

EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS: DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

JULY 28,29,&30 + SEPT. 10, 2015

PROJECT AREA 2 SUMMARY REPORT (from E14th St to E23rd St)

KEY STATISTICS:

07/28 Community Engagement Workshop at the Stein Senior Center

- 72 sign-ins (counts exclude City & consultant team members but include media (1) and elected officials reps. (5))

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

During the previous set of ESCR workshops, the East Side community expressed preference for an engineered berm at Stuyvesant Cove Park, as a form of flood protection, and an enhanced access point at E20th St. Based on these key findings, the workshop focused on how to accommodate all park users (pedestrians, cyclists, seniors, families, etc.) in this new landscape. Using illustrative physical models at a 1:200 scale, facilitators guided workshop participants through the session, as they collectively discussed the pros and cons of the three design alternatives for an elevated Stuyvesant Cove Park.



KEY FINDINGS:

1. Conceptual design alternatives (A,B and C):

- A majority of participants preferred alternatives where the pedestrian and bike path remained separated
- Participants favored meandering paths over linear walkways
- The event space currently adjacent to Solar One is highly valued by the community
- There was strong support for an expanded public space near the Solar Two building and/or at E20th St. opening
- Several participants inquired about access routes to the elevated park for the elderly and physically impaired

2. E20th St. access point:

- There were differing opinions about the impact of a potential pedestrian bridge on view corridors
- With increased pedestrian activity near the E20th St. opening, safety concerns could be mitigated
- Participants expressed enthusiasm about the programmable space beneath the berm in Alternative 3, as well as the notion of seasonal programming if accommodated in a temporary structure
- Several participants suggested adding bathrooms in this location

3. Other comments:

- Participants pointed out that the park paths should accommodate the high number of runners in the area
- Some groups stressed that Solar Two would benefit from vehicular access

EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS: DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

