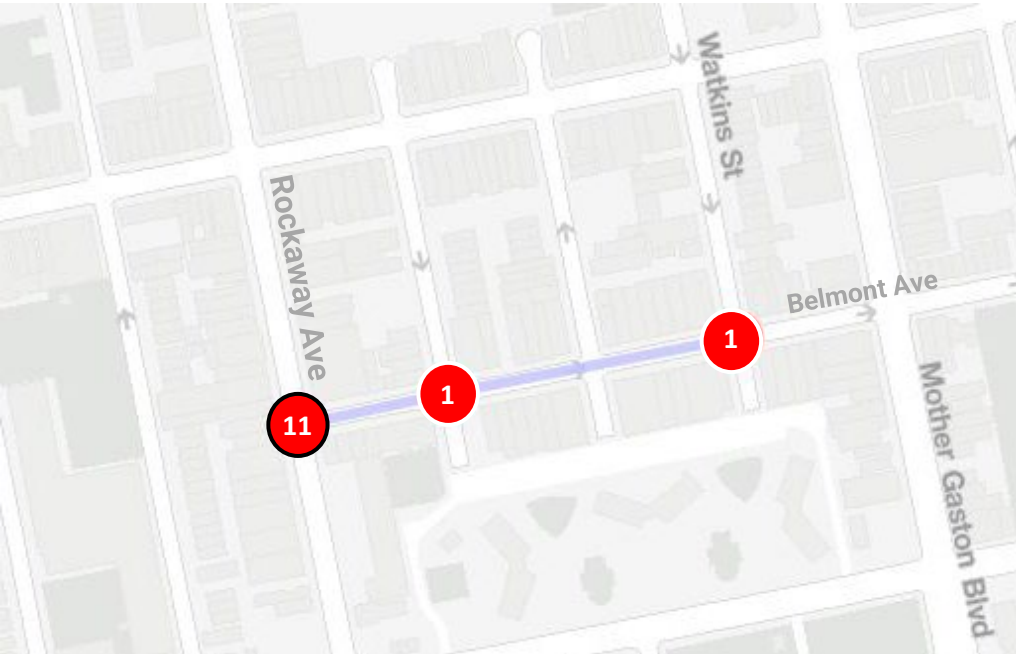
Belmont Ave,
Rockaway Ave to Watkins St
Injury Summary, 2019-2023 (5 years)

	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI*
Pedestrian	5	2	1	3
Bicyclist	1	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Occupant	7	1	0	1
Other Motorized	0	0	0	0
Total	13	3	1	4

