

February 5, 2020 / Calendar No. 7

C 190043 MMX

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application, submitted by the Department of Transportation, Division of Bridges pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter, for an amendment to the City Map involving:

• the modification of legal grades on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street between Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West;

in Community District 6, Borough of The Bronx, in accordance with Map No. 13143 dated May 29, 2019 and signed by the Borough President.

This application for an amendment to the City Map was filed by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), Division of Bridges, on August 16, 2018. The proposed City Map amendment would facilitate the rehabilitation of the East 180<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over the Harlem Line of the Metro-North Railroad (MNR) in the Belmont neighborhood of the Bronx, Community District 6.

### **BACKGROUND**

The East 180th Street bridge was originally built in 1889 and was reconstructed in both 1905 and 1936. It is a single-span arch structure, oriented in the east-west direction. The bridge carries East 180th Street over four tracks of MNR with one lane of traffic in each direction and 18-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides. The bridge is 58 feet wide and 61 feet long with a minimum vertical clearance, from top of rail to the bottom of the bridge, of 15.64 inches.

The subject portion of East 180th Street is City owned, mapped to a width of 80 feet and approximately 300 feet in length. It carries one lane of traffic in each direction with a striped median and turn lane and 15-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides. The profile of the street is proposed to be raised by approximately 1.5, feet with a change in legal grade of approximately two feet.

The bridge was last reconstructed 84 years ago. Several bridge elements, including the reinforced concrete deck, steel girders, concrete and masonry abutments, bearings and sidewalks exhibit significant deficiencies and the proposed project would replace the superstructure of the bridge. The work would include removal of the existing bridge superstructure and replacement with cast-in-place concrete deck over steel girders; construction of new sidewalks; installation of bridge railing and bridge fencing; construction of new reinforced approach slabs and new asphalt roadway pavements; and installation of utilities, some of which would be supported in place during construction. The proposed profile will be raised to accommodate various utilities, and to maintain existing minimum vertical clearance over the railroad.

In response to a polling letter issued on September 13, 2018, no City agencies or utilities expressed any objections to the proposal.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This application (C 190043 MMX) was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 *et seq.* and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The lead agency is DOT. The designated CEQR number is 17DOT008X.

This application was determined to be a Type II action, which requires no further review.

## UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

This application (C 190043 MMX) was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on September 9, 2020, and was duly referred to The Bronx Community Board 6 and the Borough Board and the Borough President, in accordance with Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York, Section 2-02(b).

## **Community Board Public Hearing**

Community Board 6 did not hold a public hearing or vote on this application.

## **Borough President Recommendation**

This application (C 190043 MMX) was considered by the Bronx Borough President, who on December 10, 2019 issued a recommendation in favor of the application.

# **City Planning Commission Public Hearing**

On December 18, 2019 (Calendar No. 2), the City Planning Commission scheduled January 8, 2020, for a public hearing on this application (C 190043 MMX). The hearing was duly held on January 8, 2020 (Calendar No. 28). There was one speaker in favor of the application and none in opposition.

A representative of the applicant described the proposed bridge rehabilitation, and explained that the proposed grade changes and City Map amendment are needed to complete the bridge rehabilitation while maintaining minimum vertical clearances over MNR.

There were no other speakers and the hearing was closed.

#### CONSIDERATION

The Commission believes that this application for an amendment to the City Map (C 190043 MMX) is appropriate.

The City Planning Commission notes that the East 180<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge was built in 1889 to span the MNR and was rehabilitated in 1905 and 1936. This structure, last rehabilitated 84 years ago, now has several elements exhibiting significant deficiencies. The proposed action is needed to repair these deficiencies including replacing the bridge superstructure and the installation of new utilities. The Commission believes that the rehabilitation of the bridge will extend its lifespan and

improve public safety. The Commission recognizes that the proposed City Map amendment is necessary for DOT to rehabilitate the existing bridge.

## RESOLUTION

Therefore, the City Planning Commission, deeming the proposed amendment to the City Map and any related acquisition or disposition of real property related thereto to be appropriate, adopts the following resolution:

**RESOLVED,** that the City Planning Commission finds that the action described herein will have no significant impact on the environment; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and the consideration described in this report, the application (C 190043 MMX), for an amendment to the City Map involving:

• the modification of legal grades on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street between Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West;

in Community District 6, Borough of The Bronx, in accordance with Map No. 13143 dated May 29, 2019 and signed by the Borough President.

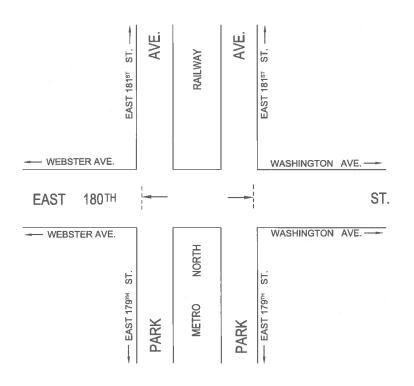
All such approvals being subject to the following conditions:

The subject amendment to the City Map shall take effect on the day following the day on which certified counterparts of Map No. 13143 dated May 29, 2019 are filed with the appropriate agencies in accordance with Section 198 subsection c of the New York City Charter.

