



Park Ave, 40th – 41st St: Pershing Square South

Community Board 5, Transportation & Environment Committee – Feb. 24, 2025



Public Realm Feedback Loop



Community Partnership + Engagement



Open Streets



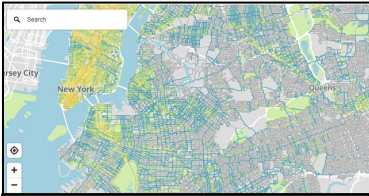
Crossings + Intersections



Dynamic Curb + Corridor Strategies



Premier Public Spaces



Comprehensive Planning + Policy



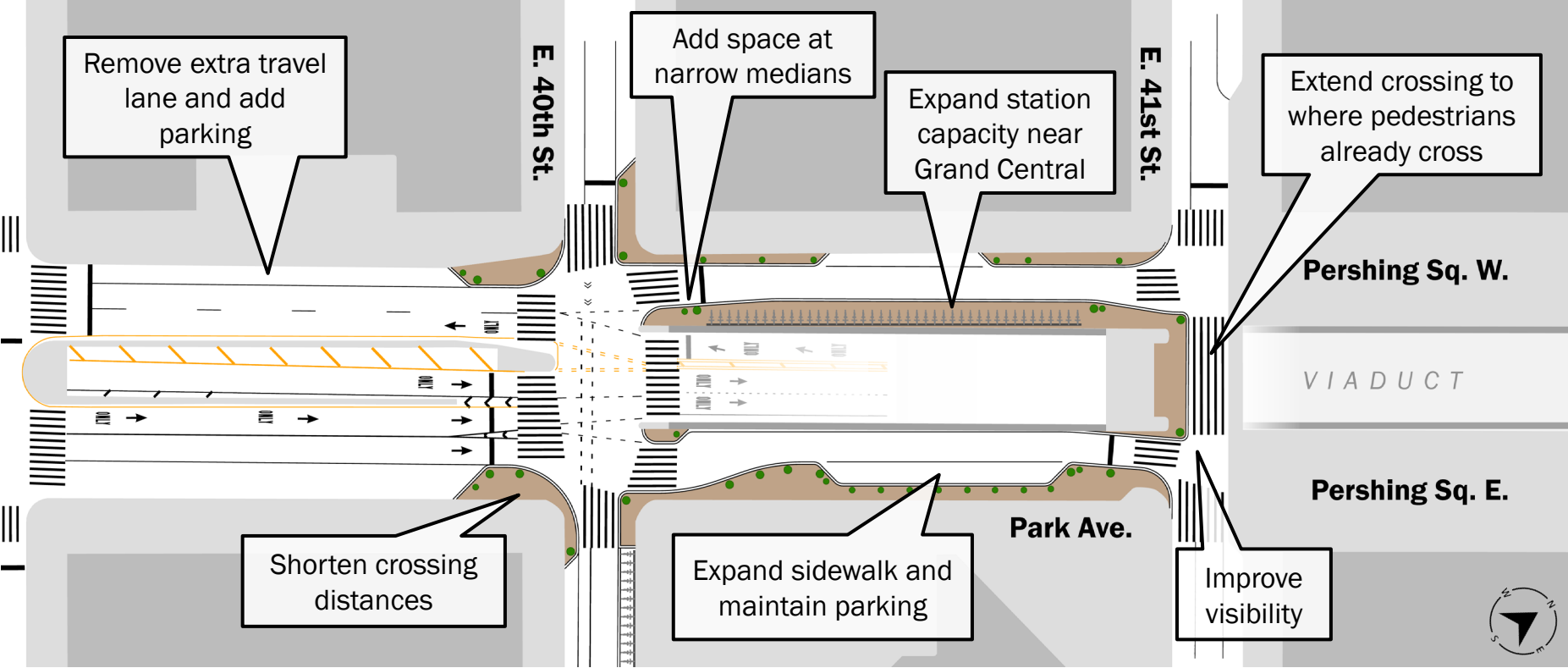
Equity Focused Maintenance



Programming + Concessions



Design Proposal

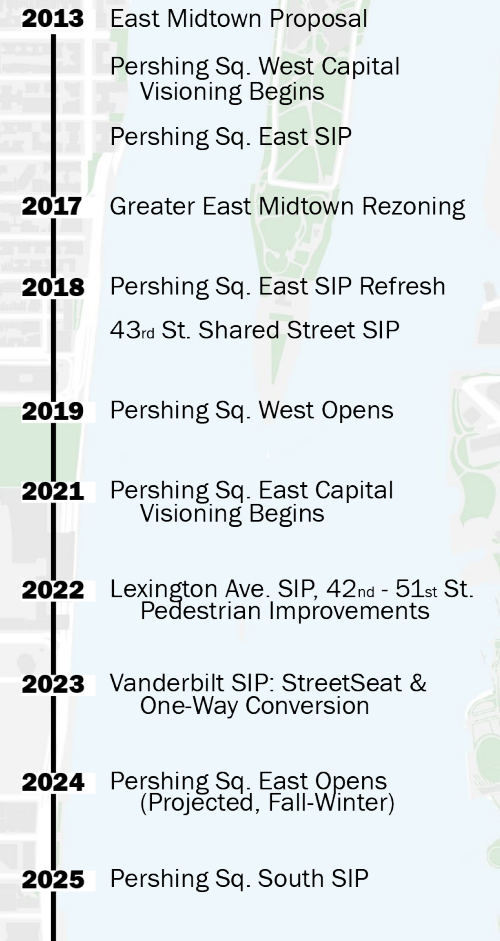
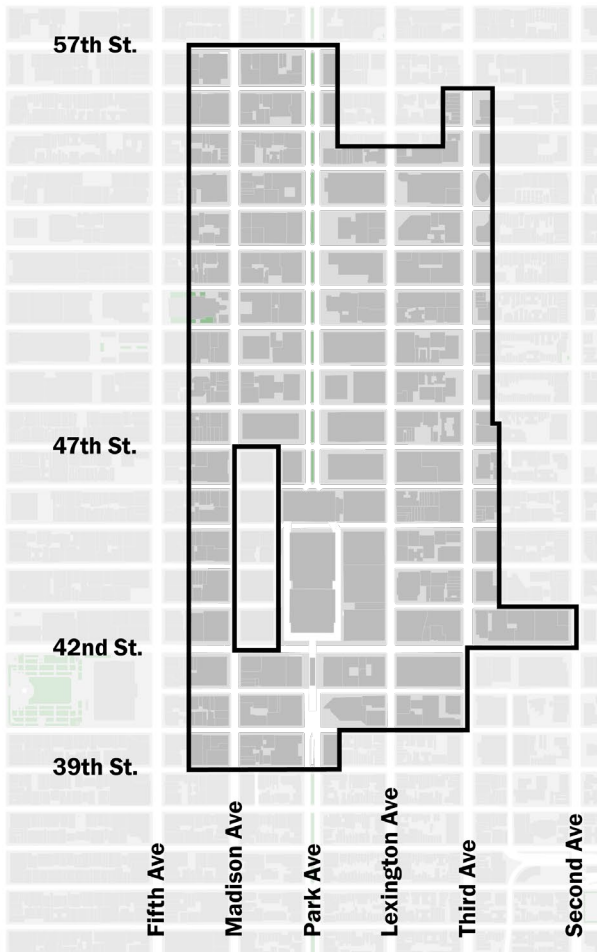