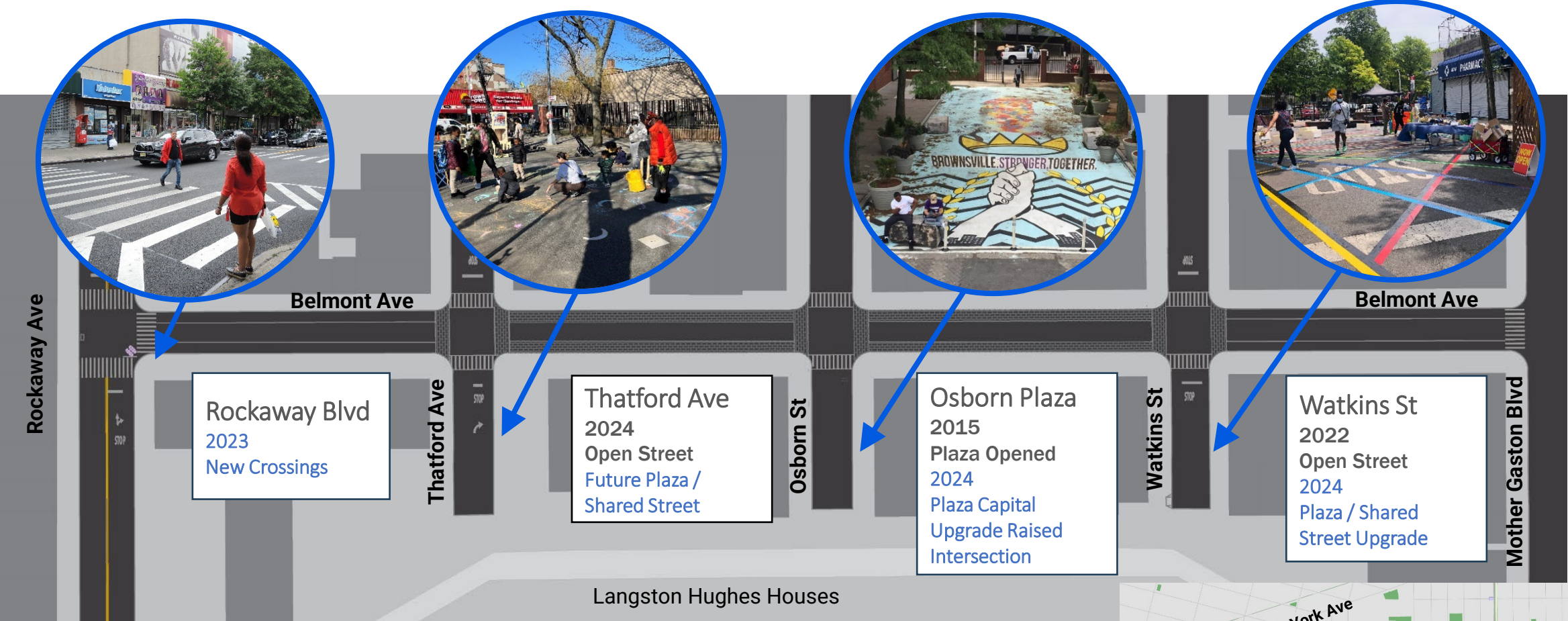
*killed or severely injured



Crosswalks installed at the intersection of Belmont Ave at Rockaway Ave, 2023



Belmont Avenue Public Realm - Evolution



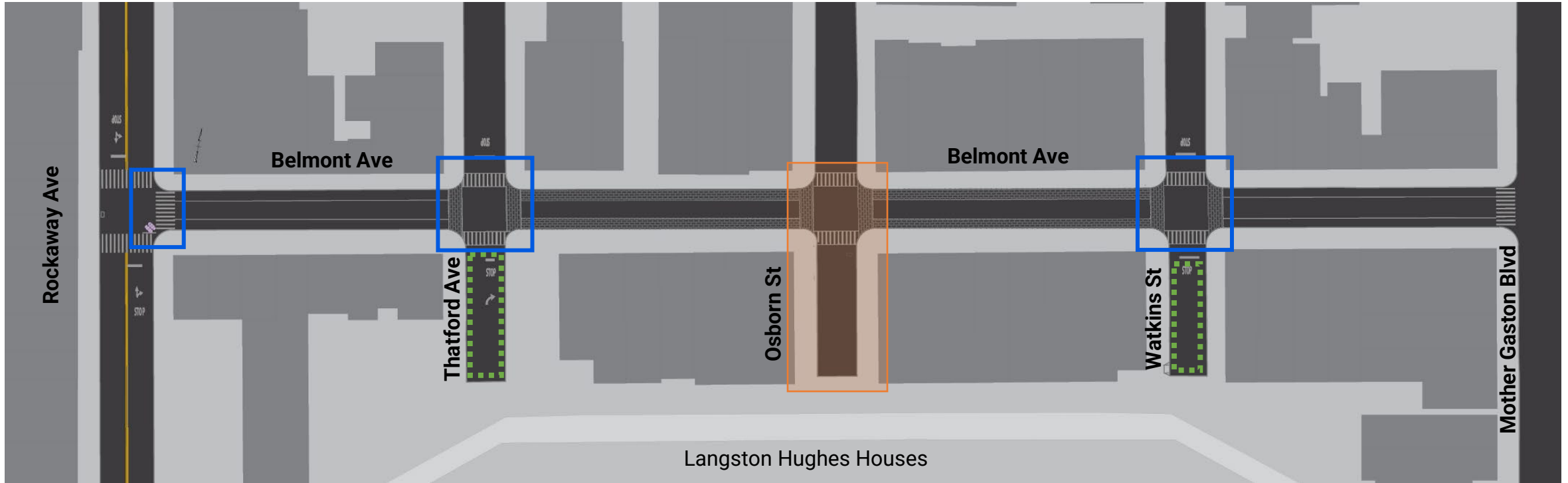
Watkins St Open Street Efforts to Date

- **Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC)** have partnered with **NYCDOT** for over a decade on public realm initiatives along Belmont Ave including Watkins St Open Street
- **2022: Watkins St becomes an Open Street**
- **2023 – Ongoing: DOT meetings with community stakeholders**
- **2024: Community Survey**
Themes we heard:
 - Support local business
 - Continued programming
 - Upgrade pedestrian ramps and crossings



Image: Left, conducting community survey 2024
Right, Watkins Open Street activated

