

Location: Flatbush Avenue between Avenue U and Avenue V



Midblock of Flatbush Avenue between Avenue U and Avenue V

Description of Existing Conditions

Flatbush Avenue as mentioned above is 145 ft wide with six travel lanes, in each direction of traffic which include dedicated turning lanes.

Avenue U is 85 ft wide with four travel lanes in each direction while Avenue V is 55 ft with 2 travel lanes in each direction.

Flatbush Avenue has a median in the middle of the roadway which separates the two-way traffic of heavy vehicular volumes.

Pedestrian Accident Data 2004 -2006

8 pedestrian accidents

Table: C-16 – Summary of Pedestrian Accidents

<u>Accident Location</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Pedestrian Action</u>	<u>Pedestrian Location</u>	<u>Vehicle Action</u>
Ave U and Ave V (midblock)	2/8/2004	daylight	not in roadway	midblock	going straight ahead
Ave U and Ave V (midblock)	2/8/2004	daylight	crossing- no signal; no crosswalks	midblock	going straight ahead
Ave U and Ave V (midblock)	1/10/2004	night	crossing against signal	midblock	making a left turn
Ave U and Ave V (midblock)	3/1/2004	dusk	working in roadway	midblock	going straight ahead
Ave U and Ave V (midblock; 2 peds injured)	8/14/2004	rain, wet	crossing- no signal; no crosswalks	midblock	one parked getting out to go south; the other going straight SB
Ave U and Ave V	12/2/2005	night	crossing- no signal; no crosswalks	not at intersection	going straight ahead
Ave U and Ave V	2/11/2006	night, rain	crossing- no signal; no crosswalks	midblock	going straight ahead

Problems and Opportunities

- Pedestrian Jaywalking

Flatbush Avenue at this location has the Kings Plaza Shopping Mall on the east side and a strip mall/big box retail stores on the west side. Some pedestrians jaywalk midblock from/to these buildings to cross Flatbush Avenue instead of using the crosswalks located at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue with Avenue U or Avenue V. There is also a bus stop for the Q35 midblock on the west side of the street which some shoppers get from/to by jaywalking.

This is an unsafe practice for pedestrians who jaywalk in the area. With the high volume of vehicles (NB = 285 and SB = 245 vehicles on average/ 15-minute peak volumes) traveling daily along Flatbush Avenue, accidents are bound to happen at this midblock location. A total of eight pedestrian accidents have already occurred at this location between 2004 and 2006 (see above accident table). A survey was done regarding the volume of pedestrians crossing midblock: AM Peak Period (7:00 – 9:00AM) = 7, MD Peak Period (12:00 – 2:00 PM) = 11 and PM Peak Period

(4:00 – 6:00 PM) = 10 pedestrians. During the weekend peak period (1:00 – 3:00 PM), the midblock crossing volume = 20 pedestrians.



Pedestrians crossing Flatbush Avenue midblock between Avenue U and Avenue V

In addition, at this particular location a sign indicates to southbound drivers that a high speed road is ahead. Usually drivers at this point start preparing to speed up as they get closer to the Belt Parkway which represents a dangerous situation for pedestrians crossing midblock at this location.

- Pedestrian Amenities

At the time of the fieldwork in July of 2007 the median and sidewalks along Flatbush Avenue at this midblock location were empty and unattractive with no trees or plantings. But as of December 2007 small trees have been planted along the median at this midblock location.

Also the plaza in front of the shopping mall lacks benches and sitting areas for the Kings Plaza patrons waiting for a bus.



Plaza in front of Kings Plaza Mall lack sitting area and benches

Recommendations

- Install a barrier
Plant shrubs along the median in between Avenue U and Avenue V to block and discourage pedestrian from jaywalking. In addition, have some of the following signs installed midblock “Cross only at Crosswalks” and “Use Crosswalk (with a directional arrow)” directing pedestrians to the crosswalks at Avenue U or Avenue V (MUTCD Manual R9-2 and R9-3b signs; see Appendix D-2: Standards for Recommended Signs).
- Provide Additional Pedestrian Amenities
Place trees/planters on the sidewalks where possible. In terms of the medians on Flatbush Avenue, they recently as of December 2007, had small trees planted.

Additional sitting areas at the entrance of the Kings Plaza shopping mall would be convenient for patrons waiting for the arrival of the bus.

