

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# SAFE STREETS NYC

## TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY







## **SAFE STREETS NYC:**

**Traffic Safety Improvements In New York City** 

### April 2006

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Note:

All new content since the last publication of this report (December 2004) is identified by red italicized and bold fonts.

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Park Avenue / East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Edgecombe Avenue Upper Park Avenue West 30<sup>th</sup> Street / 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Triangle @ Canal, Laight and Varick Streets

Improvements in the Vicinity of the Henry Hudson Parkway Interchange and West 95th and 96th Streets

- Henry Hudson Parkway Interchange
- West 95th Street / Riverside Drive
- West 96th Street / Broadway
- West 95th Street Between Riverside Drive and Amsterdam Avenue
- West 96th Street / West End Avenue



Queens Boulevard

- Queens Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Study
- Queens Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Study (Phase II)
- Queens Boulevard High Accident Location Improvements
- Queens Boulevard / Woodhaven Boulevard / 59th Avenue
- Queens Boulevard / Van Dam Street / Thomson Avenue

**Rockaway Freeway** 

Linden Boulevard / South Conduit Avenue Main Street Southbound Service Road @ 68<sup>th</sup> Drive Main Street Southbound Service Road @ 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Cooper Avenue Underpass / 74<sup>th</sup> Street Van Wyck Expressway / North Conduit Avenue Northern Boulevard Corridor - Northern Boulevard / Clearview Expressway

Francis Lewis Boulevard Between 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue / 220<sup>th</sup> Street & 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue / 232<sup>nd</sup> Street Francis Lewis Boulevard Between Springfield Boulevard and 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue / 220<sup>th</sup> Street 69<sup>th</sup> Street / Grand Avenue / Long Island Expressway Parsons Boulevard / Kissena Boulevard 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Hylan Boulevard Hylan Boulevard / Reynolds Street Father Capodanno Boulevard Page Avenue / P.S. 6 Borough Wide Daylighting Initiative Forest Avenue / Morningstar Road / Richmond Avenue Narrows Road South / Richmond Road



Atlantic Avenue Safety Improvements (Brooklyn and Queens)

- Atlantic Avenue Woodhaven Boulevard to Rockaway Boulevard
- Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn Corridor
- Atlantic Avenue Safety Study

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## **CITYWIDE INITIATIVES**

**Oversized Street Name Signs** Improving Safety at Intermodal Transit Stations / Bus Stops Under the El

- Jerome Avenue / Burnside Avenue

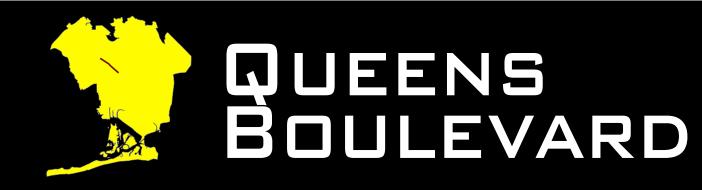
- Bay Parkway / 86<sup>th</sup> Street Citywide Pedestrian Bridge Safety Project

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#### Description

Queens Boulevard is a major east-west arterial connecting the Queensboro Bridge to the west and the Van Wyck Expressway to the east and is highly utilized by both vehicular and pedestrian traffic along its entire length. In most sections, Queens Boulevard is an extremely wide arterial consisting of three mainline and three service road lanes in each direction separated by a raised curb median that offers refuge for pedestrians crossing this wide boulevard (up to 200 feet in some locations). Several express and local buses traverse the corridor, as well as access to the local (G and R) and express subway lines (E, F, V and #7).

Due to these characteristics, there are several locations along the Boulevard that have incidences of high accidents, for both vehicles and pedestrians. Furthermore, a large percentage of the population crossing Queens Boulevard (particularly in Forest Hills and Rego Park) is elderly.

Given these physical characteristics, the Department has been actively engaged in improving the vehicular and pedestrian environment for over a decade. One of the primary goals for the Department has been the reduction of fatalities along the corridor. *Between 1993 and 2005, there have been a total of 109 fatalities, of which 86 (or 79%) were pedestrian fatalities. Total fatalities peaked in 1993 at 24 (17 of which were pedestrians) and continued to decrease over the next ten years, except in 1997 when 22 fatalities (18 of which were pedestrians) occurred. In 2004, fatalities reached an all-time low of two, only one of which involved a pedestrian. In 2005, fatalities remained at two, both of which involved a pedestrian. The locations with the greatest number of fatal crashes are 70<sup>th</sup> Road (eight) and Broadway/Grand Avenue (five). Nearly half (40 or 48%) of the pedestrian fatalities were elderly persons age 65 or older.* 

This reduction can be directly attributed to the Department's accelerated program to address pedestrian safety beginning in late 1999. Since this program was implemented, the fatality rate has fallen to 4.6 per year, significantly less than the 12.6 fatalities per year for the previous 6 1/2 years.

Total pedestrian accidents along the Queens Boulevard corridor have gone down significantly since 1993. *Pedestrian accidents peaked in 1995 at 154, and continued to decrease over the next six years to an all-time low of 63 pedestrian accidents in 2002.* 

# QUEENS BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY

In January 1997, the Department (in coordination with the Borough President's office and Community Board #6) commissioned a study conducted by the RBA Group for the area between the Long Island Expressway and Union Turnpike, a 2.5-mile stretch. The goal and main emphasis of the study was to improve pedestrian circulation and safety along the Queens Boulevard corridor, while maintaining vehicular levels of service. The final report, which was completed in September 1999, recommended different treatments ranging from Transportation System Management (TSM) type measures to intersection improvements to the relocation of slip ramps.

The Department reviewed the recommendations made by the RBA Group's Study and implemented the following measures:

- Pedestrian signals were installed at the Queens Boulevard/Ascan Avenue and Queens Boulevard/ 76<sup>th</sup> Road intersections in January 1999.
- A mid-block signalized crosswalk was installed at Queens Boulevard/69<sup>th</sup> Avenue in June 1999.
- High visibility crosswalks were installed at the Queens Boulevard/68<sup>th</sup> Drive intersection in June 1999.
- A stop bar was installed at 68<sup>th</sup> Drive in June 1999.

Other recommendations implemented include the capital reconstruction of selected elements by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

#### Phase I (67th Road to 70th Road) – Completed Fall 2000

• Installed midblock signalized crossing with high visibility crosswalk markings at three locations:

- East of 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue (completed June 1999)
- East of 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue (relocated westbound slip ramp, service to main, to east of 68<sup>th</sup> Road)
- West of 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (relocated eastbound slip ramp, service to main, to east of 67<sup>th</sup> Road; closed eastbound slip, main to service, no relocation)
- Extended pedestrian refuge area of service road medians at two intersections:
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Road/102<sup>nd</sup> Street (four medians)
  - Yellowstone Boulevard (three medians)
- Installed end caps on center medians at three intersections:
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Road
  - Yellowstone Boulevard
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Road
- Widened medians from four to five feet adjacent to left turn bays at two intersections:
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Road/102<sup>nd</sup> Street (westbound only)
  - Yellowstone Boulevard
- Installed sidewalk extensions (neckdowns), including pedestrian ramps, at six intersections:
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Road (southwest corner)
  - 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue (northeast corner, south side of crossing)
  - 68<sup>th</sup> Drive (southwest corner)
  - 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue (south side of crossing)
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (south side of crossing)
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Road (southwest corner)
- Installed high visibility crosswalks at four intersections (all legs):
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Road
  - 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Yellowstone Boulevard
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Installed 3,700 linear feet of pedestrian barriers (36 inches in height) on the service road medians (except in the vicinity of slip ramps where pedestrian barriers were installed on the center medians) for the entire length of Phase I. Work was completed in March 2001.

#### Phase II (Long Island Expressway to 67<sup>th</sup> Road and 70<sup>th</sup> Road to Union Turnpike)

All Work was completed in July 2001, with the exception of the 71<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Continental Avenue Intersection, which was completed in the Fall 2004.

- Extensions on service road medians at seven intersections:
  - 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue/Continental Avenue
  - Ascan Avenue
  - 76<sup>th</sup> Road
  - 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue

- (six medians) (two medians)
- (three medians)
- (four medians)
- (one median)
- (two medians)
- (three medians)



Pedestrian fencing along Queens Boulevard

- Center median widening (to five feet from four at left-turn bays) at five intersections:
  - 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue/Continental Avenue
  - 76<sup>th</sup> Road
  - Ascan Avenue
- Neckdowns at eight intersections:
  - 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive (northeast, southeast corners)
  - 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive (southeast corner)
  - 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue (northeast corner)
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Road (northeast corner)
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue (southwest corner)
  - 71<sup>st</sup> Road (northwest, southwest corners)
  - Ascan Avenue (northeast, southwest corners)
  - 76<sup>th</sup> Road (southwest corner)
- End cap barriers on center median at ten intersections:

(one median, eastbound)

- (two medians)
- (two medians)
- (one median, eastbound)
- (two medians)



Neckdown on Queens Boulevard

- 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive, east and west sides
- 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive, east and west sides
- 65<sup>th</sup> Road east and west sides
- 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue, east and west sides
- 71<sup>st</sup> Road, east and west sides
- Continental Avenue, east and west sides
- Ascan Avenue, east and west sides
- 76th Road, east and west sides
- 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west side
- 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west side
- High Visibility Crosswalk Upgrades at five intersections:
  - Eliot Avenue
  - 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive/63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
  - 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue
  - 71<sup>st</sup> Road
- Installed 12,200 linear feet of pedestrian barriers on the service road medians except in the vicinity of slip ramps where barriers were installed on the center medians

#### NYCDOT Initiated Improvements (First Phase)

In September 1999, a revised signal coordination pattern intended to help reduce excessive vehicular speeds was implemented on Queens Boulevard between 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Union Turnpike during the off-peak and weekend periods. In conjunction with these revisions, additional signal improvements implemented include the following:

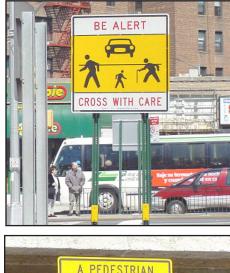
• Signal timing changes were made during off-peak and weekend hours (to increase pedestrian crossing time ranging from three to ten seconds) on the section between 63<sup>rd</sup> and Union Turnpike (14 intersections) in August 1999. An analysis of the impacts of the timing changes showed significant

decreases in the percentage of speeds greater than 35 mph. Average midday travel times decreased more than 25% in the eastbound direction but increased slightly (11%) in the westbound direction.

- Pedestrian crossing signals at 68<sup>th</sup> Drive and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue were re-timed to allow pedestrians to completely cross Queens Boulevard.
- Four seconds were added to the westbound left turn movement at the Queens Boulevard/Yellowstone Boulevard intersection in September 1999.
- A new signal was installed in June 1999 at the Jacobus Street intersection, and crosswalks and stop bars were installed at the intersection in September 1999.

The Department surveyed the entire stretch of Queens Boulevard from Thomson Avenue to Hillside Avenue to determine the condition of signs, pavement markings, signals, and streetlighting. Traffic control devices were refurbished and upgraded to current standards and additional improvements were implemented.

- <u>Signs.</u> 139 intersections were surveyed. 209 signs and 20 driverails were installed. 44 intersections were in need of life-protecting devices (LPDs) and were repaired within nine business days. All work was completed by March 2000.
- Pavement Markings. Pedestrian crosswalks were refurbished for the entire length of Queens Boulevard in November 1999, except for the section between Woodhaven Boulevard and 69th Avenue (completed in April 2000) and the section between 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Woodhaven Boulevard (completed in May 2000). Faded lane lines, double yellow centerline, channelization, and other pavement markings in the section between Woodhaven Boulevard and 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue were refurbished May 2000, markings for the remainder of the corridor were refurbished in July 2000. Pavement markings were refurbished again in September 2002.
- Signals. A re-timing plan similar to that implemented between 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Union Turnpike for off-peak hours was implemented in March 2000 on a trial basis in the Sunnyside section between 32<sup>nd</sup> Place and 48<sup>th</sup> Street. This new signal pattern has provided better speed control and increased pedestrian crossing time without any adverse impacts on traffic flow.
- <u>Pedestrian Signals.</u> Additional signals were installed on the center median (for the Queens Boulevard crossing) at 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue/62<sup>nd</sup> Drive and 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue in April 2000, on 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue in







Examples of dedicated signage for pedestrians along Queens Boulevard

May 2000, and 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue in June 2000. Additional pedestrian signals were installed on the center medians at Yellowstone Boulevard and all were upgraded to the new LED international signals in October 2000.

**<u>Streetlights.</u>** All streetlights along Queens Boulevard are in good condition and all standards are met with the exception of the two underpasses at Woodhaven Boulevard, which were improved and converted to high-pressure sodium in June 2000.