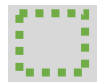
Existing Conditions – Belmont Corridor



Non-reflective non-standard crosswalk treatments



Osborn St Plaza, and raised intersection - Capital construction

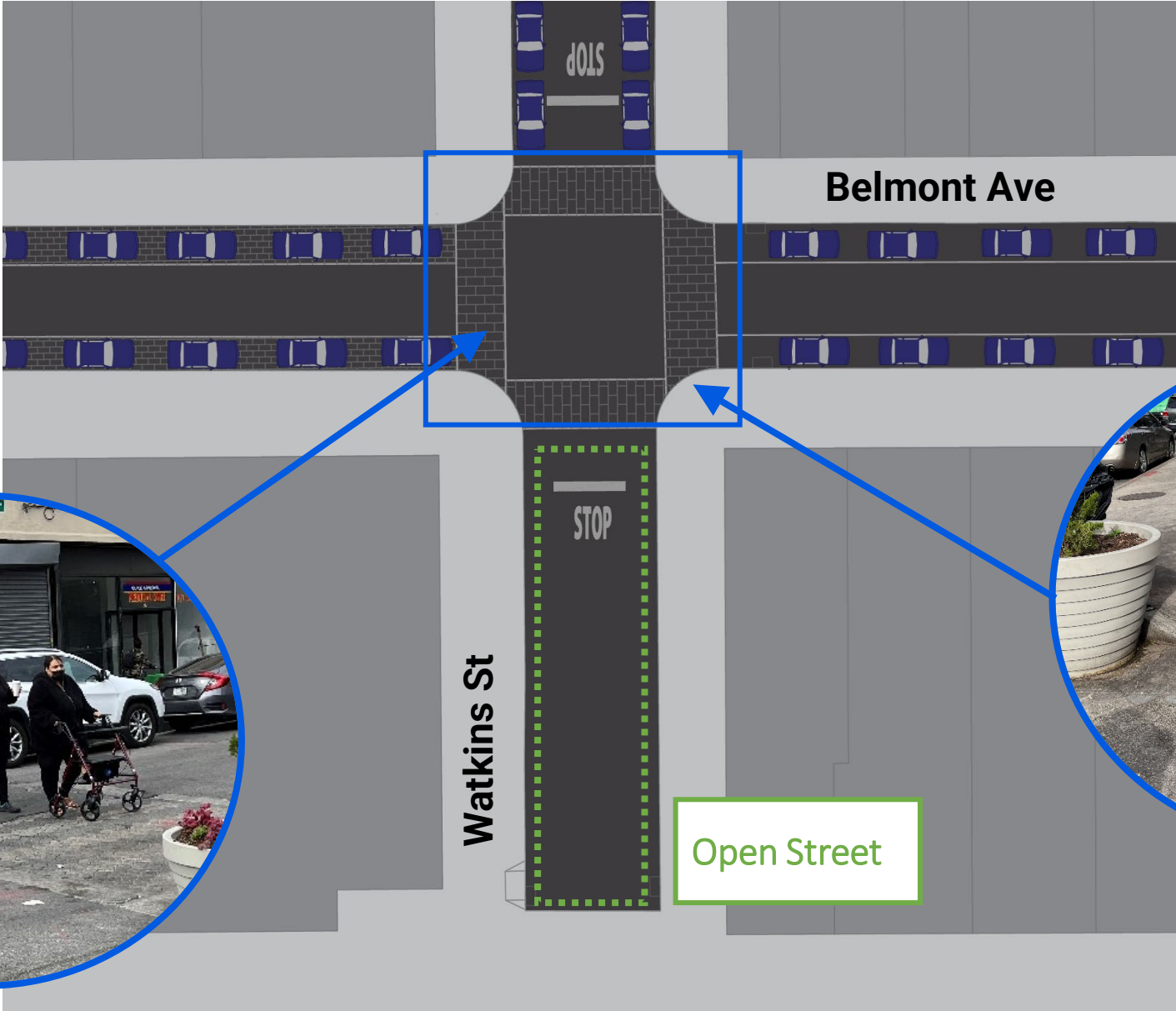
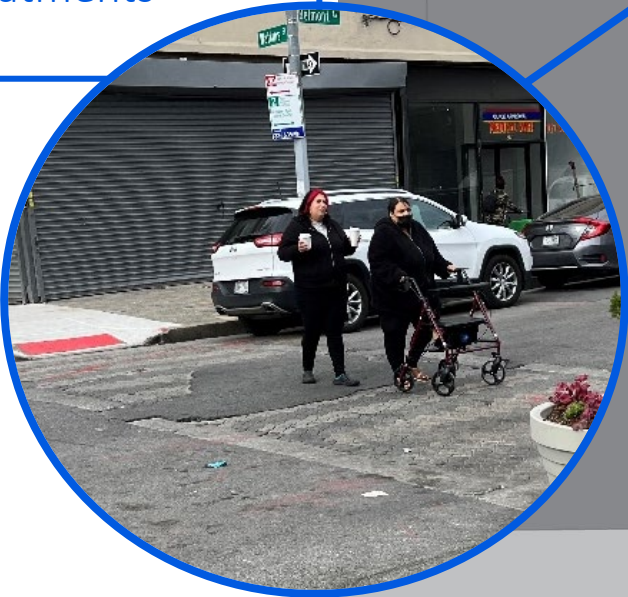