Project Context



East Midtown Rezoning

- “Upgrading the area’s transit network and pedestrian realm”
- Advance the City’s Vision Zero program and enhance pedestrian safety, including:
 - Pedestrian Plazas
 - Shared Streets
 - Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements



East Midtown Rezoning

DOT Projects



57th St.

47th St.

42nd St.

39th St.

Fifth Ave

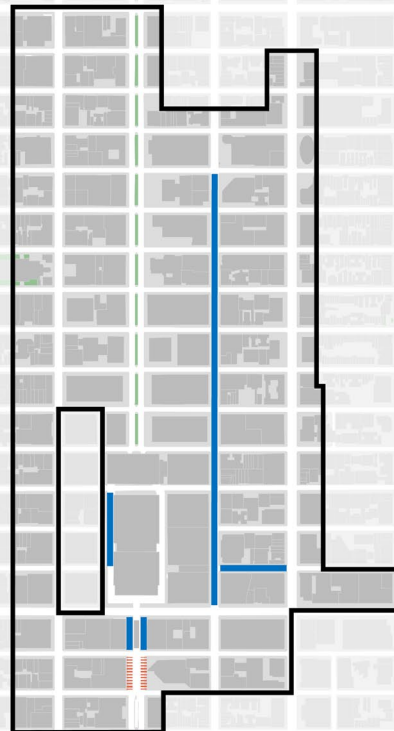
Madison Ave

Park Ave

Lexington Ave

Third Ave

Second Ave



2013 East Midtown Proposal

Pershing Sq. West Capital
Visioning Begins

Pershing Sq. East SIP

2017 Greater East Midtown Rezoning

2018 Pershing Sq. East SIP Refresh

43rd St. Shared Street SIP

2019 **Pershing Sq. West Opens**

2021 Pershing Sq. East Capital
Visioning Begins

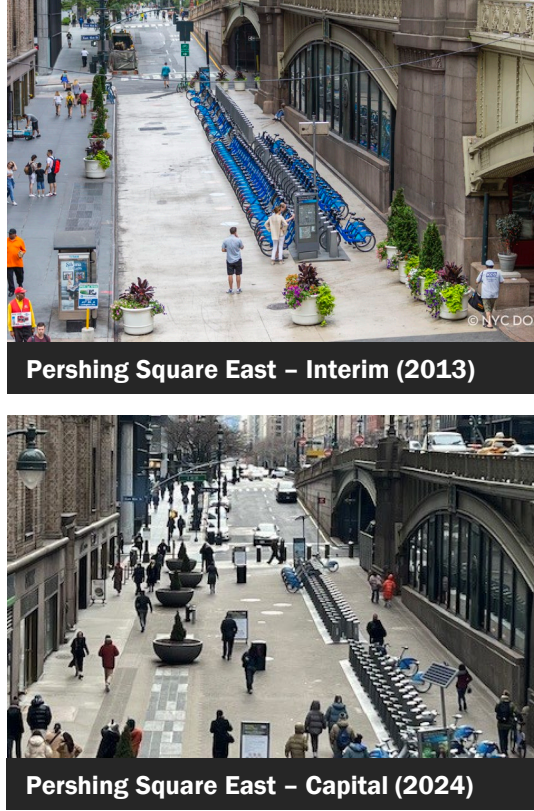
2022 **Lexington Ave. SIP, 42nd - 51st St.
Pedestrian Improvements**

2023 **Vanderbilt SIP: StreetSeat &
One-Way Conversion**

2024 Pershing Sq. East Opens

2025 **Pershing Sq. South SIP**

Pershing Square



- 2013** East Midtown Proposal
 - Pershing Sq. West Capital Visioning Begins**
 - Pershing Sq. East SIP**
- 2017** Greater East Midtown Rezoning
- 2018** **Pershing Sq. East SIP Refresh**
43rd St. Shared Street SIP
- 2019** **Pershing Sq. West Opens**
- 2021** **Pershing Sq. East Capital Visioning Begins**
- 2022** Lexington Ave. SIP, 42nd - 51st St. Pedestrian Improvements
- 2023** Vanderbilt SIP: StreetSeat & One-Way Conversion
- 2024** **Pershing Sq. East Opens**
- 2025** **Pershing Sq. South SIP**

Pershing Square



- Adjacent to Grand Central
 - 4, 5, 6, 7, and Shuttle
 - Long Island RailRoad
 - MetroNorth
- Daily average of **over 40,000 pedestrians** using Pershing Sq. West
- Bike docks in Pershing Sq. East are some of the busiest in the city
- Within East Midtown Rezoning