#### **Additional Improvements**

- In January 2001, the Department implemented a new off-peak and weekend traffic signal coordination between 50<sup>th</sup> Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Queens Boulevard, completing the signal retiming and adjustments along the entire length of Queens Boulevard from Van Dam Street to Union Turnpike. The new timing is designed to discourage speeding and allow additional pedestrian crossing time.
- In January 2001, Parking Control Unit (PCU) personnel were deployed at five locations (70<sup>th</sup> Road, Broadway, Yellowstone Boulevard, 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue), where three or more fatalities occurred in the last three years, to distribute educational materials, and to give the public guidance on how to safely cross Queens Boulevard.
- In February 2001, 406 Pedestrian Crossing signs were installed at 36 intersections where pedestrian fatalities have occurred. At eight intersections where there had been three or more fatalities since 1993, signs were installed with the legend "A Pedestrian Was Killed Crossing Here/Be Alert/Cross With Care." At 27 intersections, signs were installed with the legend "Be Alert/Cross With Care." In addition, at the 36 intersections, signs were installed with the legend "Begin Walking on a Fresh Walk/If Don't Walk is Flashing Continue to Next Safety Island/Wait for a Fresh Walk/Cross With Care."
- In February 2001, the 35 mph speed limit was reduced to 30 mph between Roosevelt and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues making the speed limit on the entire length of Queens Boulevard 30 mph.
- In March 2001, the Department implemented an experimental peak period traffic signal modification that expanded the existing 120-second signal cycle length to 150 seconds between

63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This modification required the reallocation of the traffic signal phasing to 90 seconds (from 80 seconds) of green time for Queens Boulevard and to 60 seconds (from 40 seconds) for the cross street. An additional 20 seconds of WALK time was provided for pedestrians crossing Queens Boulevard, enabling them to complete their crossing in one (as opposed to two) cycle at all intersections except Yellowstone Boulevard.

The change was monitored by analyzing "before" and "after" vehicular travel times, leftturn spillback and cross street queue lengths. Our findings were generally positive. "After" vehicular travel times only increased approximately one to three minutes with the most significant travel time impacts confined to 7:30 - 8 AM (westbound) and 5 - 5:30 PM (eastbound). Vehicular travel times were consistent throughout the four-week analysis period. The analysis also indicated significant increases in the frequency of westbound left turn bay spillback at Yellowstone Boulevard, especially during the PM peak period. There were also some marginal increases recorded in the length of the cross street queues. However, most vehicles cleared the approach during the extended green time allotted to crossing Queens Boulevard.

- In May 2001, studies were conducted to determine the feasibility of installing additional mid-block signalized crosswalks at nine non-signalized locations. The locations were 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 67<sup>th</sup> Drive, 68<sup>th</sup> Road, 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 82<sup>nd</sup> Road, and 86<sup>th</sup> Road. No locations met the warrants for installation.
- In June 2001, approximately 400 word message pavement markings advising pedestrians to "Wait for Walk Signal" were installed at nearly 40 intersections.
- In June 2001, a new speed calming strategy was completed that allows parking in the left lane of the service road adjacent to the median in a four-mile section of Queens Boulevard between 76<sup>th</sup> Street/Kneeland Avenue and Union Turnpike. This provided 545 additional parking spaces on this section of the Boulevard. The number of travel lanes on the service roads in both the east and westbound directions were reduced from two to one. In conjunction with this change, channelization was installed to guide







Top: Pavement Marking advising pedestrians to "Wait for Walk Signal". Middle : Example of parking along the center median. This strategy narrowed the roadway to one lane from two. Bottom: At some locations, parking meters were removed and roadway markings and flexible bollards were installed to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.



Example of permanently mounted speed detector board to inform motorists of their travel speed

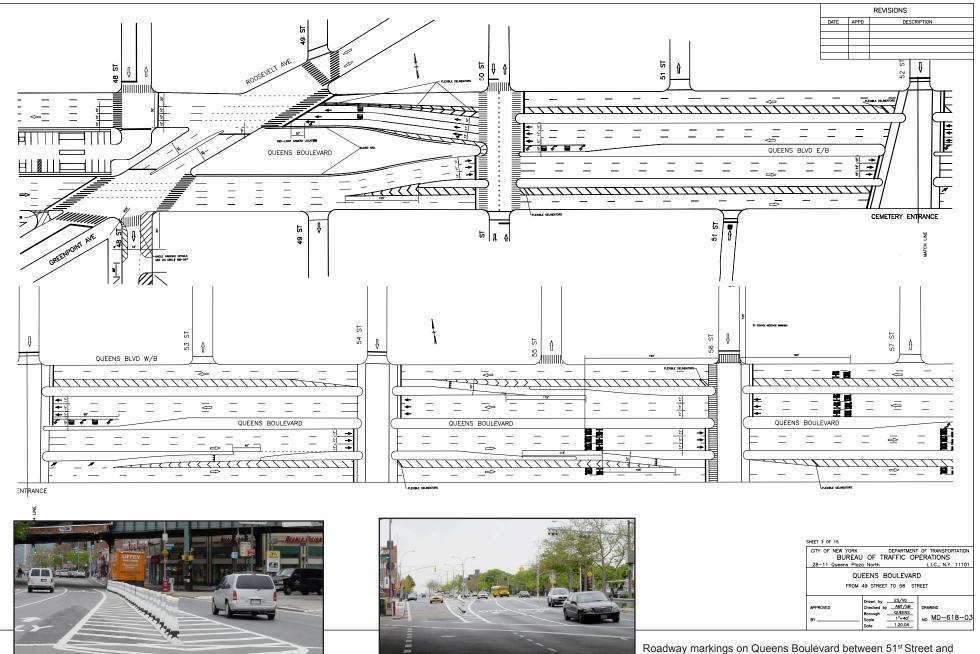
vehicles through the slip ramps between the main roadways and the service roads.

- In November 2001, the Department made adjustments to the aforementioned traffic calming strategy to further improve pedestrian safety. Parking meters at locations where few vehicles parked along the median side of the service road were removed and pavement markings and flexible bollards installed to direct traffic into one travel lane. Meters were removed and street cleaning regulations retained along the curb where there was little parking activity. At locations with excessive parking demand, street cleaning regulations were supplemented with the installation of meters.
- In 2001, two additional red light cameras were installed (one at 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue {in July} and one at Roosevelt Avenue {in November}).
- In fall 2001, the Department completed the installation of energysaving Light Emitting Diode (LED) traffic signals and international als at all intersections along Queens Boulevard

pedestrian signals at all intersections along Queens Boulevard.

- In December 2001, the Department installed eight permanently mounted speed detector boards to inform motorists of their travel speed at the following locations on the Queens Boulevard main roadway (one in each direction): 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Cornish Avenue, 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- In spring 2003, additional markings (shown on the following page) were installed to ease the transition for westbound vehicles on Queens Boulevard between 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Roosevelt Avenue where the service road merges with the main roadway.
- In spring 2003, the Department replaced and/or repaired 259 linear feet of pedestrian separators along Queens Boulevard.

In 2004, the Department completed a pedestrian safety study for the sections of Queens



Roosevelt Avenue

## OUEENS BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY (PHASE II)

Boulevard between the Long Island Expressway and the Queens Boulevard Bridge in Sunnyside, and between Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue. In addition to a traffic planning component that identified pedestrian safety and traffic issues and recommended short and long term improvements, the study incorporated a Preliminary Design Investigation (PDI) component that resulted in greater efficiency in advancing the project to the final design stage for implementation of capital improvements. The study began in November 2001 and was completed in July 2004. A kick-off meeting was held in April 2002 with the Borough President and local elected officials to introduce the project followed by a Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) meeting with the affected Community Boards, local associations and civic groups (also held in April 2002).

The preliminary findings of the draft Existing Conditions Report were presented to the CAC in April 2003 and the TAC in May 2003. A briefing of the Report was also made to the Deputy Borough President in April 2003. The Final Existing Conditions Report, which included a description of all data collected, existing conditions and problem identification, was completed and released in early August 2003.

#### **Implemented Improvements**

Several short term measures that were identified in this report have been implemented. These improvements include:

- Replaced missing stop sign at west exit driveway from median parking area between 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. (July 2003)
- Replaced missing stop sign at west exit driveway from median parking area between 39<sup>th</sup> Street and 39<sup>th</sup> Place. (July 2003)
- Installed pedestrian fencing along Queens Boulevard medians between Roosevelt Avenue and the LIE and between Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue. (September 2003)
- Replaced missing luminaries at Queens Boulevard / Van Dam Street intersection. (September 2003)
- Widened crosswalks across Queens Boulevard at 58<sup>th</sup> Street so that the crosswalks encompass the ADA ramps at the median islands. (October 2003)
- Relocated "Stop Ahead" sign along Kew Gardens Road Westbound at 80<sup>th</sup> Road to improve visibility to motorists; sign is blocked by idling buses. (October 2003)
- Removed all signs and markings relating to worn rumble strips between 58<sup>th</sup> Street and 59<sup>th</sup> Street. (November 2003)
- Installed/refurbished high-visibility crosswalks at the following 20 key intersections along the study corridor (November 2003):
  - Van Dam Street / Thomson Avenue
  - 39<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - Greenpoint Avenue / Roosevelt Avenue
  - 48<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 58<sup>th</sup> Street
  - 61<sup>st</sup> Street / 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive

- 65<sup>th</sup> Place
- 69<sup>th</sup> Street
- 70<sup>th</sup> Street
- 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Grand Avenue / Broadway
- Van Loon Street
- Long Island Expressway Service Road / Eliot Avenue
- Union Turnpike
- 80<sup>th</sup> Road
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue / Hoover Avenue
- Main Street
- Hillside Avenue
- Removed misplaced stop bar in southbound direction along 35<sup>th</sup> Street between the Queens Boulevard eastbound and westbound roadways. (November 2003)
- Installed missing crosswalk along west crossing of Queens Boulevard Westbound/Eliot Avenue/Long Island Expressway Service Road intersection. (November 2003)
- Converted of 51<sup>st</sup> Street to one-way southbound between Queens Boulevard and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue to improve safety on this narrow roadway. (November 2003)

In addition, the Department installed an additional 24,000 linear feet of pedestrian fencing along the medians of the entire study area (excluding the section between Roosevelt Avenue and Van Dam Street). This work was completed in September 2003.

The following improvements were completed in Winter 2003/2004:

- Installed a new sign "To Queens Boulevard with a 9 o'clock arrow" at the Grand Avenue/ Van Loon Street intersection to discourage motorists from making a difficult left turn at Queens Boulevard.
- Installed missing pedestrian signal heads for the east-west crossings (i.e. crossing Main Street East) on both the north and south sides of Queens Boulevard at Main Street.

- Installed missing pedestrian signal heads for the east-west crossings (i.e. crossing Van Loon Street) on both the north and south sides of Queens Boulevard at Van Loon Street intersection.
- Prevented the U-turns on 65<sup>th</sup> Place between Queens Boulevard and Woodside Avenue by installing flexible bollards on the centerline and installing "No U-turn" signs.

The following improvements were implemented in Spring 2004:

- Installed four speed boards at the following locations: westbound between Hillside and 87<sup>th</sup> Avenues, eastbound at 59<sup>th</sup> Street, eastbound and westbound at 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.
- Installed LPIs at 17 locations (32<sup>nd</sup> Place to 47<sup>th</sup> Street).
- Introduced a peak period 150-second cycle length between Skillman Avenue and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  This longer cycle length is now operating from Van Dam Street to Hillside Avenue.
- Closed parking area access to 39<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Streets with temporary treatments including bollards and installed lane designation markings on the cross streets under the viaduct.
- Full closure of the cross street at the main subway entrance/exits at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. This includes closing access between parking areas.
- Upgraded pedestrian crosswalks to high visibility from Van Dam Street to Roosevelt Avenue.
- Installed "No Pedestrian Crossing" signs at the planted traffic island at Van Dam Street/Queens Boulevard.
- Installed lane designation restriping and signage at the Queens Boulevard/Van Dam Street, Kew Gardens Road/80<sup>th</sup> Road, 80<sup>th</sup> Road/Queens Boulevard intersections.
- Eliminated uncontrolled right turn onto Greenpoint Avenue from eastbound Queens Boulevard using flexible bollards.
- Converted 48<sup>th</sup> Street to one-way southbound from two way operation between Queens Boulevard and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In addition, angle parking was installed on the east curb resulting in the creation of an additional 25 parking spaces.



Signage and flexible bollards were used as temporary treatments to eliminate the uncontrolled right turn onto Greenpoint Avenue

- Prohibited northbound and southbound left-turn movements at the 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection and closed the uncontrolled right turns onto 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue from both eastbound and westbound Queens Boulevard.
- Restriped Woodhaven Boulevard northbound at 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue (to three exclusive left turn lanes from two).
- Closed the vehicle turn-around at the west leg of the Eliot Avenue intersection to increase pedestrian space.
- Re-signed and re-striped the approach to the BQE entrance at 66<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Narrowed the service roads between 50<sup>th</sup> Street and 59<sup>th</sup> Place by installing a combination of pavement markings and flexible bollards.
- Realigned the westbound Queens Boulevard movement at Hillside Avenue by using an improved channelization and lane designation markings at all approaches.
- Installed additional pedestrian signals on the center medians at the following locations:
  - 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Place
  - 58<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Broadway
  - 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue

The following improvements were made in late summer 2004:

• Installation of pedestrian fencing (approx. 6,500 linear feet) between Van Dam Street and Greenpoint Avenue. This brought the total linear footage of fencing on Queens Boulevard to 46,000.