The above resolution (C 190043 MMX), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on

February 5, 2020 (Calendar No. 7), is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

MARISA LAGO, Chair KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq., Vice-Chairman DAVID J. BURNEY, ALLEN P. CAPPELLI, Esq., ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, MICHELLE de la UZ, JOSEPH I. DOUEK, RICHARD W. EADDY, HOPE KNIGHT, ANNA HAYES LEVIN, ORLANDO MARIN, LARISA ORTIZ, RAJ RAMPERSHAD, Commissioners





CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

CITY OF NEW YORK

DIAGRAM SHOWING PROPOSED

## **MAP CHANGE**

ON SECTIONAL MAP

3

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

SCALE IN FEET
100 0 100

P.L.

P. Montgomery, P.E. Chief Engineer

NOTE:

New York, Certification Date

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

Indicates line of street legally adopted.

Indicates limits of area generally affected by grade change.

THIS DIAGRAM IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT RECOMMENDATION	CITY PLANNING COMMISSION 22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007 Fax # (212)720-3356
INSTRUCTIONS	
<ol> <li>Return this completed form with any attachments to the Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E at the above address.</li> </ol>	<ol><li>Send one copy with any attachments to the applicant's representative as indicated on the Notice of Certification.</li></ol>
APPLICATION # C 190043 MMX-EAST 180 <sup>TH</sup> STREET BRIDGE	REHABILITATION
DOCKET DESRCRIPTION	
PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR DOCKET DESCRIPTION	
COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 6	BOROUGH: BRONX
RECOMMENDATION	
APPROVE	
APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS	(List below)
DISAPPROVE	
EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATION-MODIFICATION/COI	NDITIONS (Attach additional sheets if necessary)
PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REC	COMMENDATION
TEASE SEE ATTACHMENT ON BONGOOTT RESIDENT STREET	SAMULIDATION .

B ROUGH PRESIDENT

12/10/2019 DATE

# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 190043 MMX EAST 180<sup>TH</sup> STREET BRIDGE REHABILITATION

#### **DOCKET DESCRIPTION**

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application, submitted by the Department of Transportation, Division of Bridges pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter, for an amendment to the City Map involving:

 The modification of legal grades on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street between Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West;

In Community District #6, Borough of The Bronx, in accordance with Map No. 13143 dated May 29, 2019, and signed by the Borough President.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Approving this application is necessary to facilitate the reconstruction and the resulting change of grades of an existing vehicular and pedestrian bridge located on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street. It links the northbound travel lanes of Park Avenue on the east with the southbound travel lanes of Park Avenue on the west, spanning over the below-grade, track bed of Metro North Railroad's four-track-right-of-way. The current bridge, constructed in 1936\*, is:

- 61 feet in length
- 80 feet in width
- 44 feet from curb to curb
- 18 feet wide are concrete sidewalks located on the north and south side of the bridge span
- 2,684 square feet of total deck area
- Traffic flows both east and west across the bridge

Due to deteriorated condition of the existing bridge, The New York City Department of Transportation's Bridge Division proposes to reconstruct the current bridge, replacing it with new structure. To accomplish this objective the overall project area encompasses 350 feet along East 180<sup>th</sup> Street and 200 feet along both sides of Park Avenue. As this span crosses over an active railroad right-of-way, a portion of the work associated with this project will take place after 9 p.m. and conclude at approximately 5:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. The project's time line approximates 22 months.

<sup>\*</sup>This crossing was originally constructed in 1889.

Key community impact considerations for this project include:

- Two 11-foot lanes for traffic will be available on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street at all times;
- One 11-foot travel lane on Park Avenue will be available at all times;
- One sidewalk over the railroad right-of-way will be available at all times;
- A segment of Park Avenue, north bound will be closed to traffic for three months;
- On street parking within the construction area will be reduced by approximately 10 spaces to accommodate construction;
- Traffic control agents will be requested and be posted to direct traffic when necessary;
- Maintain clearance for railroad operations at all times.

The scope of work associated with this project includes:

- Replace bridge deck;
- Install new infrastructure including gas mains, electric conduits and water mains;
- Install new bridge railings and pedestrian fencing;
- Reconstruct sidewalks, pedestrian ramps;
- Install new streetlights;
- Restripe pavement on the bridge and on bridge approaches.

Development of the surrounding community is composed of low-rise and mid-rise residences as well as one-story industrial buildings. Commercial activity is found on Webster Avenue, one block west of Park Avenue. Mass transportation via bus is provided by the Bx36 operating on East 180<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bx41 Select Bus Service (SBS) and local service on Webster Avenue. Access to Metro North Railroad is available at the Tremont Station on East Tremont Avenue, approximately three blocks south of the construction area. The closest subway access is at the 182<sup>nd</sup>-183<sup>rd</sup> Streets Station for the B and D trains approximately a half mile uphill northwest of this project.

# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION

This application has been reviewed pursuant to CEQR and SEQR and received a Negative Declaration. The City Planning Commission certified this application as complete on September 23, 2019.

# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Bronx Community Board #6 held a public hearing did not hold a public hearing on this matter.

# BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was convened by the Bronx Borough President on November 26, 2019. Representatives of the applicant were present and spoke in favor of this application. There being no members of the public in attendance and the hearing was closed.

# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Maintaining safe bridges and related infrastructure is essential for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. I am therefore pleased to endorse the reconstruction of this bridge. I am also satisfied that the city's Department of Transportation's Bridge Division is taking the necessary steps to

assure that traffic congestion and the noise associated with this project are managed and minimized.

I recommend approval of this application.