Existing Conditions

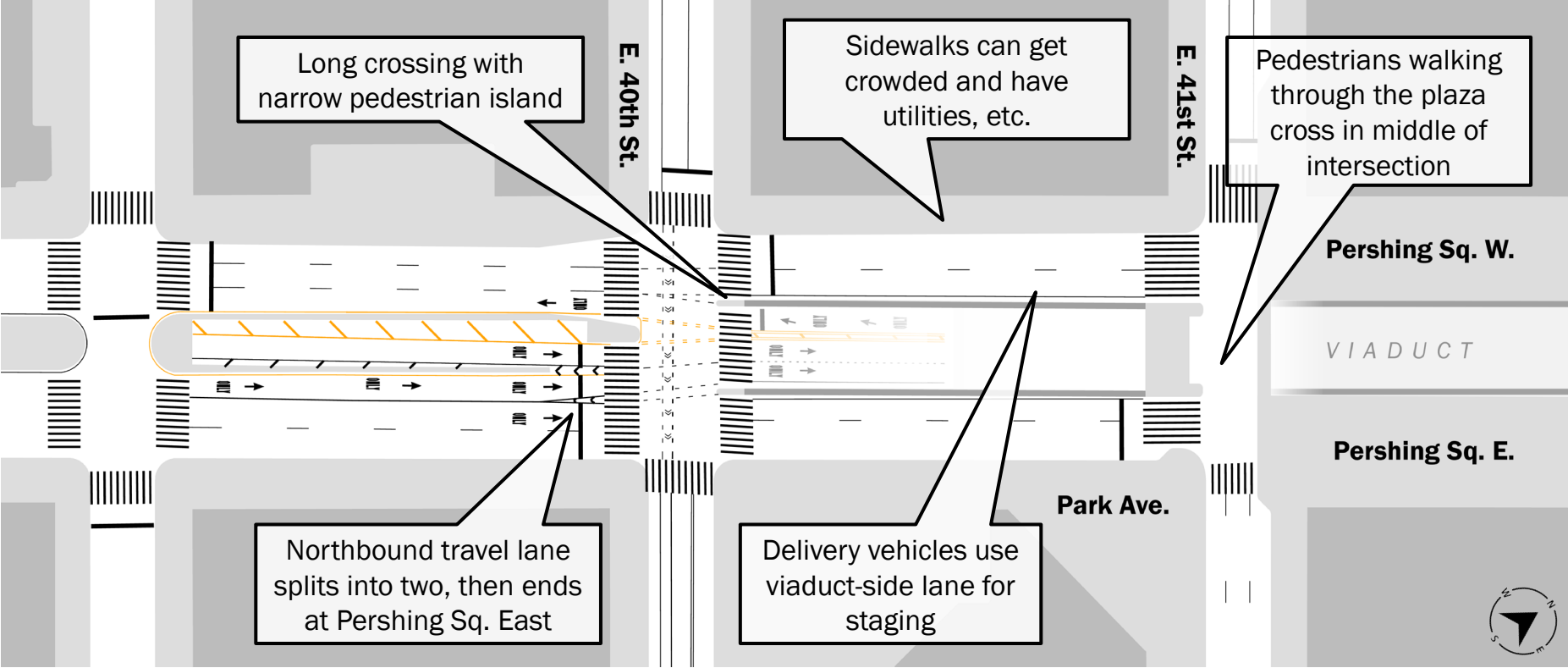
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Bikeshare Network

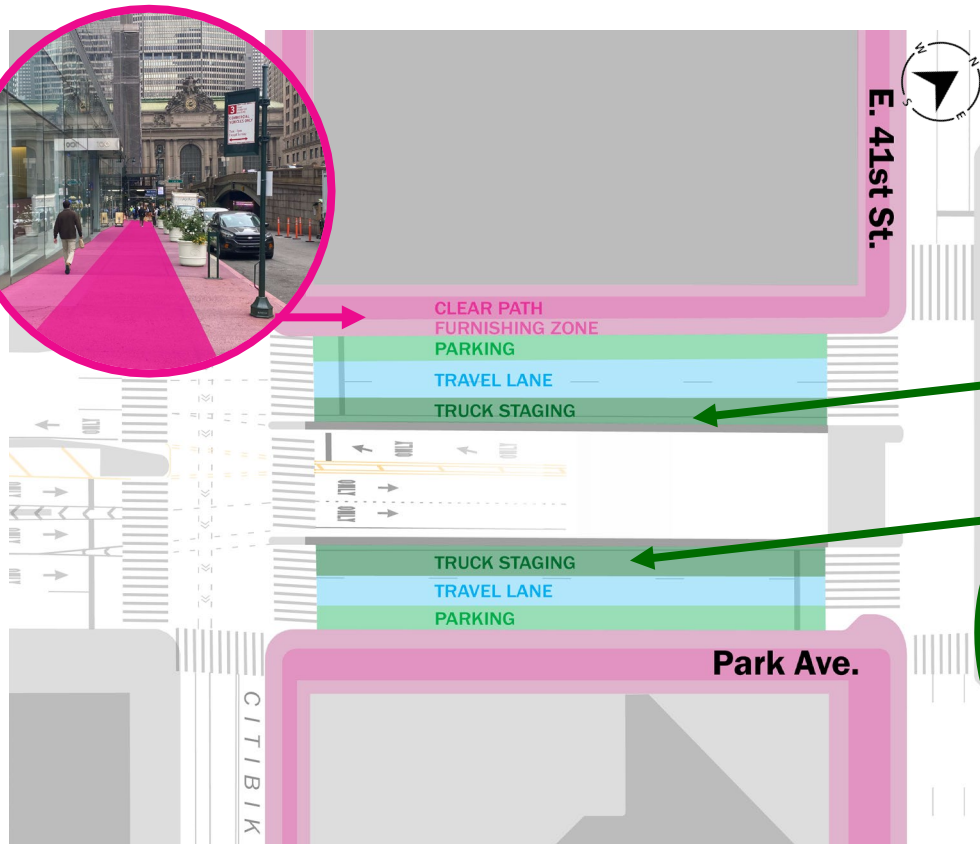


- In 2023, the Pershing Sq. relocations were amongst the highest ridership stations in the system:
 - **499** daily trips at E. 40th & Park Ave
 - **416** daily trips at E. 41st & Madison Ave
 - System-wide daily average is 97 trips
- Approx. 500+ additional docks are needed to meet rider demand in the area

Park Ave, 40th - 41st St.



Operations



- Street does not currently operate according to markings and signage
- Instead of two travel lanes and one parking lane, this block operates as one travel lane and two lanes of parking/delivery staging



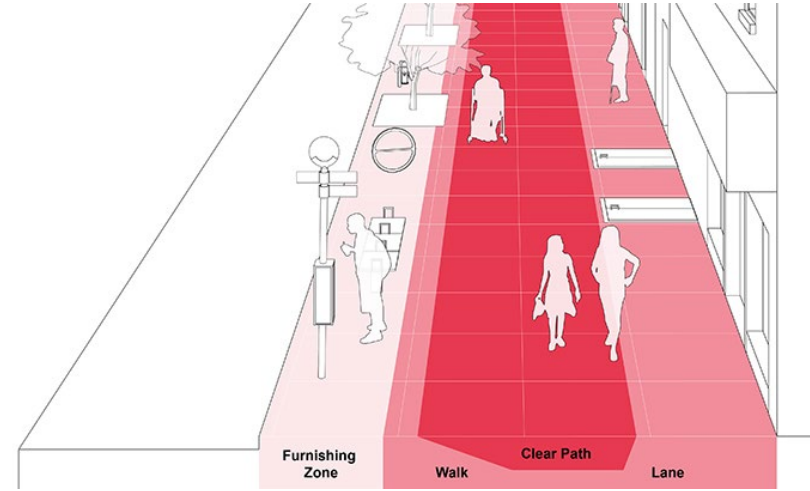
Pedestrian Mobility Plan

The Pedestrian Mobility Plan uses pedestrian volumes and trip generators to categorize streets and provide design guidelines to improve pedestrian comfort and convenience.