In addition, a Preliminary Design Investigation (PDI) was completed in July 2005. The PDI studied the feasibility of implementing the capital improvements recommended in the study. Based upon the PDI, the following capital improvements will be implemented:

• Permanent closure of access to parking areas (39th and 43rd Streets);

- Permanent full closure of the cross streets at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, including upgrading 46<sup>th</sup> Street;
- One-way cross street curb extensions at 10 locations between 32<sup>nd</sup> Place and 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Extension of raised medians to crosswalks, median protection, and relocation of some signals and installation of additional pedestrian signals at 10 locations;
- 70<sup>th</sup> Street left-turn bay extension;
- General pedestrian improvements at Eliot Avenue (including permanent closure of turnaround and pedestrian fencing);
- Union Turnpike "punch-through";
- Extension of the curb and the west center median at the Van Wyck Expressway Service Road; and
- Hillside Avenue permanent roadway realignment.

Several of these improvements were advanced and completed during the Summer/early Fall 2005:

- Permanent closure of the cross street at the subway station at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street;
- Permanent closure of the access to the parking area at 39<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Median extensions and protection at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, 54<sup>th</sup> Street and 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

This will be followed by the installation of median extensions/protection at the remaining seven locations



Median extensions and concrete protection devices being constructed along Queens Boulevard







Detailed images and perspectives of full closure of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, including signage, reflective bollards, pedestrian fencing and the protected pedestrian plaza



(Jacobus Street, 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, **78**<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Woodhaven and Boulevard [south side]), as well as the permanent closure of the free right turn at Greenpoint Avenue, upgrading the existing closure of 46<sup>th</sup> Street, full closure of the parking area at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 70<sup>th</sup> Street left-turn bay extension, and improvements at Eliot Avenue, the Van Wyck Expressway entrance, Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue. This Phase II work is expected to begin in early fall 2007.

#### Early Action Phase II Impacts

Upon completion of Phase II projects, the Department conducted a study to gauge the impacts of the mitigation measures. As part of this effort, data was compared for the 9 month period "before" implementation versus the 9 months after implementation. The results of this analysis indicated a:

- 14% reduction in total accidents;
- 50% reduction in fatalities;
- 53% reduction in pedestrian accidents
- 26% reduction in accidents resulting in an injury;
- Speed stabilized within the 30 mph speed limit; and
- Volume did not change significantly, however there was a shift in volume from the service roads to the main roadway.



In addition to the extensive improvements made on a corridor wide level, the Department focused additional efforts at high accident locations along Queens Boulevard. Locations that have consistently ranked high include the intersection of Queens Boulevard and Van Dam and Thomson Avenues (with total accidents ranging as high as 227 in 1997 to an all time low of 84 total accidents in 2001) and the intersection of Queens Boulevard with Woodhaven Boulevard and 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue (with total accidents ranging from a high of 169 total accidents in 1997 to an all time low of 103 accidents in 2001). Since 1996, none of the intersections along Queens Boulevard have ranked amongst the top 20 high pedestrian accident locations citywide.

As is the case with the entire corridor, the accident history at these problematic locations shows a consistent, significant decline, particularly at Van Dam/Thomson Avenue where accidents decreased 63% since 1997 (to 84 in 2001 from 227 in 1997).

## QUEENS BOULEVARD/ WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD/ 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue

#### Description

The intersection of Queens Boulevard/Woodhaven Boulevard/59<sup>th</sup> Avenue ranked third or fourth within the top ten high accident locations between 1996 and 1999. Therefore, in an effort to reduce the number of accidents, the Department implemented (in 2000) several of the traffic mitigation strategies which were identified in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Queens Center Mall Expansion.

The results of these improvements have been encouraging. Accidents at this location fell 28% (to 103 in 2001 from 143 in 1996).

#### **Implemented Improvements**

Conversion of 57<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Avenues from two-way to one-way roadways. The conversion of 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Queens Boulevard and Junction Boulevard to one-way southbound (towards Queens Boulevard) provides three moving lanes between Junction Boulevard and 92<sup>nd</sup> Street with an exclusive left turn lane at 92<sup>nd</sup> Street. Two-way traffic is maintained between 90<sup>th</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> Streets in order to provide access to the existing mall parking garage. West of 90<sup>th</sup> Street, four moving lanes are provided at the approach to Queens Boulevard, including an exclusive right-turn lane, a shared through/right-turn lane, and two exclusive left-turn lanes. The conversion

necessitated the removal of the left-turn movement and left-turn bay from eastbound Queens Boulevard onto 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The conversion of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Queens Boulevard and Junction Boulevard to one-way northbound (away from Queens Boulevard) provides three moving lanes between Queens and Junction Boulevards. Two exclusive left-turn lanes are provided at 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, and one exclusive left-turn lane is provided at both Junction Boulevard and 94<sup>th</sup> Street.

These street directional changes and the associated reconfiguration and realignment of lanes reduced vehicular and pedestrian conflicts and significantly improved safety. In order to enhance pedestrian safety, the curb at the northwest corner of the intersection of Queens Boulevard/ Woodhaven Boulevard/59<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection was widened by approximately 40 feet. This reduced the pedestrian crossing distance nearly in half. More importantly, additional time was devoted to the most difficult and dangerous pedestrian crossing. As a result of the one-way conversion of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, away from Queens Boulevard, time formerly allocated to the southbound 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue approach was no longer necessary and was reallocated to provide more pedestrian crossing time.

- Additional measures in the area included: installation of advance warning and directional signs along Queens Boulevard, 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, 94<sup>th</sup> Street, and Junction Boulevard; re-striping of the southbound lane on 92<sup>nd</sup> Street to provide access to the proposed garage. In November 2000, thirteen trailblazer signs were installed to guide motorists to the LIE; the east curb of Junction Boulevard at 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue was daylighted to provide for bus turning movements; the Junction Boulevard/57<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection was daylighted to provide a northbound left-turn lane to reduce congestion at the intersection; and five additional signs were installed within the area to reinforce the one-way conversions.
- A left-turn phase (for northbound 92<sup>nd</sup> Street) and a 170 controller (which allows the Department to vary the signal splits throughout the day) was installed at the intersection of 57<sup>tg</sup> Avenue and 92<sup>nd</sup> Street in April 2001.

## QUEENS BOULEVARD/ VAN DAM STREET/ THOMSON AVENUE

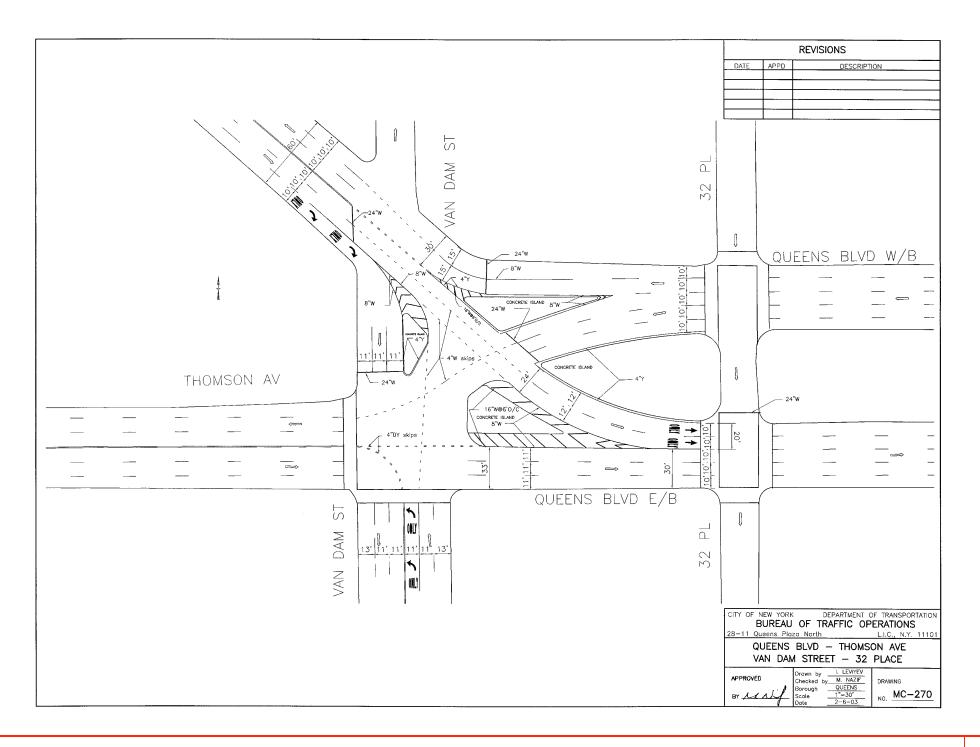


In November 2002, an additional channelization (shown to the left and on the following page) was installed to narrow the roadway on eastbound Queens Boulevard to two lanes just north of the traffic island where Thomson Avenue and Queens Boulevard converge. The new channelization removed the conflict between vehicles entering Queens Boulevard from those continuing eastbound on Queens Boulevard.





Channelization and markings at the convergence of Queens Boulevard, Van Dam Street and Thomson Avenue



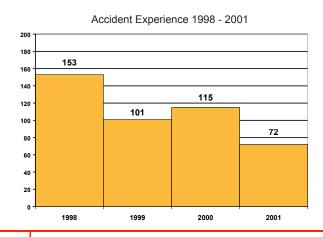


# Rockaway Freeway

#### Description

Rockaway Freeway is a major east-west corridor in the Far Rockaways. This corridor has an elevated ("el") subway line above the roadway and support columns located in the raised island that separates opposing traffic flows. The roadway is generally 25 feet wide in each direction and the primary area of concern was between Beach 114<sup>th</sup> Street and Beach Channel Drive.

Because of the configuration of the elevated structure, there were numerous traffic safety concerns. These included excessive vehicular speeds along the roadway, limited vehicular sight distances because of the elevated structure and the lack of pedestrian refuge space and visibility. Although not a highly ranked accident corridor, the corridor experienced 12 fatal accidents between 1990 and 1998, which was the primary impetus that led to the Department implementing a broad range of measures to address the most serious deficiencies.



Overall, the accident experience along this corridor has been following a downward trend since the implementation of the safety measures in August 1998. In 1999, total accidents decreased sharply (34% to 101 from 153) from 1998. In 2000, total accidents increased to 115, but this is still 25% lower than in 1998. In 2001, this location experienced an even greater decline in total accidents, decreasing 37% to 72 from 115 in 2000. Even more encouraging is the decline in the number of fatalities along the corridor. Since these measures were implemented in August 1998, there was one fatality on the corridor in 1999, one in 2000, two in 2001,

none in 2002 or 2003 and two fatalities in 2004 resulting from a single accident which killed both the driver and the passenger. There were no fatalitites in 2005.

#### **Improvements Implemented in August 1998**

- Reconfigured Rockaway Freeway from a two-lane to a one-lane roadway in each direction. Installed 100-foot long exclusive left turn bays at all signalized intersections and revised signal timing to provide protected only phasing at all locations where left turns from Rockaway Freeway are permitted.
- Modernized six signals from red and green indicators to red, amber and green displays.
- Reduced the speed limit to 25 mph. New signs indicating this change were posted every 2500 feet in both directions of Rockaway Freeway.
- Closed 10 non-signalized intersections to cross traffic. Installed markings and regulations at the non-signalized intersections to direct all traffic to intersections controlled by a traffic signal.

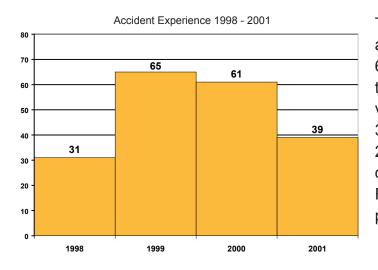
#### **Improvements Implemented in September 2003**

• Markings were refurbished along the Rockaway Freeway corridor in September 2003.

# LINDEN BOULEVARD/ South Conduit Avenue

#### Description

Linden Boulevard and South Conduit Avenue are both heavily trafficked, signalized arterials. The terminus of eastbound Linden Boulevard feeds into the right and middle of three eastbound travel lanes on South Conduit Avenue in close proximity to a left lane entrance onto the eastbound Belt Parkway. Motorist visibility of approaching traffic is limited on both approaches due to the irregular street geometry and further obstructed during the summer when grass and weeds are not sufficiently maintained in advance of or at the junction. Many motorists destined for the Belt Parkway entering onto South Conduit from Linden Boulevard were observed taking unreasonable risks in order to move into the left lane through often congested traffic.



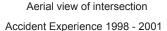
The accident experience at this intersection indicated a substantial increase in accidents between 1998 and 1999. In 1999, accidents more than doubled to 65 from 31 in 1998. Accidents decreased slightly in 2000 to 61. In August 2001, the Department implemented a series of improvements to address the primary vehicular concerns. For the year 2001, accidents decreased substantially by 36% (to 39 from 61 in 2000). After the implementation of measures in August 2001, the monthly total accidents showed a significant decline in the frequency of accidents averaging only 1.8 accidents for the months after the installation. For the 8 months prior to implementation, the average number of accidents per month was 3.6.