JULY 28,29,&30 + SEPT. 10, 2015

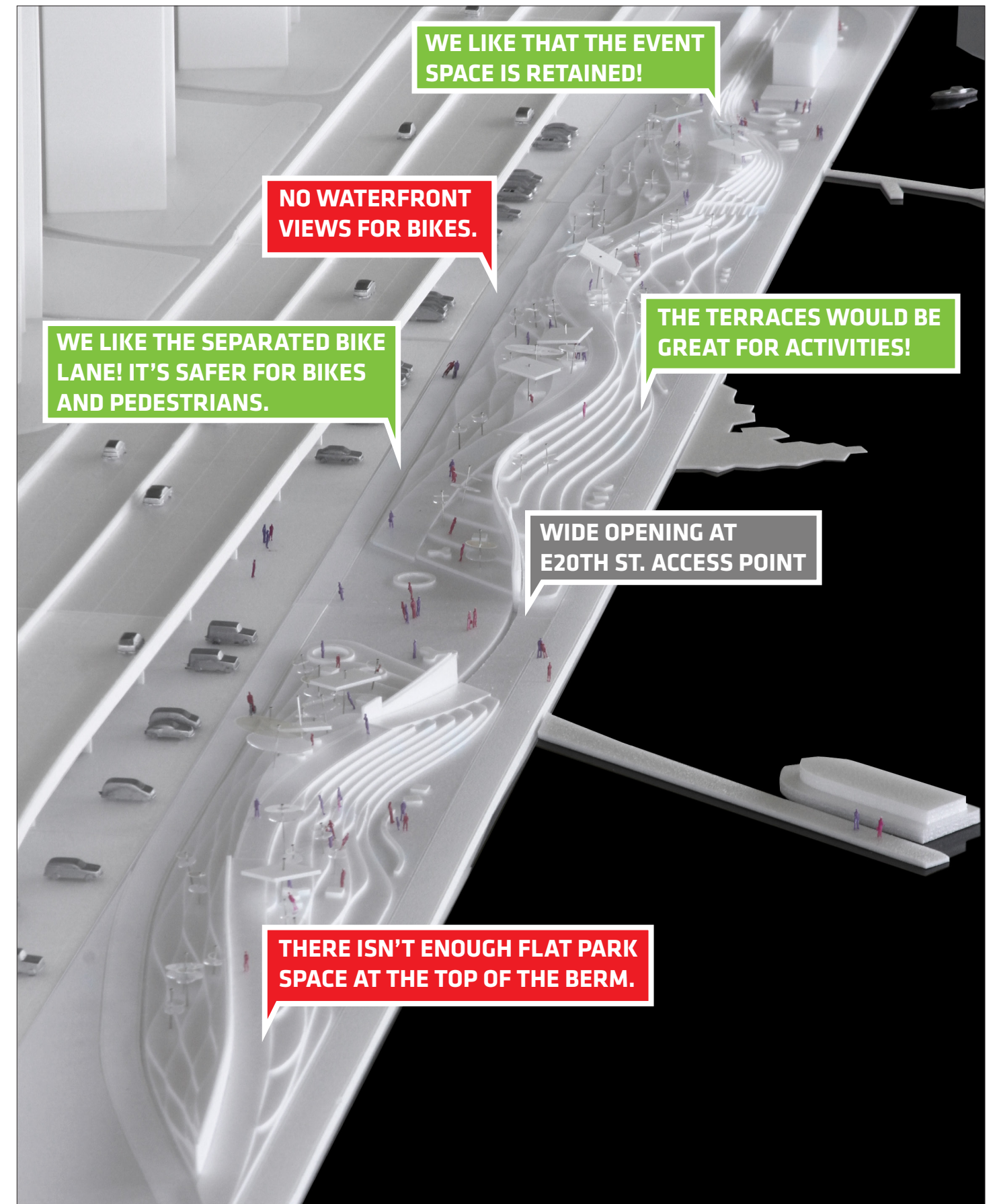
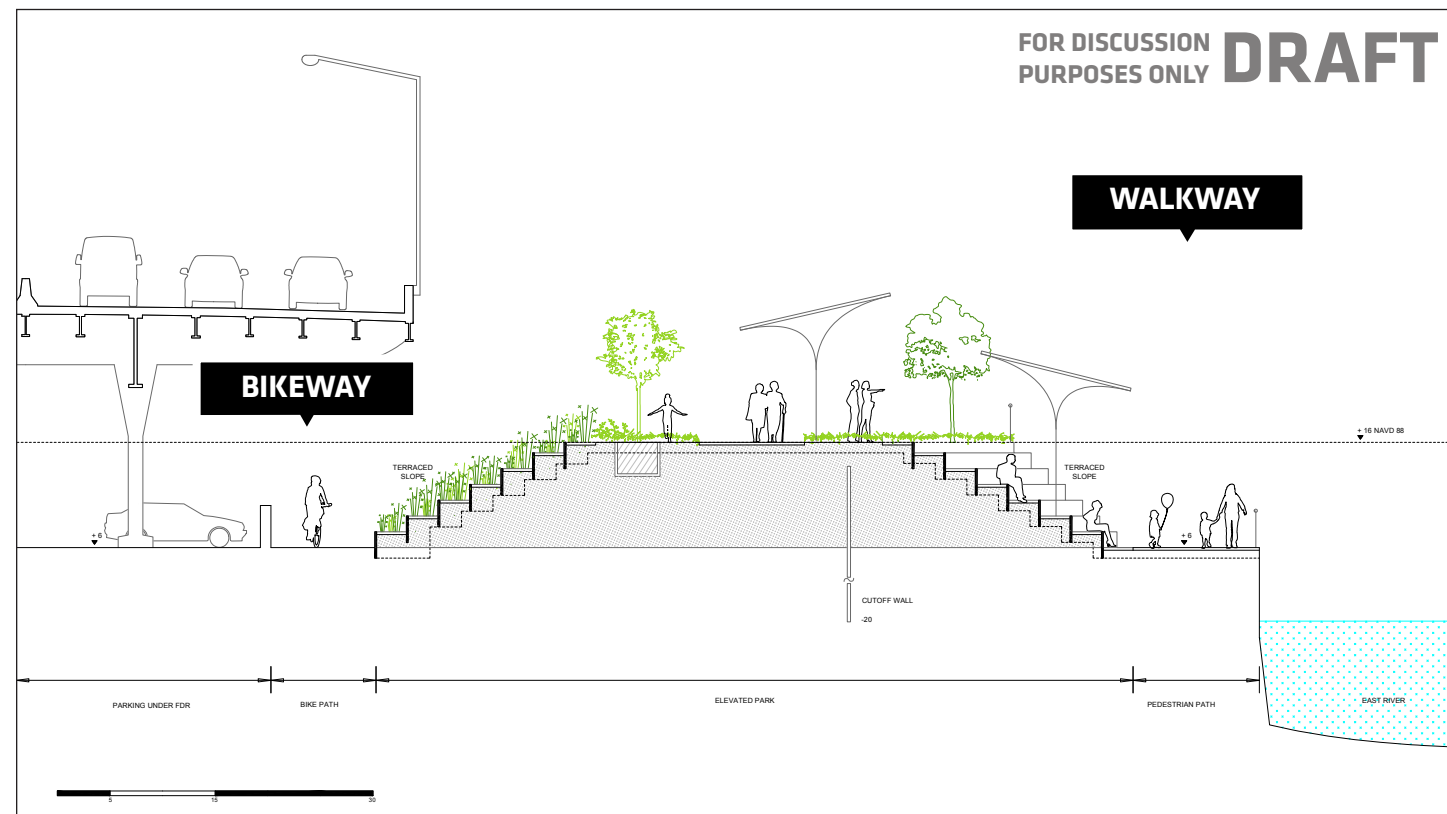
ALTERNATIVE A