Park Ave, 40th – 41st St.

Regional Corridor

- Groups of people passing each other
- Concentration of pedestrian destinations
- Suggested width of 20'+, clear path of 12'
 - Current width ~17' total, clear path ~9'



Corridor Category	Sidewalk Width	Furnishing Zone	Walk Lane	Clear Path
Baseline Street	8' +	3'	5'	4'
Community Connector	10' +	2'	8'	5'
Neighborhood Corridor	15' +	3'	12'	8'
Regional Corridor	20' +	5'	15'	12'
Global Corridor	25' +	5'	20'	15'

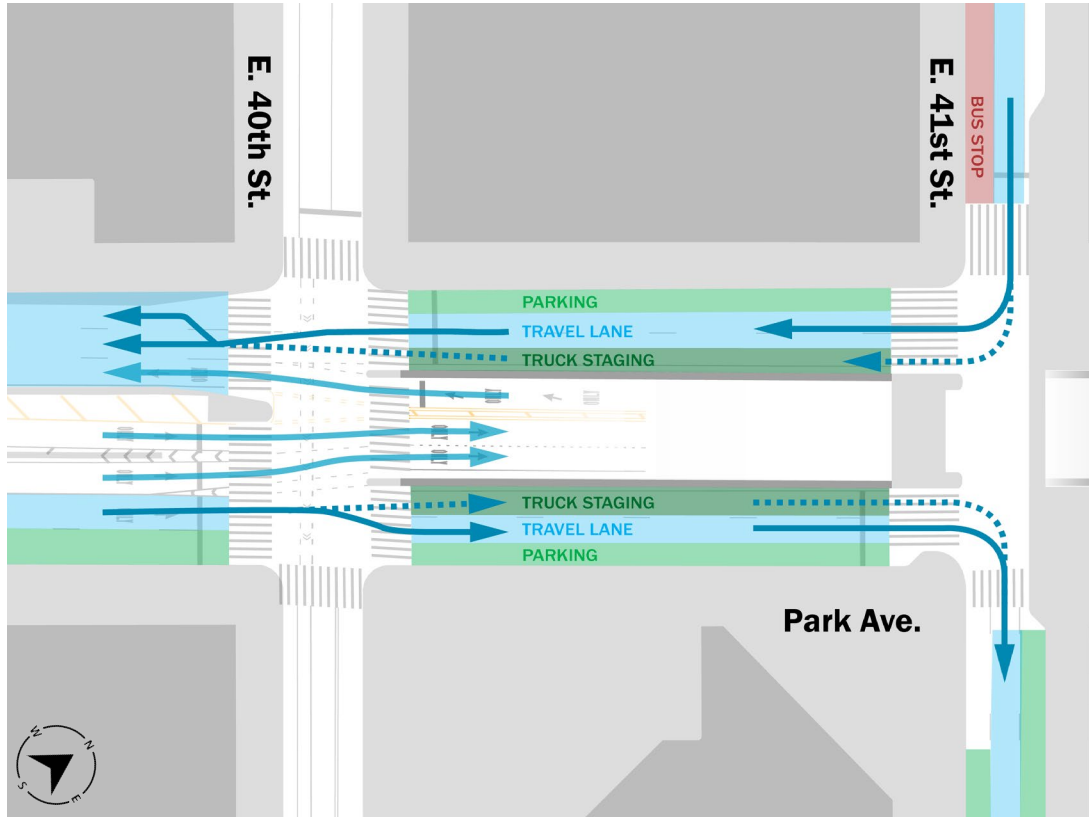
Sidewalks & Crossings



- 1 Narrow islands when crossing the viaduct
- 2 Sidewalk is congested with utility infrastructure, signage, parking meters, etc.
- 3 **Pedestrians** walking through Pershing Sq. West frequently cross through the middle of the intersection



Vehicle Operations



West Side (top, southbound):

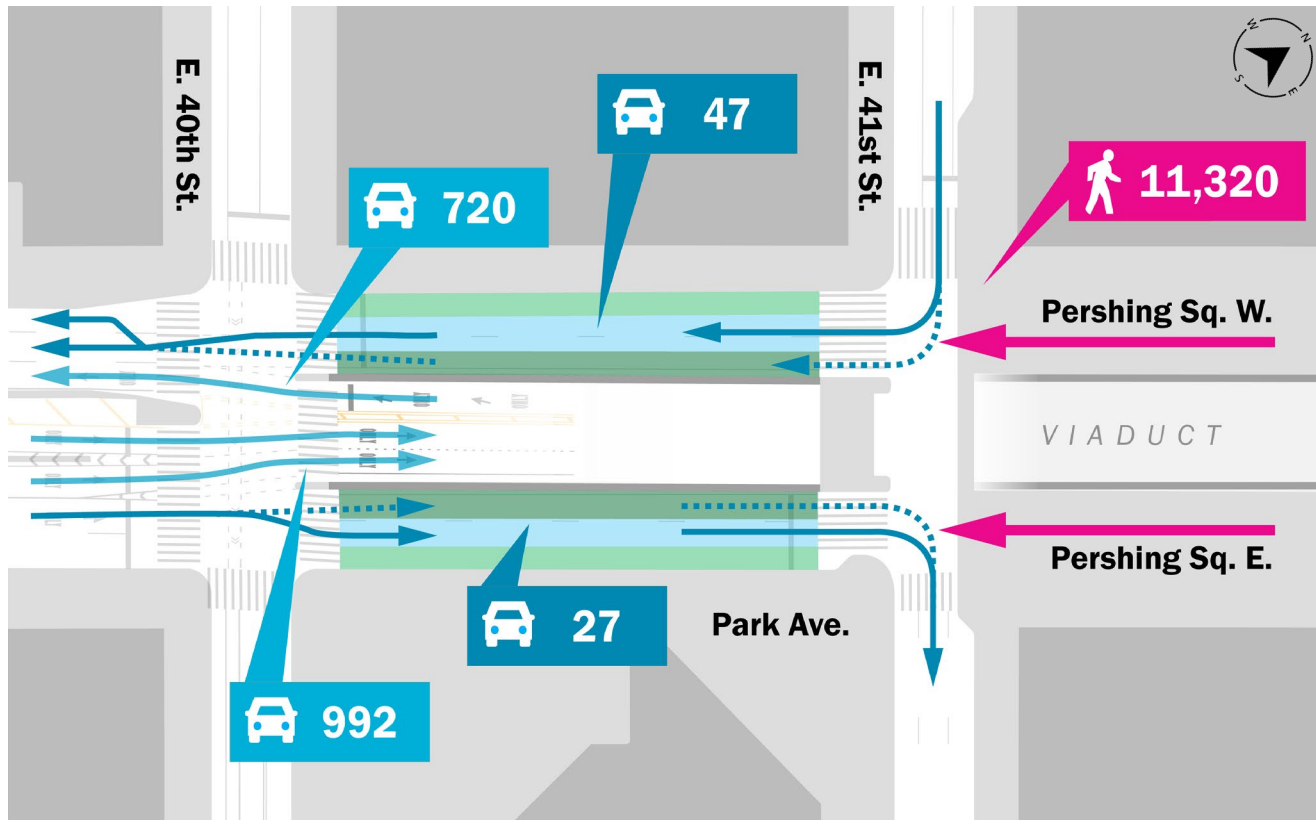
- Effectively one travel lane with two lanes of parking
- One travel lane splits into two at E. 40th St.