Thatford St Open Steet
Watkins St Open St



Existing Conditions – Watkins St

Non-reflective
non-standard
crosswalk
treatments



Non-ADA
compliant
pedestrian
ramps

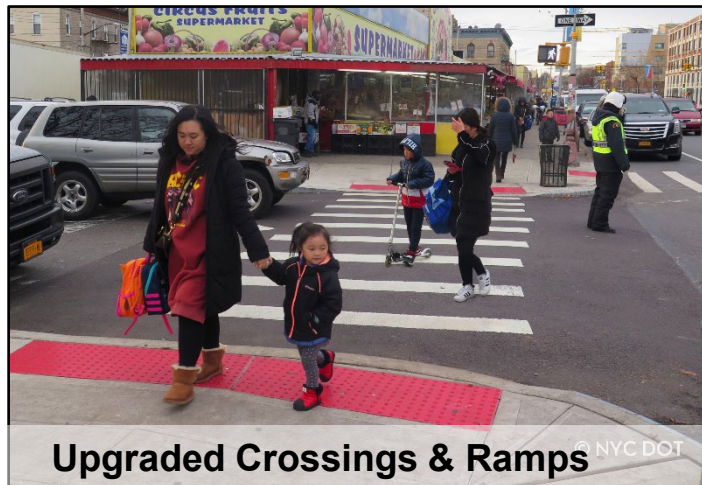


Open Street

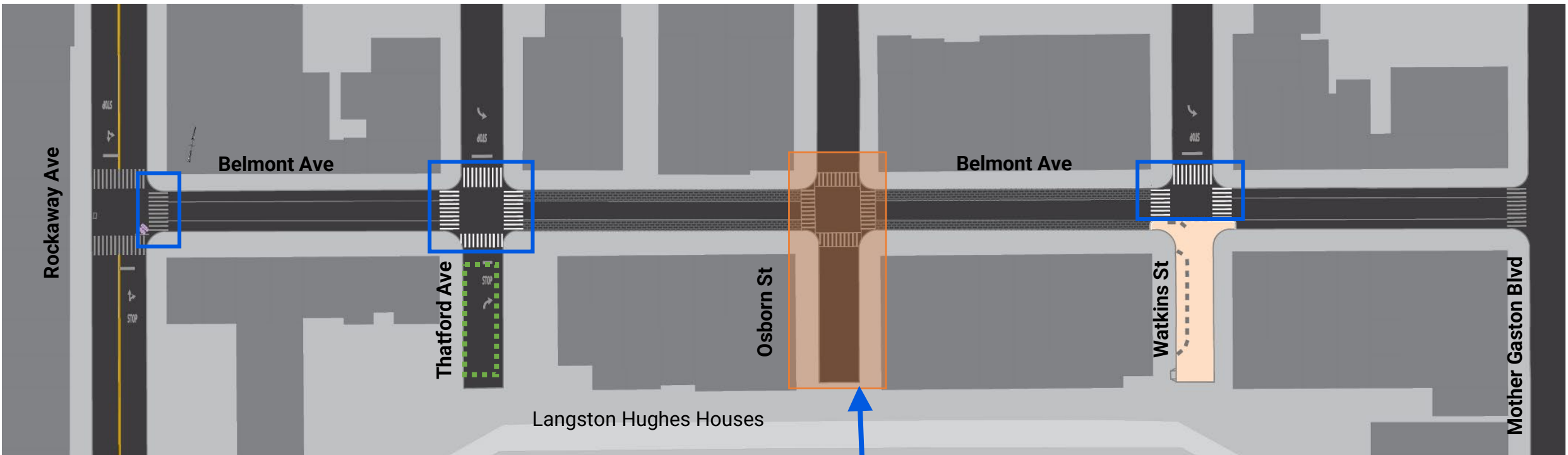
Proposal

2

Toolkit



Proposed Conditions – Belmont Corridor



Reflective standard crosswalk treatment
& upgraded pedestrian ramps



Thatford St Open Steet



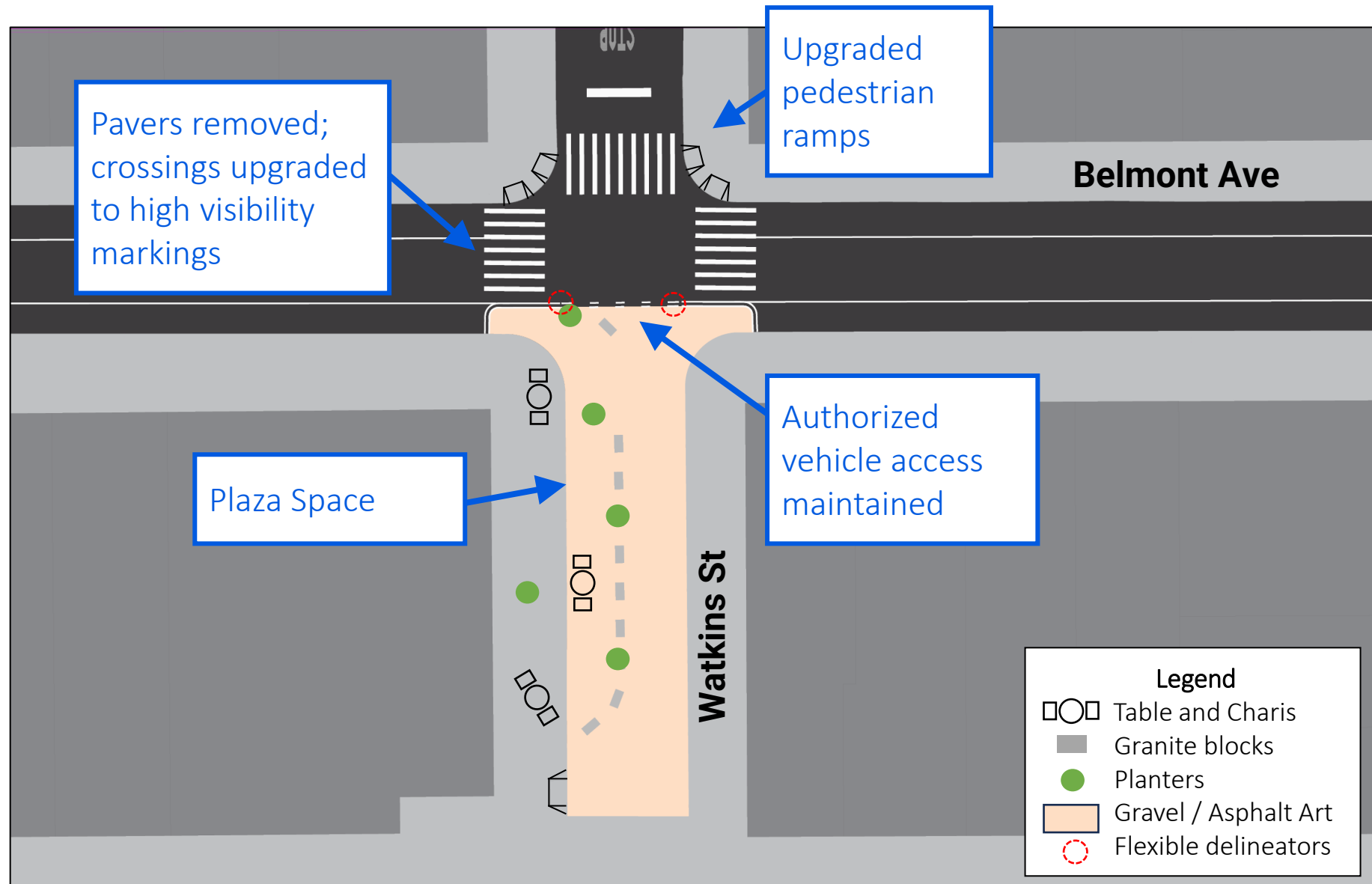
Osborn St Plaza, and raised intersection
Capital construction



Watkins St Plaza with Asphalt Art, movable furniture
& planters



Proposed Conditions – Watkins St Plaza



Benefits

- Plaza space with seating and plantings
- Shorter safer crossings across Belmont Avenue at Watkins St
- Upgraded crossings along the Belmont Avenue corridor
- Upgraded and accessible pedestrian ramps along the Belmont Avenue corridor



Thank You
Questions?



Appendix NYC Open Streets Evolution

Emergency Response Program – May 2020 to May 2021

- Open Streets as an emergency response program during COVID-19 pandemic
- Jennings St Open Street established

Permanent Open Streets Program – May 2021 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.



Gateway Traffic Calming – West 22nd Street, Manhattan