LEGEND

-  Existing Tree
-  Existing Bus Shelter
-  Existing Sign
-  Existing Pavement Marking

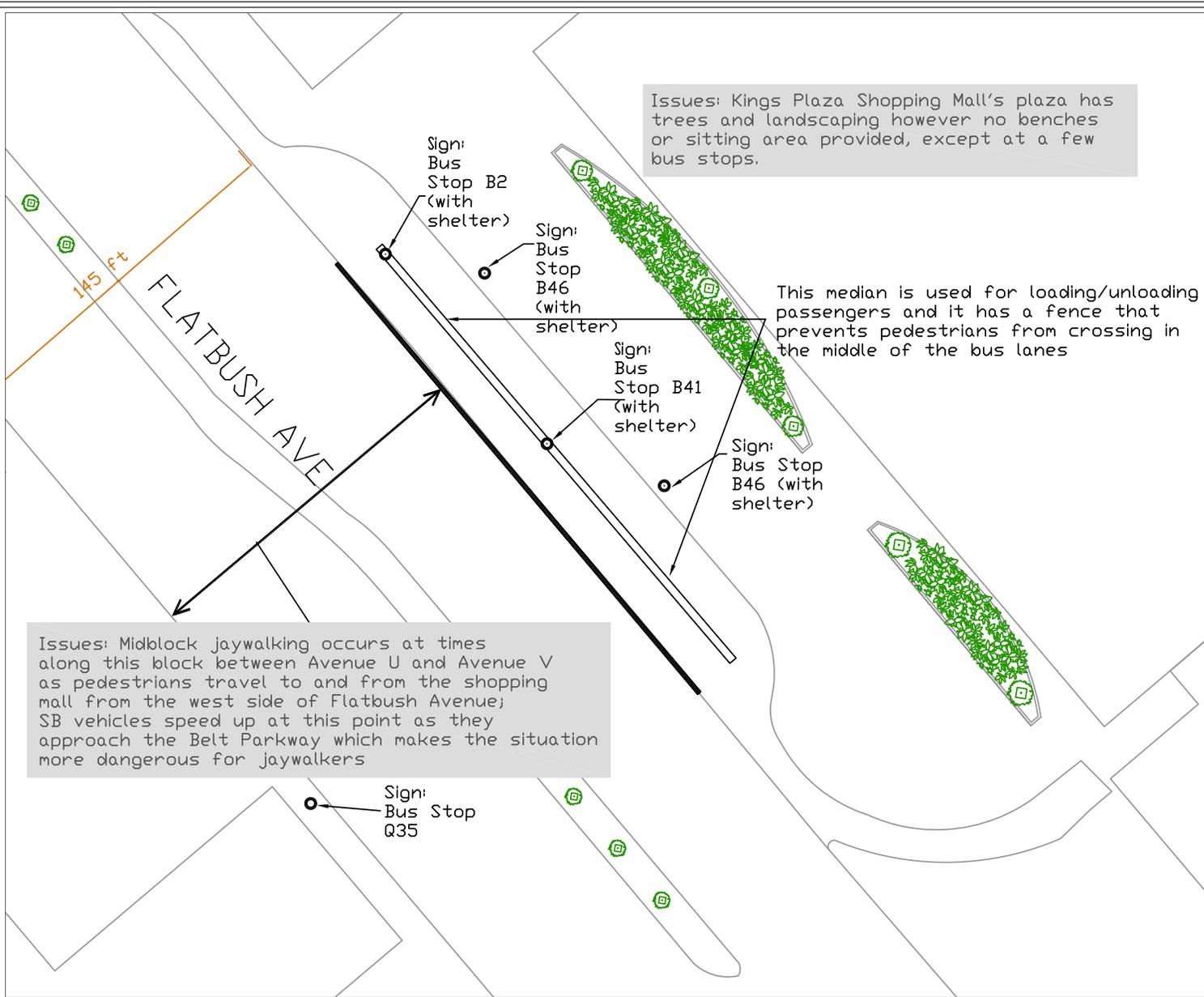
NOT TO SCALE



Issues: Kings Plaza Shopping Mall's plaza has trees and landscaping however no benches or sitting area provided, except at a few bus stops.

This median is used for loading/unloading passengers and it has a fence that prevents pedestrians from crossing in the middle of the bus lanes

Issues: Midblock jaywalking occurs at times along this block between Avenue U and Avenue V as pedestrians travel to and from the shopping mall from the west side of Flatbush Avenue; SB vehicles speed up at this point as they approach the Belt Parkway which makes the situation more dangerous for jaywalkers



Flatbush Avenue between Avenue U and Avenue V
 Existing Conditions - Figure C-4a