East Side (bottom, northbound):

- One travel lane at E. 40th splits into two for one block
- Reduces back down to one at the forced turn onto E. 41st St.

One travel lane increased to two for one block, then back to one, when not used for delivery staging

Volumes



During morning rush hour on **Park Ave***:

- <1 vehicle per minute traveling southbound
- <1 vehicle every 2 minutes traveling northbound

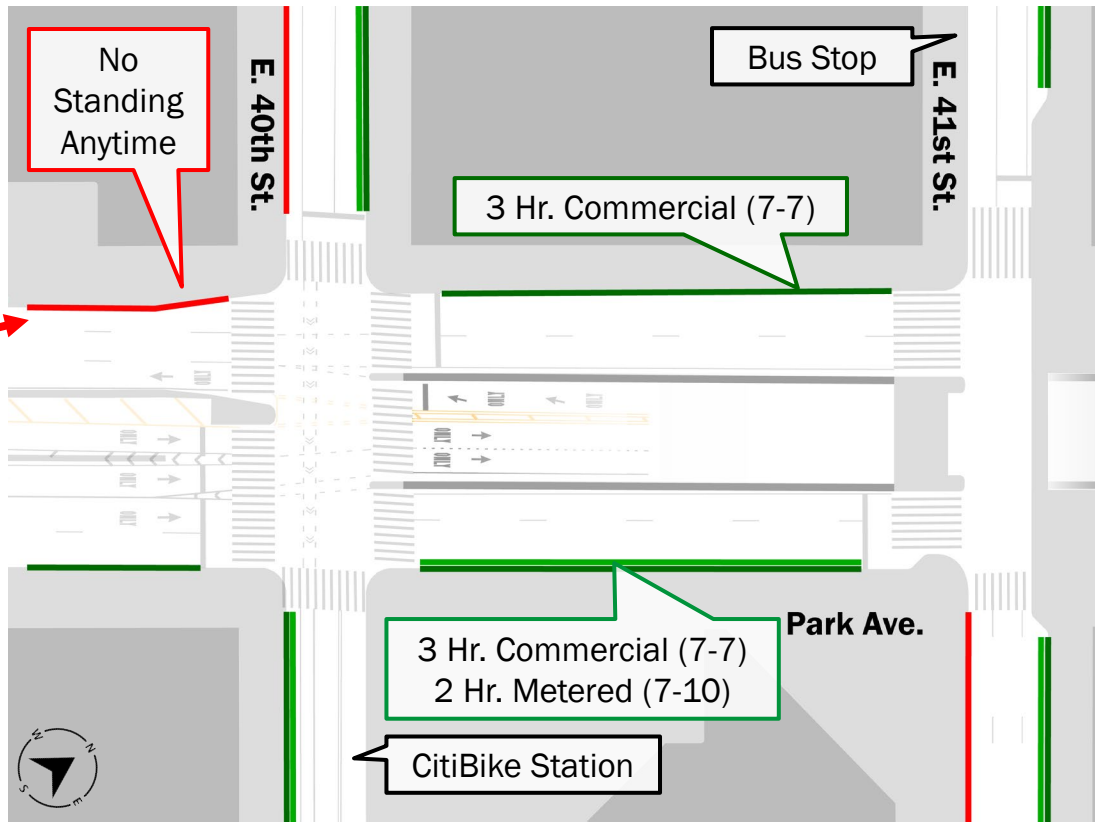
Over **11,000 pedestrians** walking through Pershing Square during morning rush hour**

*Annual Average Daily Traffic, 2019

**GCP Pedestrian Counts, May 2024

Curb Regulations

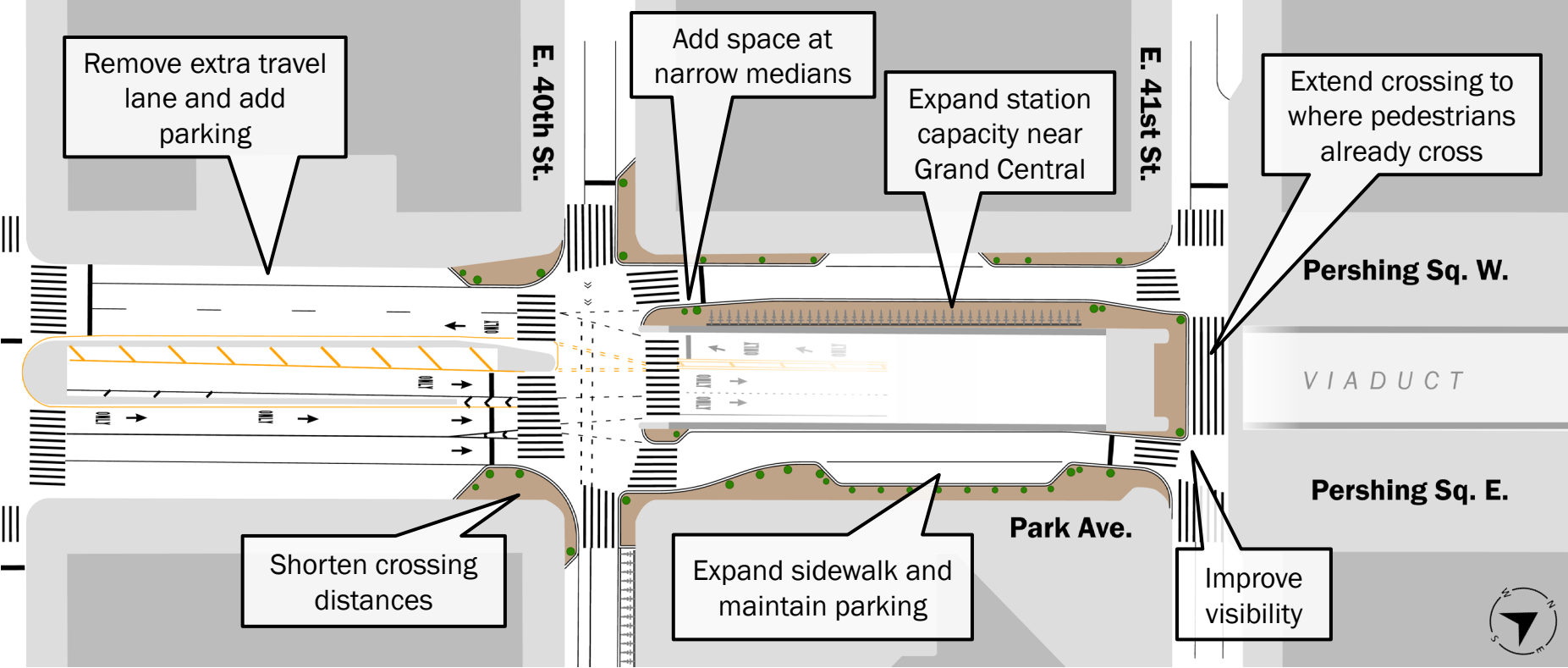
- Time-of-day commercial parking regulations
- Rush hour “No Standing Anytime” lane functions as delivery staging
- Illegal parking and delivery staging in the travel lane against the viaduct wall