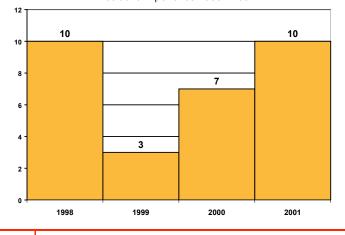
#### **Implemented Improvements**

- Installed a new traffic signal in August 2001 to separate conflicts and eliminate unsafe merging and lane changing.
- Scarified existing gore markings and lane lines that allowed only two travel lanes from each of the two approaches in advance of the intersection. Re-marked the approaches to permit three travel lanes in advance of the newly signalized intersection on both Linden Boulevard and South Conduit Avenue. All work was completed in May 2002.

## MAIN STREET Southbound Service Road @ 68<sup>th</sup> Drive







#### Description

Main Street is a major north-south corridor that runs through central Queens. At this particular intersection, the roadway consists of a three lane (two moving, one parking) northbound roadway and a three lane (two moving, one parking) southbound roadway separated by a concrete center median. There are left turn bays for both directions. There is also a southbound service road that is separated from the main roadway by a concrete median than ends at 68<sup>th</sup> Drive. The convergence of these roadways causes poor alignment and motorists frequently make unsafe merges onto the mainline roadway. In addition, motorists frequently fail to obey the traffic signals. For pedestrians, the unique geometry of the intersection causes the crosswalks to be misaligned with the pedestrian signals.

Accident history is available only for the entire intersection. There is no separation of data between mainline and service road accidents. In 1998, there were a total of ten accidents at the Main Street/68<sup>th</sup> Drive intersection. In 1999, accidents decreased sharply by 70% to three. In 2000, total accidents more than doubled to seven. In 2001, accidents continued to increase, with 10 total accidents at this intersection. Based upon the unique geometry of this intersection and the increasing accident experience, the Department implemented safety initiatives in December 2001. This improvement should provide for the safer movement of vehicles through the intersection and mitigate the rising accident trends.

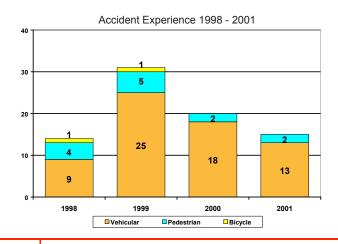
#### **Improvements Implemented in December 2001**

A signal was installed on the southbound service road of Main Street (previously regulated by a Stop sign) and the movements were separated for the southbound main and service roads.

### MAIN STREET Southbound Service Road @ 73 Avenue



Aerial view of intersection



#### Description

Main Street is a major north-south corridor that runs through central Queens. Along various portions of the corridor, a service road runs alongside the southbound portion of the roadway. At the intersection of Main Street and 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, the service road ends. This causes poor roadway alignment and dangerous movements as the service road and mainline traffic merge in an unsafe manner.

Accident history is available only for the entire intersection. There is no separation of data between mainline and service road accidents. At this intersection, accidents increased substantially between 1998 and 1999. In 1998, there were a total of 14 accidents at the Main Street/73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue intersection of which four were pedestrian accidents and one was a bicycle accident. In 1999, total accidents increased sharply to 31, with five pedestrian accidents and one bicycle accident. In 2000, total accidents decreased 35% (to 20) with two pedestrian accidents. In 2001, total accidents decreased significantly by 25% (to 15) with two pedestrian accidents. While these trends predate the implemented measures, this downward trend in accidents parallel the general decline in accidents citywide during this time period.

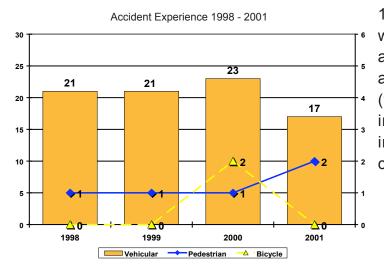
#### **Improvements Implemented in December 2001**

A signal modification was made separating the movements on the southbound main and service roads of Main Street (which previously ran concurrently).

### COOPER AVENUE UNDERPASS/74<sup>TH</sup> STREET

#### **Description**

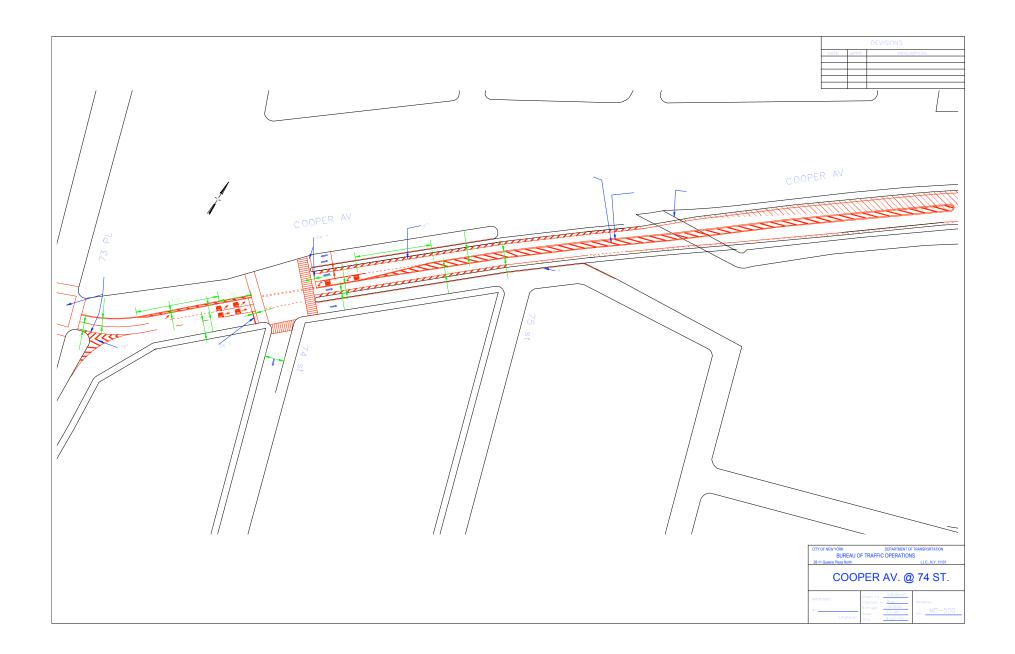
Cooper Avenue passes diagonally under the LIRR between 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Streets. The only available crossing of the LIRR for pedestrians is to descend to Cooper Avenue (using one of two staircases), cross Cooper Avenue at an uncontrolled location below the LIRR tracks, and ascend to street level (using the other staircase). Because the crosswalk is directly below the LIRR tracks, visibility of crossing pedestrians is inadequate. Unfortunately, a middle school, MS 119, is located on 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, one block south of Cooper Avenue. As such, a fair number of students must make this crossing twice daily.



The accident experience at this location was fairly consistent between 1998 and 2000. In 1998 and 1999, total accidents remained at 22, with one pedestrian accident in each of the years. In 2000, total accidents increased slightly to 26, with one involving a pedestrian and two involving bicycles. In 2001, total accidents decreased 27% (to 19 from 26), two of which involved a pedestrian. The improvement in accident occurrences in 2001 predates the treatments implemented in September 2002. However, this decline parallels the overall trends citywide.

#### **Improvements Implemented in September 2002**

- Signalized 74<sup>th</sup> Street at Cooper Avenue to provide an at-grade crossing.
- Installed high visibility school crosswalks, school crossing signs, and school crossing markings at the 74<sup>th</sup> Street/Cooper Avenue intersection.
- Created a buffer with markings along the north and south sidewalks of Cooper Avenue.
- · Removed existing center median treatments.
- Closed the south staircase.
- Cooper Avenue between 73<sup>rd</sup> Place and 80<sup>th</sup> Street was milled and resurfaced to facilitate the implementation of the safety markings.



## VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY/ North Conduit Avenue

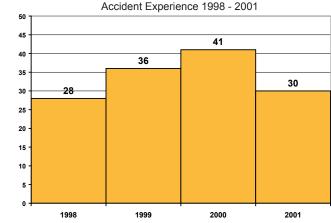
#### Description

Vehicles exiting the southbound Van Wyck Expressway (VWE) destined to the westbound Belt Parkway were required to merge across three travel lanes on North Conduit Avenue within a 500 foot distance. In the morning peak hour approximately 500 vehicles from the Van Wyck Expressway must make this movement across approximately 3200 vehicles traveling on North Conduit Avenue. In the afternoon peak hour approximately 750 vehicles from the southbound VWE crossed approximately 2800 vehicles on North Conduit Avenue. As a result of these factors (high weaving volumes, high speed traffic, several lane changes and short merging distances), this location routinely found its way onto the NYPD Accident Prone Location list. The improvements implemented in November 2002 were a proactive response to this condition and community concern.

The accident experience at this location indicated an increasing trend in accidents between 1998 and 2000, increasing from 28 in 1998 to 36 accidents in 1999. Total accidents at this intersection peaked at 41 in 2000 before falling to 30 in 2001. This decline is similar to the citywide trend of decreasing accidents in 2001.

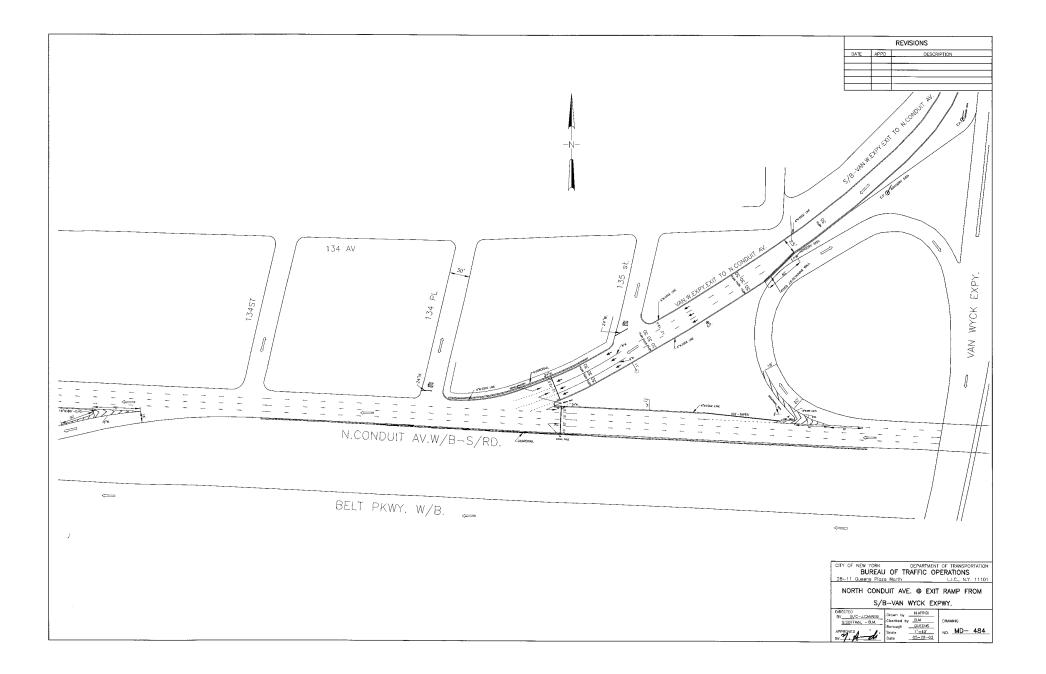


Original configuration and roadway markings at merge



#### **Improvements Implemented in November 2002**

- The intersection of the VWE exit ramp and North Conduit Avenue was upgraded from an uncontrolled merge to a signalized intersection. The new signal was energized in November 2002. To supplement this installation, signal ahead symbol and rider signs were also installed.
- The roadways approaching the new intersection were widened (from one to three lanes on the VWE exit ramp and from three to four lanes on North Conduit Avenue) to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate demand. In addition, the roadway lighting was upgraded and new streetlights were installed.
- Additional trailblazer signs were installed to clearly guide motorists to the Belt Parkway and North Conduit Avenue.

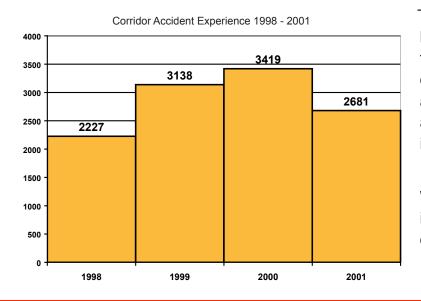




### Northern Boulevard Corridor

#### Description

Northern Boulevard is a major arterial roadway that traverses the entire length of northern Queens and spans from Long Island City on the west to Little Neck on the east and continues into Nassau County. Along this corridor, land use and density vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. Certain areas are characterized by big-box retail and heavy commercial developments. Along other stretches, mixed-use medium density developments are prevalent. However, nearly all developments directly abut the roadway, or feature parking lots which feed onto Northern Boulevard. Heavy vehicular traffic is characteristic along the entire length of the corridor. The corridor is a local truck route and also has several bus routes running along and traversing the corridor.