STUYVESANT COVE PARK

- While a majority of workshop participants appreciated the separation between the pedestrian walkway along the waterfront and the bikepath on the western edge of Stuyvesant Cove Park, several groups pointed out that bikers would be hidden behind the berm, unable to benefit from waterfront views.
- Many participants voiced concerns about the limited amount of usable park space at the top of the berm.
- Participants were pleased to see that the event space near Solar Two would be maintained and several groups inquired about whether the building would flood in this configuration. If built at grade, Solar Two's first floor would be designated a floodable space, while all occupied spaces would be located on the second floor, above the design flood elevation.
- Participants embraced the idea of a wide opening that would retain view corridors from further up E20th St. and facilitate circulation flows from and to the future ferry terminal. Several individuals inquired about the look and feel of the berm, particularly as it transitions into the flood gate at E20th St.

PRELIMINARY CROSS-SECTION

SPLIT BIKEWAY AND FOOTPATH



EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS: DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

JULY 28,29,&30 + SEPT. 10, 2015

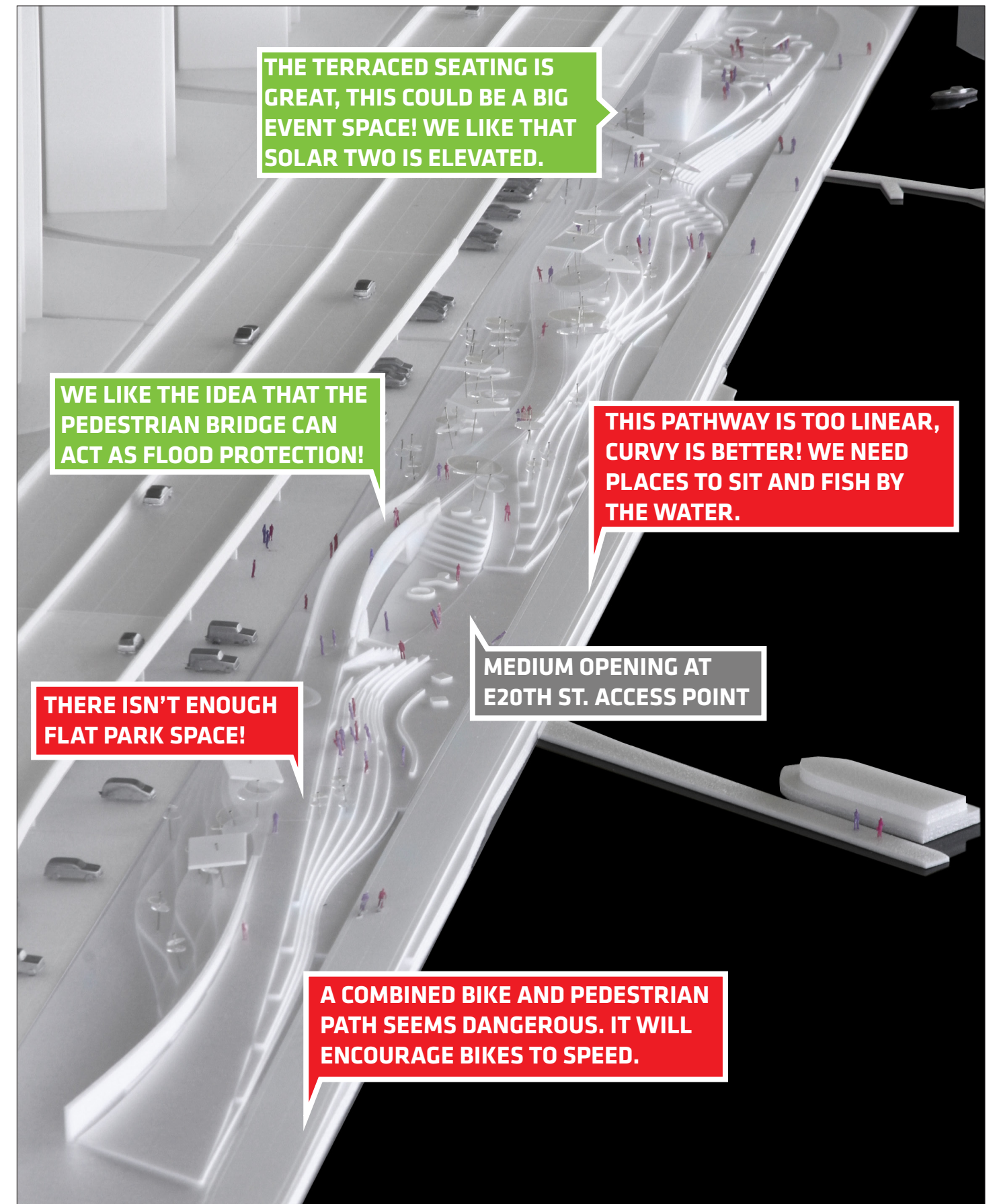
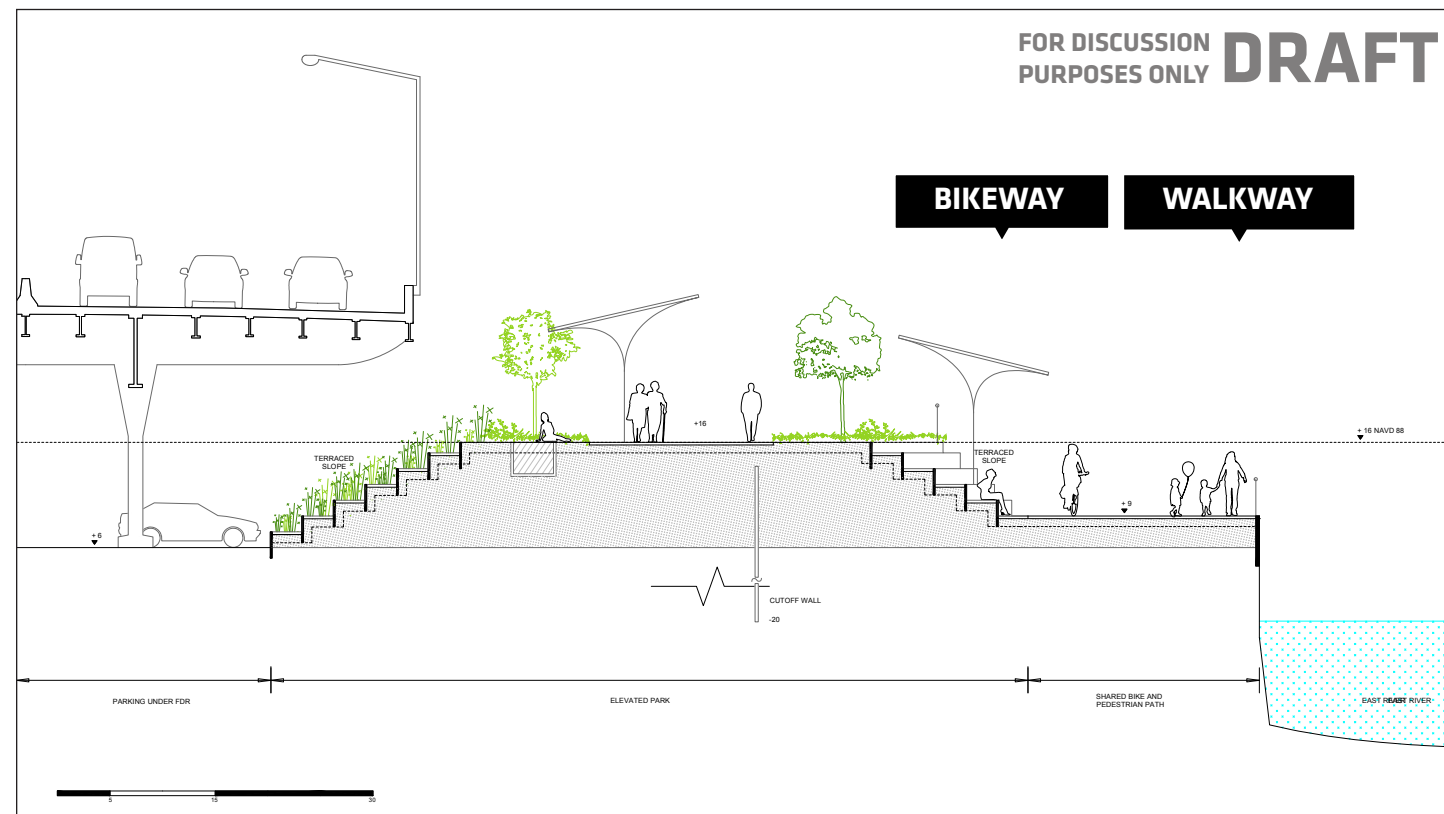
ALTERNATIVE B

