

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY PLANNING PRESENTS CONCEPTUAL ELEMENTS FOR EAST MIDTOWN'S  
PUBLIC REALM**

On Wednesday, March 27th the Department of City Planning presented to the multi-Community Board task force on the East Midtown rezoning proposal. In response to requests from the community and elected officials, one of the critical pieces of the proposal presented in detail was an ensemble of conceptual elements for public realm improvements within the rezoning area. This meeting was a significant step forward in facilitating a participatory design process to garner public feedback.

Drawing from a palette of urban design interventions such as the addition of trees, plantings, benches, curb extensions, lighting, sidewalk widening, and building setbacks, the Department has identified a variety of strategies for transforming the pedestrian environment throughout East Midtown, including making Vanderbilt Avenue a beautiful distinguished gateway. The conceptual designs introduce key elements that make public space effective and enjoyable – shade, places to sit, and places to meet.

The next step is building consensus around various approaches with the goal of creating a comprehensive strategy for the area's public open space.

The East Midtown rezoning proposal requires new major development to pay into a fund that would be dedicated to public realm and transit infrastructure improvements.

 [View the conceptual elements for East Midtown's public realm.](#)

[View the East Midtown Study.](#)

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**Department of City Planning**

The Department of City Planning (DCP) promotes strategic growth, transit-oriented development, and sustainable communities in the City, in part by initiating comprehensive, consensus-based planning and zoning changes for individual neighborhoods and business districts, as well as establishing policies and zoning regulations applicable citywide. It supports the City Planning Commission and each year reviews more than 500 land use applications for actions such as zoning changes and disposition of City property. The Department assists both government agencies and the public by providing policy analysis and technical assistance relating to housing, transportation, community facilities, demography, waterfront and public space.