There are several intersections along the corridor which experience high levels of pedestrian traffic due to their proximity to schools, transportation centers, commercial developments and other generators of pedestrian traffic. In most areas, the roadway has four travel lanes, and two parking lanes, with peak direction parking regulations providing an additional lane of moving traffic. Turning movements at several intersections provide conflicts with pedestrians.

While many of the intersections are signalized, there are still several intersections which are not, and motorists are forced to cross two lanes of oncoming traffic to access the travel lane. In some areas, there

are dedicated turning lanes and striping in the middle of the roadway. An additional problem is speeding, both in peak and non-peak hours, as the roadway is fairly wide and straight.

Given the overall length of the corridor, high volume of traffic and factors illustrated above, the Northern Boulevard corridor has consistently been one of the highest ranked accident corridors in the city. In 1998, the corridor was ranked third with a total of 2,227 accidents. In 1999, total accidents on the Northern Boulevard increased significantly to 3,138 and was ranked fourth citywide. Accidents continued to increase in 2000 to 3,419, which again ranked it third citywide. In 2001, the total number of accidents on Northern Boulevard declined substantially to 2,681, a 21.6% decline from 2000 levels.

#### Implemented Improvements

In 1997, at the request of State Assembly Members Lafayette and McLaughlin, analyses were performed at 52 intersections between 69<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> Streets in Jackson Heights/Corona and between Prince and 162<sup>nd</sup> Streets in Flushing.

This study resulted in the approval and installation of left turn phases at the following locations:

- 69<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 80<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 82<sup>nd</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- Junction Boulevard (dual left turn phase)
- 108<sup>th</sup> Street (dual left turn phase)
- Bowne Street (westbound left turn phase)
- Parsons Boulevard (dual left turn phase)

In April 2002, left turn phases were installed at 14 additional intersections:

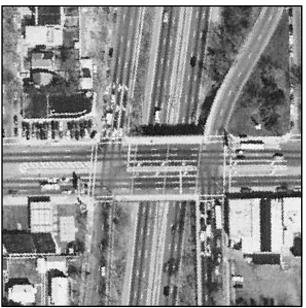
- 78<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 79<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 81<sup>st</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 84<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 85<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 86<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 87<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 88<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 89<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 90<sup>th</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 91<sup>st</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)
- 92<sup>nd</sup> Street (westbound left turn phase)
- 93<sup>rd</sup> Street (eastbound left turn phase)

Since calendar year 2000, new signals have been installed at:

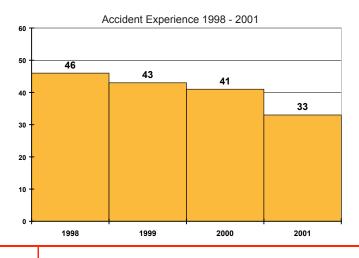
- Northern Boulevard and Oceania Street (February 2000)
- Northern Boulevard and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street (July 2000)
- Northern Boulevard and 192<sup>nd</sup> Street (February 2001)

Beginning in June 2003, the Department began replacing the existing electro-mechanical signal controllers with custom designed Advanced Solid State Traffic Controllers (ASTC). These controllers are microprocessor based and utilize advanced technology to insure operational integrity and reliability. The ASTC's are downloaded with the computerized signal timing programs so if communication is lost to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) the signal will remain in time with adjacent intersections to insure safe and efficient traffic flow on the artery. The ASTC's also allow the Department to implement different timing plans at non-computerized locations. As of February 2006, 1,019 controllers were installed throughout he five boroughs. By borough, this includes 253 locations in Queens, 204 locations in Brooklyn 509 locations in Staten Island, 43 locations in the Bronx and 10 locations in Manhattan.

### NORTHERN BOULEVARD/ CLEARVIEW EXPRESSWAY



Aerial view of original configuration and roadway markings



#### Description

At this location, Northern Boulevard passes over the Clearview Expressway which is below grade. The northbound and southbound service roads flank the depressed roadway creating two closely spaced intersections on Northern Boulevard in an "H" configuration. This roadway configuration, coupled with high traffic volumes on all approaches, including significant turning movements, queuing, weaving and storage issues all lead to a high accident experience at this location.

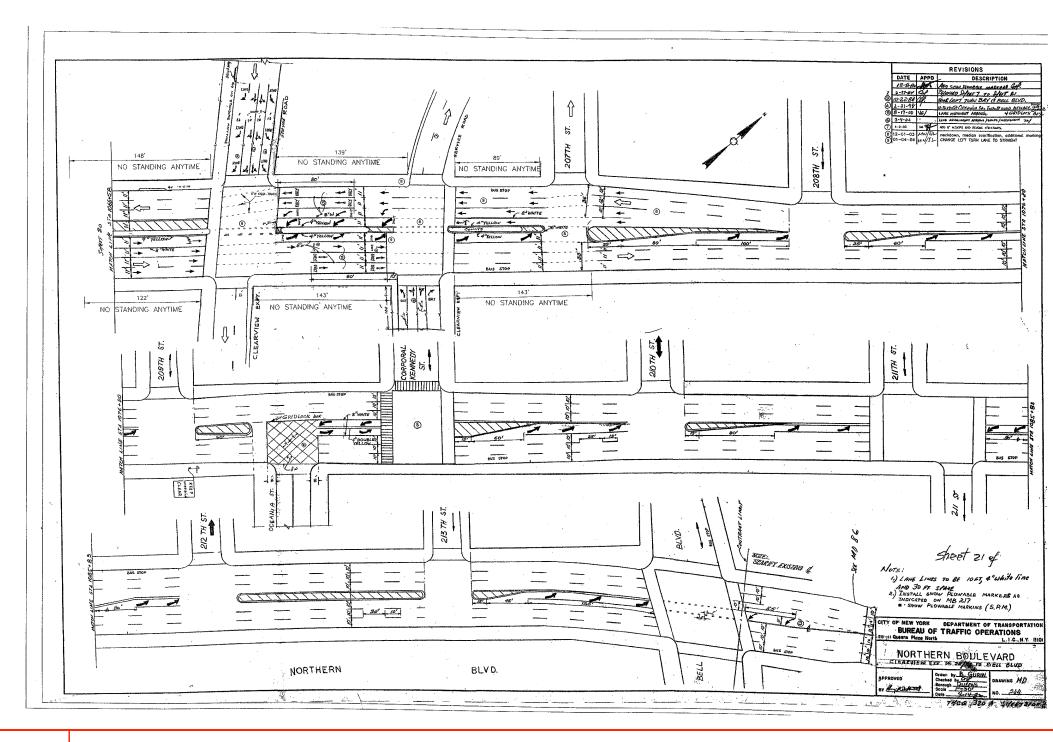
Since 1998, the occurrence of accidents at this location has been declining. In that year, there were 46 total accidents, one of which involved a cyclist. In 1999, total accidents decreased slightly to 43, and in 2000, decreased to 41. In 2001, accidents declined substantially to 33, one of which involved a pedestrian. There have been no fatalities reported during the past six years. This downward trend parallels the overall trend taking place citywide over this time period. Overall, these improvements should provide for an improved and safer operation of this intersection.

#### **Improvements Implemented in Spring 2003**

- Dual left turn lanes were installed in coordination with an exclusive left turn signal phase on Northern Boulevard in both directions approaching the Clearview Expressway service roads.
- Modified the left turn phase from "permitted/protected" to "protected" only (for both directions) in coordination with the installation of dual left turn lanes. This work was completed in May 2003.

#### **Improvements Implemented in Spring 2004**

• The dual left turn lane on eastbound Northern Boulevard was changed to a single left turn lane.



### FRANCIS LEWIS BOULEVARD Between 120<sup>TH</sup> Avenue/220<sup>TH</sup> Street & 125<sup>TH</sup> Avenue/232<sup>ND</sup> Street

#### Description

Francis Lewis Boulevard is a major north-south thoroughfare through Queens. This residential corridor is characterized by its wide width which leads to excessive speeding. Some of the intersections along this corridor are offset at angles to Francis Lewis Boulevard, while others form T intersections. A concrete median exists at several locations along the corridor.

While not a high accident location, there have been numerous complaints from area residents, elected officials and Community Board 13 regarding excessive speeding and unsafe conditions. A review of the accident experience along this corridor indicates a steady increase in accidents between 1998 and 2000. In 1998, there were a total of eight vehicular accidents. In 1999,

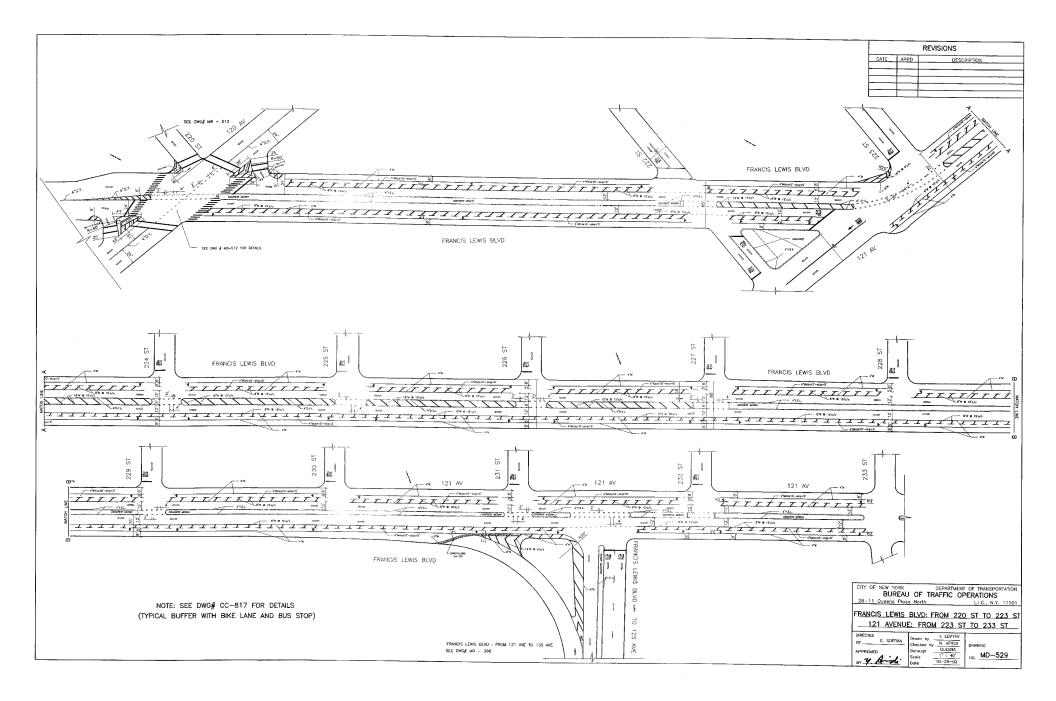
accidents more than doubled to 17. In 2000, total accidents continued to increase to 23. In 2001, accidents decreased slightly to 17. This decrease parallels the declining trend in accidents citywide.

In addition, the Department believes this proactive approach to addressing the community concerns at this location will continue to improve safety along this stretch of Francis Lewis Boulevard.



#### **Improvements Implemented in 2003**

- In June 2003, new thermoplastic bicycle lane markings were installed on Francis Lewis Boulevard from 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 233<sup>rd</sup> Street. This improvement reduced speeds along Francis Lewis Boulevard by narrowing the roadway to one travel lane in each direction flanked by the Class II bicycle lane with a buffer zone and parking along the curb.
- Just east of 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Francis Lewis Boulevard follows a 90 degree turn and proceeds southbound. At this intersection, a turning lane for vehicles continuing along Francis Lewis Boulevard was removed through the installation of felxible bollards and striping. This normalized the intersection of Francis Lewis Boulevard between 231<sup>st</sup> and 232<sup>nd</sup> Streets. This improvement was completed in October 2003.



#### SAFE STREETS NYC 180

### FRANCIS LEWIS BOULEVARD Between Springfield Boulevard & 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue/220<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **Description**

As indicated previously, Francis Lewis Boulevard is a major north-south thoroughfare through Queens, characterized by its wide width and unusual geometry with off-set intersections. Along this portion of Francis Lewis Boulevard, from Springfield Boulevard to 220<sup>th</sup> Street, the roadway width is uneven along the eastern curb, as well as lacking sidewalks. This section of Francis Lewis Boulevard also directly abuts the stretch of roadway where the Department completed a significant traffic calming project in 2003.

In 2004, at the request of elected officials and continuing community concern about the unsafe conditions and speeding issues, most notably the fact that vehicles would speed on wider areas and then try to get back into the flow of traffic. In addition, several offset intersections contributed to safety and operational concerns.