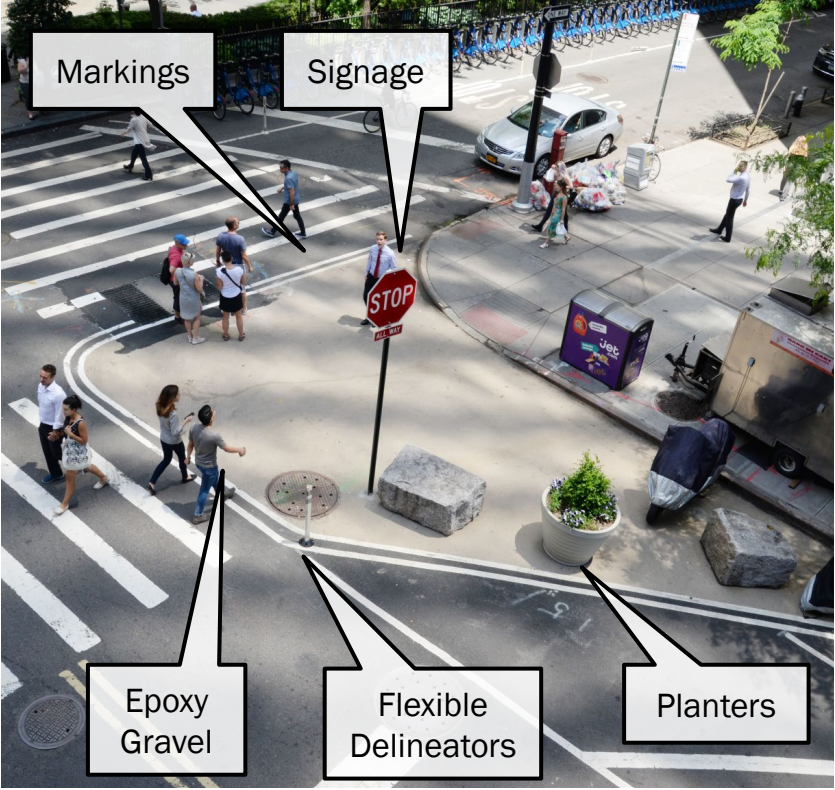
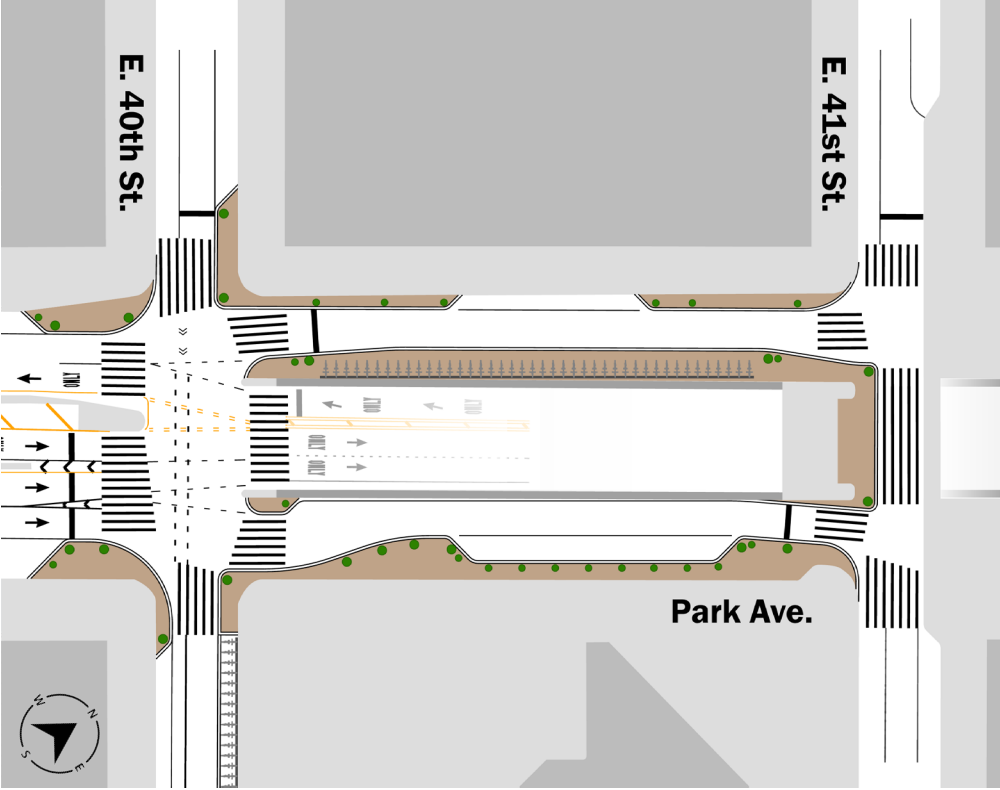
Design Proposal