STUYVESANT COVE PARK

- For safety reasons, participants were highly concerned about the combined bike path and pedestrian walkway along the waterfront. Many pointed out that the linear geometry would encourage bikes to speed, potentially creating collision hazards since the waterfront should also accommodate pedestrians, runners, and fishermen amongst others.
- There was a strong preference for a meandering pathway along the waterfront, with vegetated pockets and benches facing the water.
- While participants found the idea of walking on top of the berm appealing, many stressed that this alternative would not provide enough usable park space.
- The elevated Solar Two structure was well received by workshop participants. Several individuals pointed out that vehicular access to the building would be beneficial.
- All groups emphasized the need for a large event space in the park, with a capacity of up to 100 guests. Participants expressed enthusiasm about the amphitheater-like seating near the E20th St. opening and the terraced seating in proximity to Solar Two.

PRELIMINARY CROSS-SECTION

WATERSIDE BIKEWAY AND FOOTPATH, PARTIALLY ELEVATED



EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS: DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

JULY 28,29,&30 + SEPT. 10, 2015

ALTERNATIVE C

STUYVESANT COVE PARK

- Participants were strongly in favor of the flexible programming space beneath the berm at the E20th St. opening. While some saw an opportunity to integrate a seasonal coffee shop, others suggested the indoor space could be used to host events, potentially in collaboration with Solar Two. With increased pedestrian activity and adequate lighting, the access route to the park would remain safe and inviting to all.
- Participants who were particularly concerned about bike and pedestrian conflicts along the waterfront were comforted by the fully elevated bikeway and the two levels of pedestrian pathways. While there was a strong desire to make use of different surface treatments and greenery to clearly differentiate the bike lane and pedestrian pathway, a majority of participants were enthusiastic about this pathway configuration.
- All groups appreciated the wide meandering waterfront path, and many thought Option C provided the most elegant and functional design.
- Several individuals inquired about the slope of the access ramps to the elevated park for visitors with limited physical ability, or strollers.

PRELIMINARY CROSS-SECTION

FULLY ELEVATED PARK AND PATH