#### **Improvements implemented in November 2005**

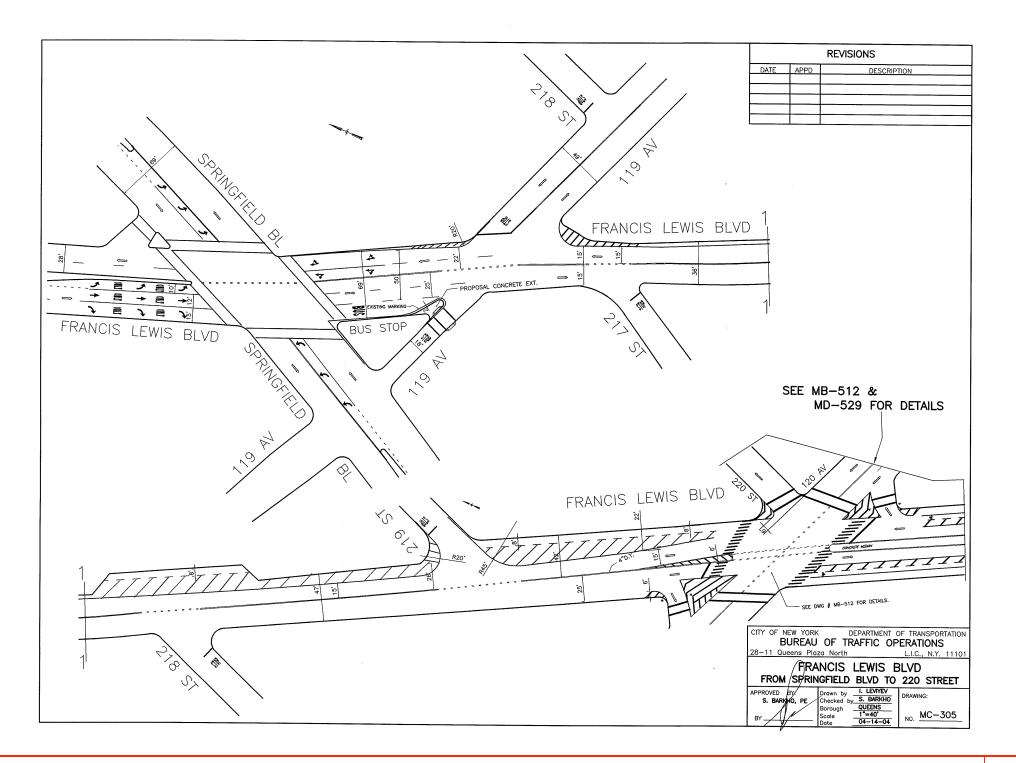
Building upon the previous improvements instituted along Francis Lewis Boulevard, the Department developed a marking plan to address the geometric issues along this corridor. Through the use of roadway markings, the Department normalized traffic into a consistent single lane of travel between 218<sup>th</sup> Street and 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Portions of the excess roadway were also converted into designated parking spaces. In addition, cross-hatch markings were utilized at intersections to normalize their geometry and provide for safer turning movements.

Roadway markings were utilized to improve geometry of roadway, narrow the roadway into one travel lane and provide parking











### 69<sup>TH</sup> STREET/GRAND AVENUE/ Long Island Expressway



Aerial view of intersection

#### Description

The interchange of 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Avenue and the Long Island Expressway (LIE) service roads form a complex set of five closely spaced intersections. This configuration is due to the unusual roadway created by 69<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue crossing each other, the submerged LIE, and the eastbound and westbound LIE service roads. Speeding, heavy truck traffic exiting the LIE and large numbers of vehicles using this complex intersection contributed to the safety concerns

In the spring of 2003 the Department worked with community groups to formulate measures to improve both vehicular and pedestrian safety. Prior to the most recent study, the Department had implemented several improvements at this intersection, such as changing the timing of some of the traffic signals, installing LED displays and improving signage.

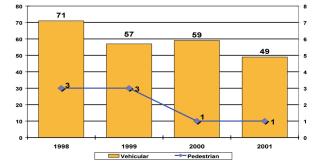
Within this interchange there is a high level of pedestrian traffic, mainly from the commercial corridor along 69<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue. Pedestrians crossing these streets face unusual crossing movements because of the angle of the intersection and the high frequency of turning movements. Additionally, the LIE service roads accommodate high volumes of traffic and many pedestrians cross this intersection to reach bus stops and public facilities located to the south of this intersection.

Overall, there has been a downward trend in total accidents at this location between 1998 and 2001. In 1998, there were a total of 74 accidents in this intersection complex, of which three were pedestrians. In 1999, there were 60 accidents, of which three were pedestrians. In 2000, there were 60 accidents, only one of which involved a pedestrian. In 2001, total accidents declined 17% (to 50 from 60 in 2000), only one of which involved a pedestrian. Although the decline in accidents predates the treatments, this downward trend parallels the overall decline taking place citywide.

#### **Improvements Implemented in October 2003**

- Installed bollards at the north end of the traffic island at 69<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue.
- Placed a stop sign on the slip roadway of the LIE's eastbound service road at Grand Avenue.
- Posted "No Left Turn" signs on northbound 69<sup>th</sup> Street at Grand Avenue.
- Upgraded all pedestrian crosswalks to high visibility.
- Installed peg-a-trac markings on 69<sup>th</sup> Street across Grand Avenue.
- Repositioned the left-turn signal arrow for northbound 69<sup>th</sup> Street at the westbound service road of the LIE.
- Installed five foot extensions to the signal mast arms at Grand Avenue and 69<sup>th</sup> Street to enhance visibility.
- Installed edge lines on both sides of Grand Avenue and 69<sup>th</sup> Street between the service roads of the expressway.
- Louvered the green signal (facing north) at 69<sup>th</sup> Street and the westbound service road, so they are not visible to southbound 69<sup>th</sup> Street motorists approaching Grand Avenue.







Above: Roadway markings including peg-a-tracs

Below: Detail of bollards and high visibility crosswalks





### PARSONS BOULEVARD/ KISSENA BOULEVARD



#### Description

Over the past few years, the intersection of Kissena Boulevard with Parsons Boulevard and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been identified as a problematic location. The traffic problems at this location occur because of the unusual geometry created by the merge of Kissena Boulevard with Parsons Boulevard and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Furthermore, the location of a small strip mall on the east side of Kissena Boulevard contributes to unsafe vehicular movements at this location. Although not a high accident location, the Department explored ways to improve this intersection and has worked with NYPD's 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct to mitigate the conflicts. Accidents have steadily increased over the past few years with a dramatic increase in 2002. As a result, the Department created a mitigation plan in September 2003 that further addressed the concerns at this location.

Aerial view of the original configuration of the intersection

#### **Improvements Implemented in July 2004**

In order to mitigate the irregular geometry at this intersection, the following measures were implemented:

- Removal of the small traffic island and the installation of a larger island resulted in a normalized right angle intersection at Parsons Boulevard and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installation of a Stop control slip roadway for southbound Kissena Boulevard at Parsons

Boulevard.

- Installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Parsons Boulevard and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installation of Stop controls, a Stop word message and a crosswalk for southbound Kissena Boulevard where it will intersect with southbound Parsons Boulevard.
- Installation of a raised center median on Parsons Boulevard between 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 75<sup>th</sup> Road, which eliminated the unsafe movements into the strip mall. Vehicles exiting the strip mall are now required to turn right onto northbound Parsons Boulevard.
- Installation of lane use arrows and "ONLY" messages for Kissena Boulevard.
- Removal of parking meters and the installation of parking restrictions on the east side of Parsons Boulevard between 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 75<sup>th</sup> Road.



# **80<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

#### **Description**

80<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a wide two-way roadway through the residential communities of Floral Park, Bellerose and Glen Oaks. The roadway, which runs from 251<sup>st</sup> Street and Union Turnpike east to the Nassau/Queens County Line at Langdale Street has been frequently identified as problematic by the Police Department due to excessive speeding. In its original configuration, 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue was characterized by excessively wide lane widths and stop controls only on the minor approaches. Parking was permitted on both curbs and land use was entirely residential. In addition, a single speed reducer was installed in 1998 between 258<sup>th</sup> and 259<sup>th</sup> Streets.



The original configuration and roadway markings on 80th Avenue

In response to a fatality that occurred on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 260<sup>th</sup> Street in November 2003 and community and NYPD concerns about speeding, the Department investigated the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures along the corridor. The Department's investigation identified a speeding problem and a subsequent traffic calming program for the entire corridor was developed.

#### Improvements Implemented in August 2005

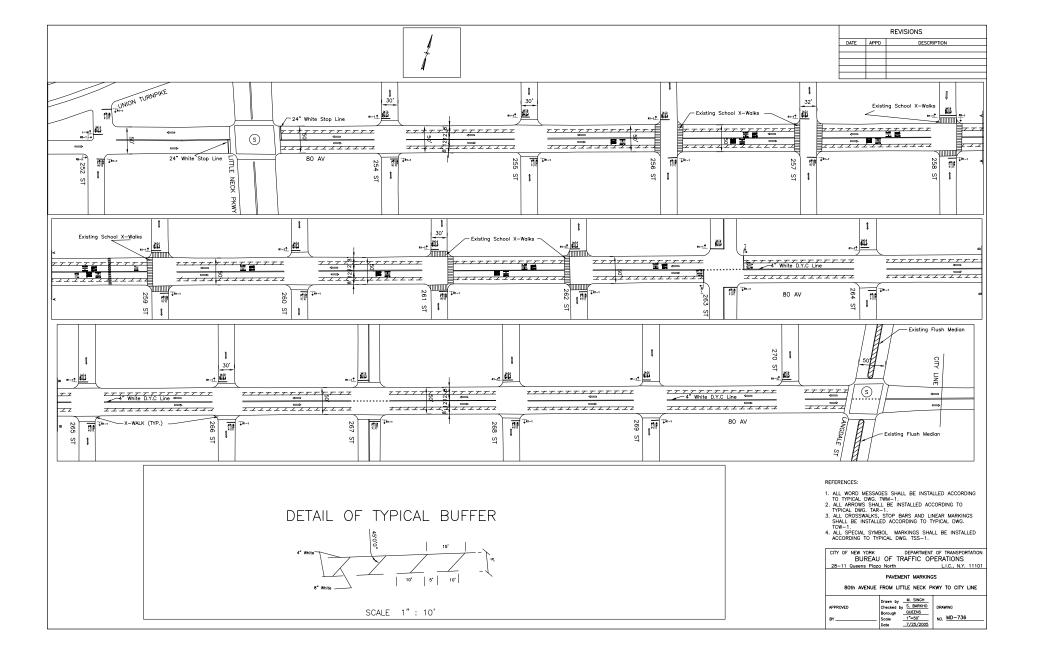
• Installed a painted buffer in each direction adjacent to the parking lane to narrow the



Roadway markings effectively narrowed 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue to one lane in each direction

effective width of the roadway between Little Neck Parkway and Langdale Street, an 18-block segment.

Stop messages and Stop lines were installed at each intersection approaching 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue within this roadway segment.





## HYLAN BOULEVARD

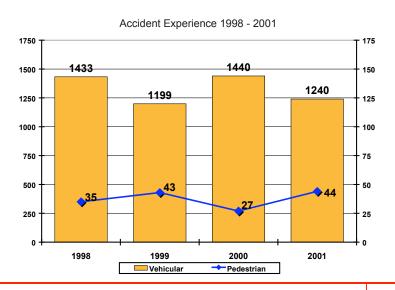
#### **Description**

Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island's longest commercial roadway, serves as one of borough's primary roadways. This 14-mile long corridor connects the island along the eastern shore, linking Rosebank and Tottenville. Throughout the corridor, there are many residential communities and active commercial districts that attract numerous vehicular trips. In addition, Hylan Boulevard serves as a principal commuter route to and from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and serves as an alternate route to the Outerbridge Crossing.

Due to the nature and function of this corridor, Hylan Boulevard is frequently congested on both weekdays and weekends, especially during peak travel hours. As such it has been a primary

focus for both residents and public agencies. In 2000, a task force was created (comprised of members of DOT and NYPD) to formulate solutions to safety and operational problems along Hylan Boulevard. This task force built upon past accomplishments and programs that were implemented in 1999.

Safety is a primary concern along the entire length of Hylan Boulevard. The accident experience between 1998 and 2001 has varied from year to year. In 1998, there were 1,468 total accidents and 35 pedestrian accidents along the corridor. In 1999, there were 1,242 total accidents (13% less than 1998) and 43 pedestrian accidents. In 2000, total



accidents increased again to 1,467 but pedestrian accidents decreased significantly by 37% (to 27 from 43 in 1999). In 2001, total accidents decreased to 1,284 but pedestrian accidents increased to 44.

#### Implemented Improvements

Improvements made to Hylan Boulevard include the installation of left-turn bays and an innovative two-way left turn lane.

Left turn bays were installed at the following intersections on Hylan Boulevard in summer 1999:

- Adams Avenue
- Arden Avenue
- Bedford Avenue
- Jefferson Avenue
- Liberty Avenue
- Page Avenue
- Seaview Avenue
- Stobe Avenue

The first two-way left turn lane in the City was installed along a 600–foot stretch of Hylan Boulevard between Lincoln and Midland Avenues in July 1999. The two-way left turn lane is located in the center of the boulevard; vehicles are permitted to make a left turn from this lane from either direction of travel on Hylan Boulevard. It provides for safe access to the many commercial establishments located in the area.