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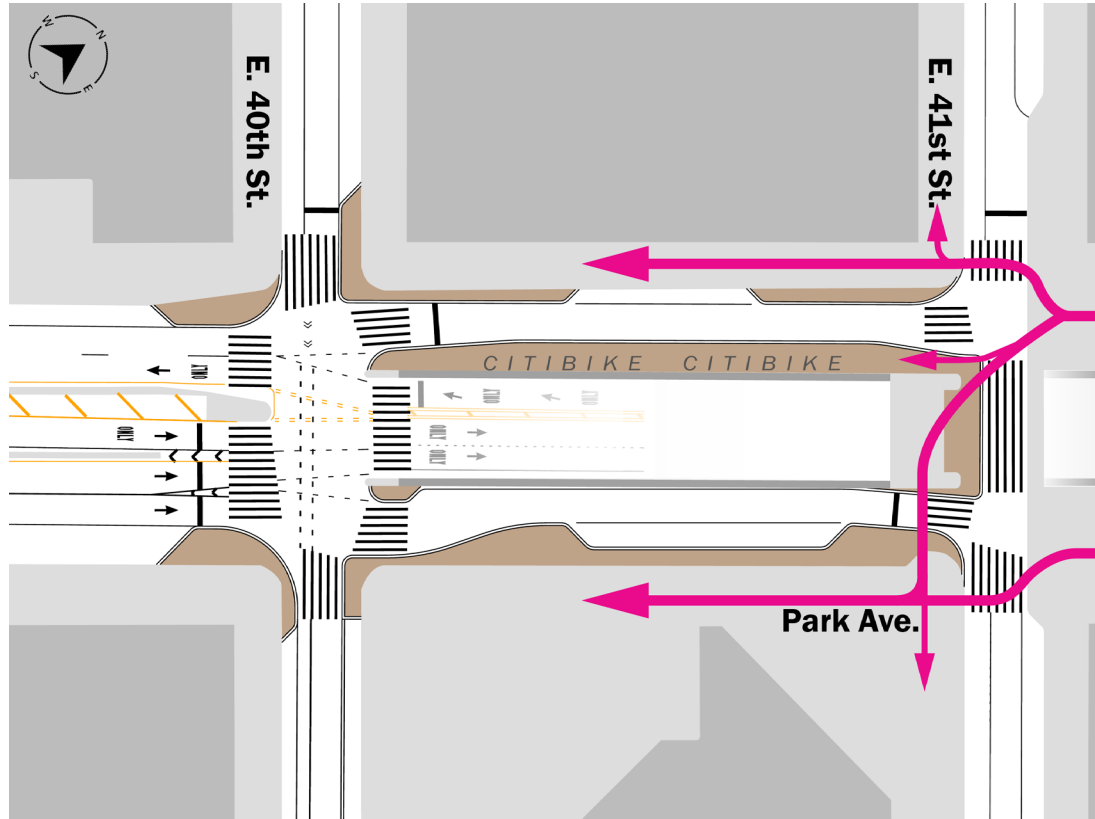
Design Proposal