Large street name signs were first installed at seven major intersections along Hylan Boulevard in May 2000. The signs are supported from mast arms extending over the roadway. At the same time, 12 large street name signs were installed in advance of six major signalized intersections between Steuben and Ebbitts Streets. These improvements primarily assist motorists with vision limitations and visitors unfamiliar with the area in identifying cross streets. In the spring of 2003, seven additional intersections received the oversized street name signs. These signs were installed at:

- Chesterton Avenue
- Buffalo Street
- Justin Avenue
- Bay Terrace
- Keegans Lane
- Cleveland Avenue
- Armstrong Avenue

More recently, additional oversized street name signs were installed at additional intersections along this corridor as part of the Oversized Street Name Sign program. As of February 2006, there are 61 such signs posted along Hylan Boulevard.

"Emergency Exit" and "Keep Driveway Clear" signs and Keep Clear pavement markings were installed on Hylan Boulevard at the 122<sup>nd</sup> precinct near Bryant Avenue in May 2000.

In May 2000, on a trial basis, signal timing at the intersection of Hylan Boulevard at New Dorp Lane was modified so that each direction of New Dorp Lane moved on separate signal phases. The trial

program was discontinued and the traffic signal pattern reverted to the prior "normal sequence" pattern in conjunction with implementation of the following improvements:

- The left turn bay on Hylan Boulevard was extended by 100 feet in the westbound direction to accommodate five additional vehicles or 200 vehicles per hour.
- The raised center median (approximately 290 feet) from New Dorp Lane to Jacques Street was removed and replaced with a center divider comprised of flexible bollards.
- The roadway was resurfaced between New Dorp Lane and Jacques Street.
- Rush-hour parking restrictions were implemented between Guyon Avenue and Steuben Street.
- Five bus stops were relocated from near side to far side locations to improve traffic flow. In addition, three bus stops were lengthened to provide more space for buses to unload passengers and prevent spillback into the intersection.
- In coordination with NYC Transit, ensured that buses pull to the curb to pick up and discharge passengers.
- In coordination with the Police Department, increased enforcement of parking regulations along Hylan Boulevard (especially deliveries and bus stop violations during the AM and PM peak periods).
- In coordination with the Department of Sanitation and private sanitation companies, ensured that no pickups occur during the AM and PM peak periods.

These improvements resulted in PM peak travel time savings of approximately six minutes on southbound Hylan Boulevard between Jefferson Avenue and Beach Avenue. This represents a 57% reduction in travel time from 10.5 minutes to 4.5 minutes.

• All crosswalks on Hylan Boulevard were refurbished in April 2002.

Since May 2000, new traffic signals have been installed on Hylan Boulevard at the following locations:

- Hylan Boulevard and Artbus Avenue (June 2000)
- Hylan Boulevard and Sharrotts Avenue (September 2000)
- Hylan Boulevard and Sprague Avenue (April 2001)
- Hylan Boulevard and Holdridge Street (March 2002)
- Hylan Boulevard and Holton Avenue (March 2003)
- Hylan Boulevard and Benton Avenue (May 2004)
- Hylan Boulevard and Bayview Avenue (April 2004)
- Hylan Boulevard and Cunningham Road (September 2005)

At the intersection of Hylan Boulevard and Old Town Road/Quintard Street, the Department implemented a safety project that included exclusive left turn signals for the Old Town Road and Quintard Street approaches, lane usage markings and signage, guard rails to separate a parking lot from the road bed of Quintard Street and a sidewalk cut back to facilitate turning movements. All work was completed in December 2004.

#### **Future Improvements**

- Widen New Dorp Lane in order to provide an exclusive right-turn lane in the southbound direction.
- A Preliminary Design Investigation (PDI) was prepared to evaluate existing and future conditions

on Hylan Boulevard between Bache Avenue and Groton Street. Twenty-three intersections were studied in detail and Transportation Systems Management alternatives were recommended to enhance capacity and level of service on this section of Hylan Boulevard. Some of the recommendations proposed include changing the geometric configuration, adding left turn bays, installing traffic signals, prohibiting left turns, and optimizing signal timing.



Example of intersection on Hylan Boulevard where no turning lane exists in wither direction.

In May 2005, NYCDOT, in consultation with the NYPD and the Staten Island Borough President, initiated a consultant study to determine the feasibility of prohibiting left turns from Hylan Boulevard at intersections along the 6.2 mile segment between Steuben Street and Richmond Avenue. Consideration is being given to prohibiting left turns at intersections where separate left turn lanes do not currently exist in both the eastbound and westbound directions for the AM and PM weekday peak periods, as well as for all time periods. The study will include needs for new directional signage as alternatives to left turns at prohibited intersections. Data collection was completed in June 2005 and an operational analysis for the No-Build condition was completed in November 2005. It is anticipated the study will be completed in spring 2006.

## HYLAN BOULEVARD/ REYNOLDS STREET

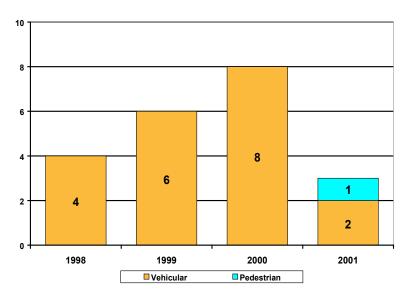
#### **Description**

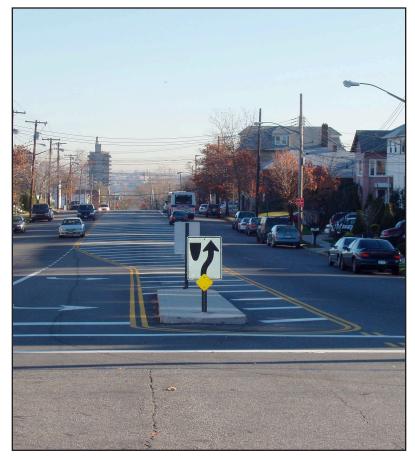
Building upon DOT's efforts to improve safety along the entire length of Hylan Boulevard, the Department implemented a set of safety improvements at Hylan Boulevard in the vicinity of Reynolds Street. This section of Hylan Boulevard was very wide (70 feet) with two moving lanes in each direction and a high incidence of speeding. While not a high accident intersection, this location experienced a rising accident trend from 1998 through 2000. In 1998, there were four total accidents along this stretch of Hylan Boulevard, six in 1999 and eight in 2000. There were no pedestrian accidents or fatalities during these three years. In 2001, there were three total accidents, of which one involved a pedestrian fatality. *Since then, there have been no fatalities at this intersection.* 

In response to these trends, the Department implemented a series of traffic calming measures in December 2001. Although the New York State Accident data is not available for comparison, NYPD data shows that there have not been any accidents at the Hylan Boulevard/Reynolds Street intersection since the implementation of these measures.

#### **Improvements Implemented in December 2001**

In an effort to improve pedestrian safety and crossing time on Hylan Boulevard in the vicinity of Reynolds Street, the Department





Roadway markings and raised intersection at the Hylan Boulevard and Reynolds Street

implemented a traffic calming measure to narrow the roadway to one moving lane in each direction between Tompkins Avenue and Colton Street. Roadway markings were installed to narrow the roadway and a raised center median was installed at the Hylan Boulevard/Reynolds Avenue intersection to supplement the painted median. At Tompkins Avenue, the Department installed new signs to help direct motorists through the intersection. Additionally, the crosswalk at the Hylan Boulevard/Reynolds Avenue intersection was relocated from the west to the east leg. All work was completed in December 2001.

This improvement also resulted in decreased speeds on Hylan Boulevard, particularly in the westbound direction. There was a greater impact on eastbound speeds. Average speeds decreased by 8.6% eastbound (to 33.1 mph from 36.2 mph) and 3.6% westbound (to 35.3 mph from 36.6 mph). Eighty-fifth percentile speeds decreased 14% eastbound (to 37.0 mph from 43.0 mph) and 4.3% westbound (to 40.2 mph from 42.0 mph). Although speeds have decreased, they remain relatively high and the local precinct has been asked to increase enforcement on this section of Hylan Boulevard.



### Description

Father Capodanno Boulevard is a 2.8-mile roadway that operates along the southeast shore of Staten Island. This roadway is used as an alternate to Hylan Boulevard as it provides a direct access to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. The roadway geometry consists of sharp curvature in the vicinity of Sand Lane, but is generally straight and level. Motorists tend to speed during off-peak hours when traffic volumes are light and there is considerable excess available capacity. Four fatalities occurred on this roadway between 1993 and 2000, *however no fatalities have occurred since 2001.* 

### **Improvements Implemented**

- Trailer mounted speed boards were placed (facing both directions) approximately 1000 feet south of Slater Boulevard in January 2000. The unit facing northbound traffic was vandalized and removed in June 2000.
- A new signal was installed at the intersection of Father Capodanno Boulevard/Slater Boulevard in June 2000.
- Installed traffic signal poles with oversized 40 foot mast arms on each approach at the intersection of Father Capodanno Boulevard and Seaview Avenue. These improvements enhance the visibility of the signal display, as well as provide for illuminated street name signs which were affixed to the mast arms of the poles. This treatment was installed in July 2004.



New traffic signal pole with oversized mast arm at Father Capodanno Boulevard and Seaview Ave. In addition, an illuminated street name sign is affixed to the mast arm

### **Future Improvements**

In order to maintain capacity during commuter rush hours and control speeding during off-peak hours when there is excess capacity, we are considering the design and installation of lane control signals (in coordination with signs and markings) that would regulate lane usage by time of day. A preliminary cost estimate using 15,000 feet as the approximate length of the system with 35 lane stations installed at intervals of approximately 400-450 feet is \$5.21M. It is assumed the system would be designed (and a construction contract prepared) by a consultant under the engineering services agreement. It should also be noted that the estimate does not include the installation of any signs and markings needed to reinforce the system or other components (e.g., VMS signs, cameras, detection equipment) that may be considered to enhance the system.

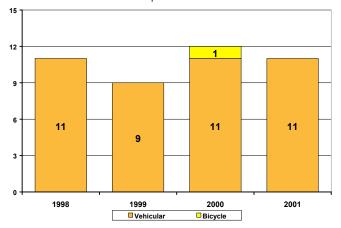
# PAGE AVENUE/ P.S. 6

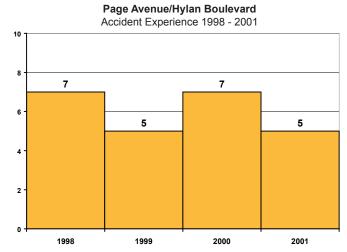
### **Description**

PS 6, which is located on Page Avenue between Hylan Boulevard and Amboy Road, had many safety concerns, particularly during arrival and dismissal times. Among those problems were the absence of sidewalks along Page Avenue, the absence of traffic controls at the Page Avenue/Academy Place intersection, and motorists' failure to obey parking/traffic regulations, particularly speeding, illegal U-turns, and double parking. Radar speed surveys conducted along Page Avenue showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds were 48 mph northbound and 47 mph southbound. Based upon these concerns, the Department took a proactive approach at this location.

In terms of the accident experience, DOT examined the accident history at both Page Avenue and Amboy Road and Page Avenue and Hylan Boulevard. The accident trends at both of these locations is similar. In 1998, there were a total of 11 accidents at the Page Avenue/Amboy Road intersection and seven accidents at the Page Avenue/Hylan Boulevard intersection. Accidents declined at both intersection in 1999, decreasing by 18% to nine at Page Avenue/Amboy Road and by 25% to five at the Page Avenue/Hylan Boulevard intersection. In 2000, both intersections experienced an increase in total accidents. The intersection of Page Avenue and Amboy Road increased to 12 total accidents, one of which involved a cyclist. At Page Avenue and Hylan Boulevard, accidents increased slightly to seven. In 2001, accidents at Page Avenue and Amboy Road decreased slightly to 11, and the intersection of Page Avenue and Hylan Boulevard decreased to five total accidents.

#### Page Avenue/Amboy Road Accident Experience 1998 - 2001





Improvements at this location began in the Spring of 2001 and continued into the following year, postdating the available accident information. However, these improvements, including signage, markings and signal changes provided for a safer pedestrian and vehicular environment around PS 6.

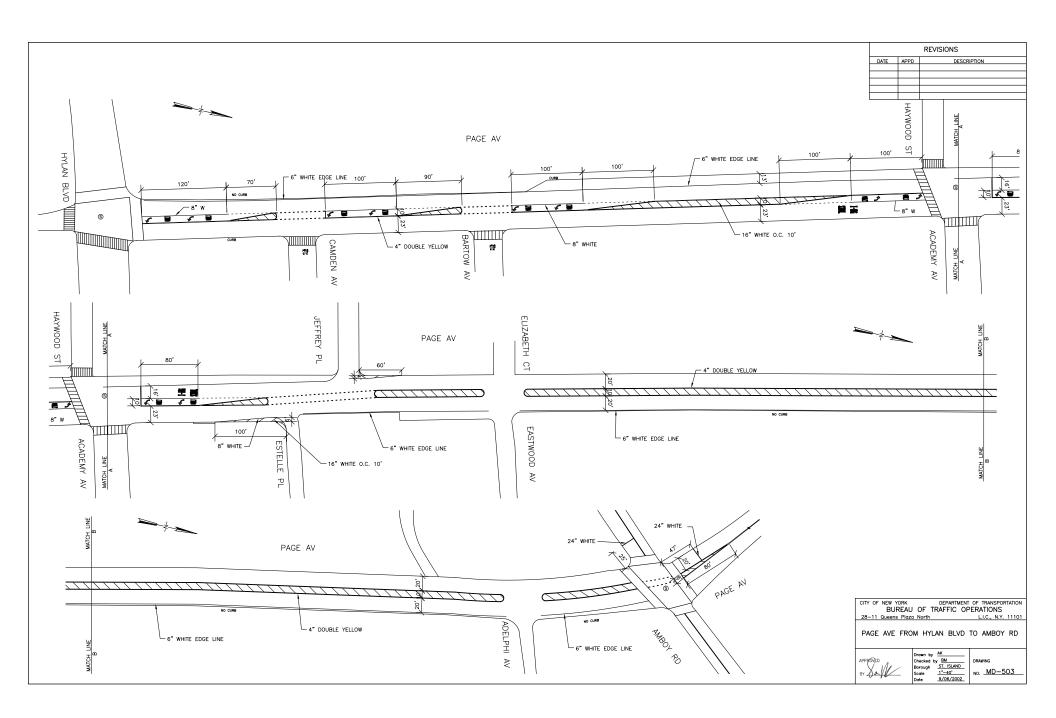
### **Implemented Improvements**

- Phase I of the sidewalk and curb installation for a distance of 400 feet on the west side of Page Avenue (opposite the school) was completed in the fall of 2000. Phase II, which included 200 feet on the east side of Page Avenue between Hylan Boulevard and Bartow Avenue and 100 feet along the bus stop on the north side of Hylan Boulevard at Page Avenue, was completed concurrently. As a result of the completion of Phases I and II, a continuous safe walkway for students now exists from the bus stop on Hylan Boulevard to PS 6.
- Pedestrian signals were installed at the Page Avenue/Amboy Road intersection in February 2001.
- Installed No U-Turn signs at the Academy Avenue/Page Avenue intersection in March 2001.
- Missing speed limit signs were replaced in the area in June 2001.
- A traffic signal was installed at the Page Avenue/Academy Avenue intersection in September 2001.
- New pedestrian and school crosswalks and school crossing markings word messages were installed on Page Avenue from Hylan Boulevard to Amboy Road. All work was completed in April 2002.
- School crossing signs (yellow-green fluorescent) and advance warning signs were installed at the Page Avenue/Bartow Street intersection in December 2000, at the Academy Avenue/Page Avenue intersection in October 2001, and at the Camden Avenue/Page Avenue and Hylan Boulevard/Page Avenue intersections in early August 2002.
- A painted median was installed to narrow the roadway on Page Avenue between Hylan Boulevard and Amboy Road in September 2002.
- Phase III, which includes installation of 2,000 feet of sidewalks and curbs on the west side of Page Avenue (between Academy Place and Amboy Road) was completed in early August 2002. Completion

of Phase III provided a continuous walkway from Hylan Boulevard to Amboy Road.

• At the intersection of Page Avenue and Academy Avenue, the cycle length was increased from 60 to 90 seconds to allow an additional nine seconds (from 27 to 36 seconds) to cross Page Avenue. (May 2004)

The improvements are illustrated on the following page.



## Borough Wide Daylighting Initiative

### Description

Working with the Staten Island Borough President and the local police precincts, the Department identified intersections (listed below) that would benefit from daylighting to enhance safety in the borough.

"Daylighting" refers to the process of installing restrictive parking regulations at intersections to improve visibility and safety for motorists. These parking restrictions are designed to help motorists gain an unobstructed view of traffic approaching the intersection.

As a result, daylighting has been installed at the following locations:

- Crystal Avenue @ Gourdon Street "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the east curb of Crystal Avenue to provide daylighting at the intersection of Gourdon Street. Completed in October 2002.
- Victory Boulevard @ Stewart Avenue "No Parking Anytime" regulations were installed to provide daylighting at the intersection of Victory Boulevard. Completed in June 2002.
- Westcott Boulevard @ Coale Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the west curb of Westcott Boulevard to provide daylighting at the intersection of Coale Avenue. Completed in October 2002
- Lynhurst Avenue @ Tompkins Avenue "No Parking Anytime" regulations were installed to daylight the south side of Tompkins Avenue. Completed in October 2002.
- Amboy Road @ Sprague Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the south

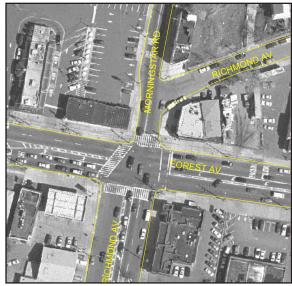
curb of Amboy Road to provide daylighting at the intersection of Sprague Avenue. Completed in June 2002.

- Huguenot Avenue @ Lombardi Court "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the east curb of Huguenot Avenue to provide daylighting at the intersection of Lombardi Court. Completed in June 2002.
- Guyon Avenue @ Clawson Street "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the west curb of Guyon Avenue to provide daylighting at the intersection of Clawson Street. Completed in June 2002.
- Decker Avenue @ Palmer Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the west curb of Decker Avenue to provide daylighting at the intersection of Palmer Avenue. Completed in August 2002.
- Finlay Avenue @ Creston Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the south curb of Finlay Avenue to provide daylighting at the intersection of Creston Avenue. Completed in January 2002.
- Amboy Road @ Joline Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the west curb of Amboy Road to provide daylighting at the intersection of Joline Avenue. Completed in June 2002.
- Sharrotts Road @ Arthur Kill Road "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the west curb of Arthur Kill Road at the intersection of Sharrotts Road. Completed in June 2002.
- Willowbrook Road @ Buchanan Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the north curb of Willowbrook Road to provide daylighting at the intersection of Buchanan Avenue. Completed in January 2003.
- South Gannon Avenue @ Ardmore Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the south curb of South Gannon Avenue at the intersection of Ardmore Avenue. Completed in November 2002.
- Forest Avenue @ Elizabeth Street "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the north curb of Forest Avenue at the intersection of Elizabeth Street. Completed in November 2002.
- Holden Boulevard @ Wellbrook Avenue --- "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the

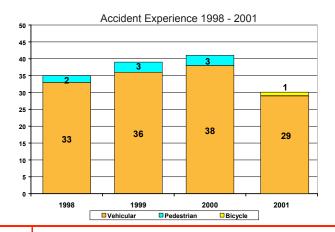
south curb of Holden Boulevard at the intersection of Wellbrook Avenue. Completed in November 2002.

- North Burgher Avenue @ Delafield Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the east and west curbs of North Burgher Avenue at the intersection of Delafield Avenue. Completed in November 2002.
- South Railroad Avenue @ Greeley Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the north curb of South Railroad Avenue at the intersection of Greeley Avenue. Completed in November 2002.
- Palma Drive @ Parkhill Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the north curb of Palma Drive to provide daylighting at the intersection of Parkhill Avenue (both the east and west sides). Completed in November 2002.
- Harold Street @ Wellbrook Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the north and south curbs of Harold Street at the intersection of Wellbrook Avenue. Completed in November 2002.
- Amboy Road @ Sprague Avenue "No Standing Anytime" regulations were installed on the south curb of Amboy Road at the intersection of Sprague Avenue. Completed in November 2002.

### Forest Avenue/ Morningstar Road/ Richmond Avenue



Original configuration of intersection



### Description

Richmond Avenue and Forest Avenue function as major arterials through Staten Island. Forest Avenue which runs east-west across the island, intersects Richmond Avenue and Morningstar Road. South of the intersection, Richmond Avenue is a wide two-way roadway. North of the intersection, Morningstar Road functions as a connector between Forest Avenue and the continuation of a narrower Richmond Avenue, In addition, the Morningstar Road approach to Forest Avenue is offset with Richmond Avenue and is much narrower. Overall, this intersection is the focus of high vehicular activity, as the surrounding land use is predominately commercial. A significant generator of this traffic is along the northwest corner of Forest Avenue and Morningstar Road. These conditions created numerous vehicular conflicts and illegal maneuvers by motorists.

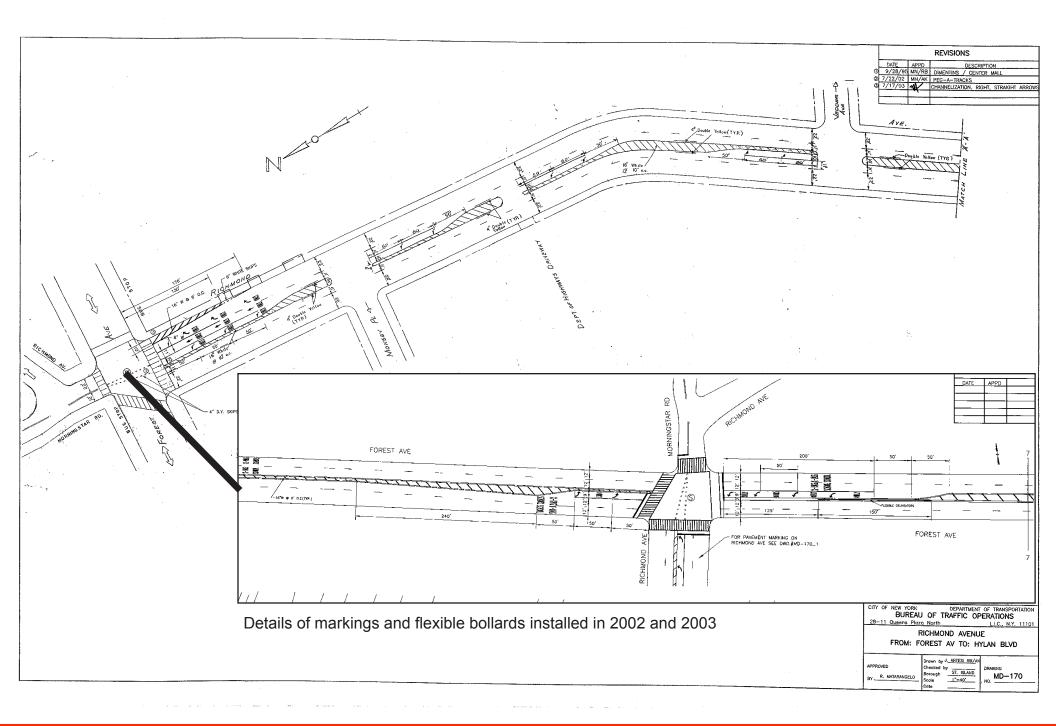
Based upon an increasing number of accidents and concerns about the illegal movements of vehicles at this intersection, the Department took a proactive approach to address these concerns. The accident history at this location indicates a steady increase in accidents between 1998 and 2000. In 1998, there were a total of 35 accidents, of which two involved pedestrians. In 1999, there were a total of 39 accidents, three involving pedestrians. In 2000, there were a total of 41 accidents, three involving pedestrians. In 2001, total accidents declined significantly by 27% to 30, of which one involved a bicyclist.

The Department expects to improve this trend with the measures implemented in the Fall of 2002 that improved the overall movement of vehicles through the intersection.

#### **Implemented Improvements**

- Flexible bollards were installed along the centerline of Forest Avenue in September 2002 to prevent vehicles from illegally crossing the painted center median while entering or exiting the ShopRite Plaza parking lot.
- Installed peg-a-tracs in September 2002 to identify the transition from the wider Richmond Avenue to the narrower Morningstar Road.
- Additional lane assignment markings and signage was installed on Forest Avenue, Morningstar Road and Richmond Avenue in August 2003.

The improvements are shown on the following page.



### NARROWS ROAD SOUTH/ RIGHMOND ROAD

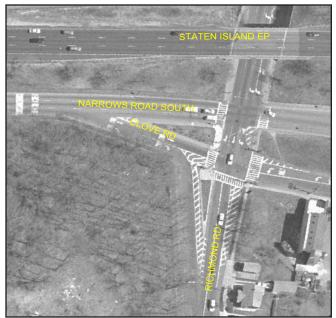
### Description

At this location, Narrows Road South functions as the eastbound service road for the Staten Island Expressway. Prior to the Richmond Road intersection, Narrows Road South forks providing access to both Clove Road as well as southbound Richmond Road. On the southern approach along Richmond Road, vehicles traveling southbound have the option to turn onto Narrows Road South or proceed a short distance further to turn onto Clove Road. In addition, Clove Road is two-way east of Richmond Avenue. Overall, the roadway configuration, geometries and lane assignments led to confusion for motorists regarding lane assignments on all three roadways intersecting at this location.

The accident experience at this intersection varied between 1998 and 2001. In 1998, there were a total of 25 accidents. Total accidents decreased to 16 in 1999. In November 1999, the Department installed advanced lane assignment signs and although accidents increased 26 on 2000, total accidents declined significantly by 50% to 12 in 2001.

### **Implemented Improvements**

• Additional directional/lane assignment signs were installed prior to the intersection to guide motorists in the appropriate direction in November 1999.



Aerial view of intersection



• Additional lane assignment signs were installed on the overpass at Richmond Road and Narrows Road North in November 2002.