Materials

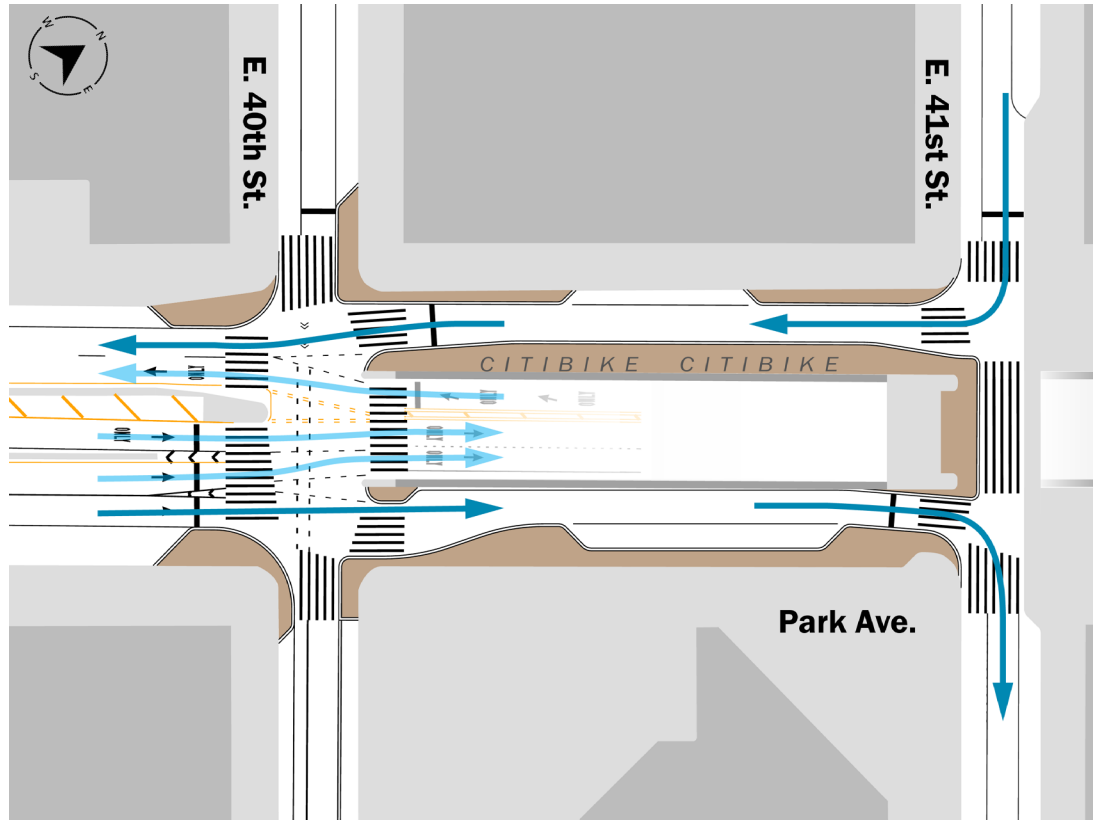


Proposed Sidewalks & Crossings



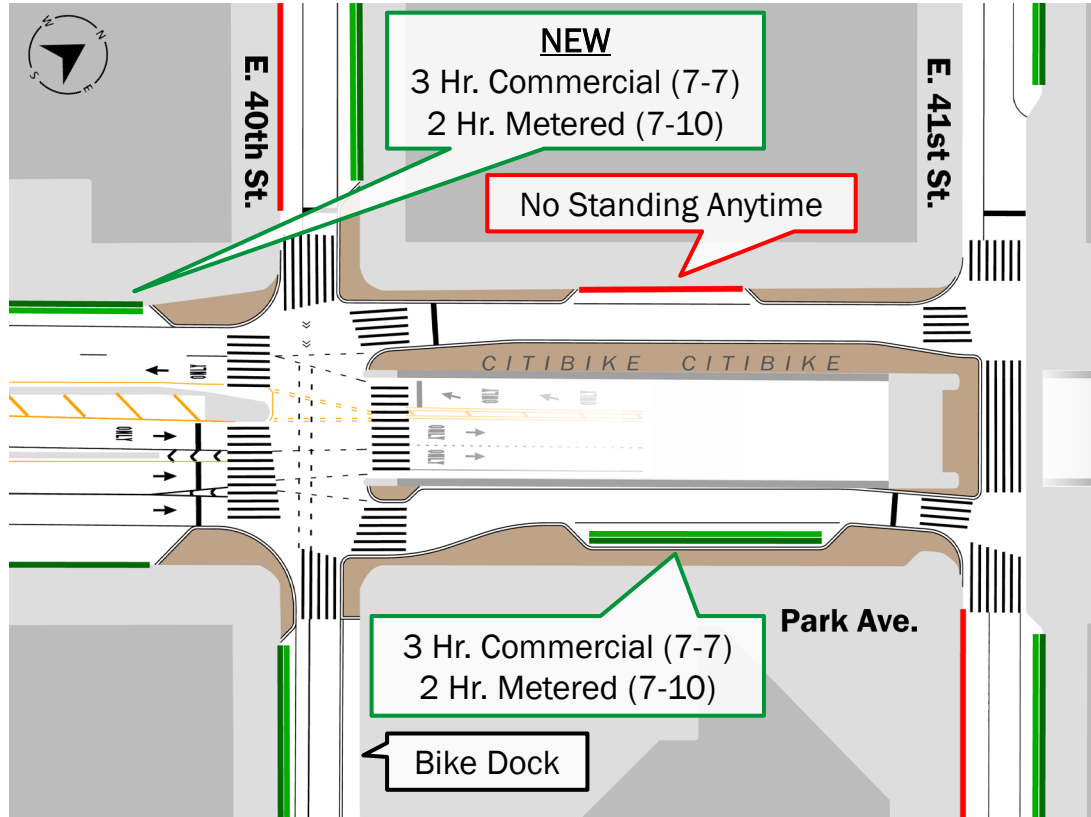
- Add crosswalk under viaduct, where **pedestrians** already cross
 - Same treatment on 42nd St
- Expand sidewalks on both sides of the street and shorten crossing distances
- Add pedestrian space at narrow viaduct island

Traffic Changes



- 40th – 41st St.
 - Remove one travel lane in either direction to have one travel lane entering and exiting the block
- 39th – 40th St.
 - Convert southbound rush hour travel lane to parking

Curb Regulations

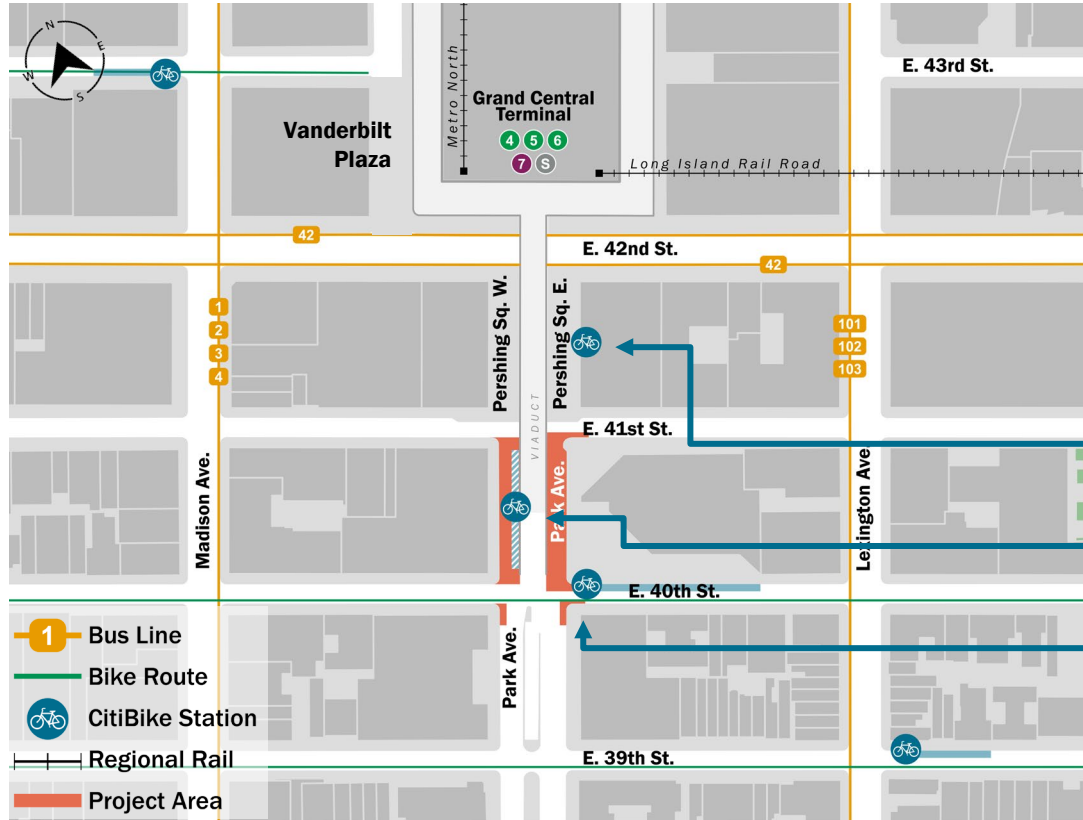


- 40th – 41st St
 - Maintain parking on east side
 - Add NSA on west curb for pick-up and drop-off
- 39th – 40th St
 - Convert southbound rush hour lane from “No Standing Anytime” to time-of-day commercial regulations

-230 linear feet of parking removed (40th – 41st St)

+150 linear feet of parking to (39th – 40th St)

Bikeshare Network



- Trip modeling shows 500+ additional docks are needed to meet rider demand in the area
- Add 250 docks to the area:
 - Pershing Sq. E stations reinstalled
 - Install new station along the west side of the viaduct
 - Keep E. 40th & Park Ave station as a permanent site

Timeline

2024	Spring – Summer	Coordination with BID
	Fall – Winter	Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement
		Completion of Pershing Square East Plaza
2025	Winter	CB5 Presentations CB6 Letter (E. 39 th – E. 40 th St.)
	Summer	Project Implementation

Thank You!
Questions?

