Franklin Avenue and Atlantic Avenue
Transportation Improvements

Commissioner Polly Trottenberg     New York City Department of Transportation
Presented on September 9, 2014 to Community Board 3 Transportation, Sanitation and Environment Committee
• Franklin Ave is congested approaching Atlantic Ave

• Franklin Ave / Atlantic Ave is a high crash intersection
  • More injuries than 99% of Brooklyn intersections
  • 8 pedestrian injuries between 2008 and 2012

• Community Board 3 leadership mentioned other transportation issues in the district:
  • Congestion on Franklin Ave approaching Fulton St
  • Congestion on Tompkins Ave approaching Fulton St
  • Bike route markings on Tompkins Ave end at MacDonough St
Issue: Congestion On Franklin Ave Approaching Atlantic Ave

- Franklin Ave signal phase is only 35 seconds every 2-minute signal cycle
- Vehicle queue backs up past Lefferts Place during PM peak period
Issue: Congestion On Franklin Ave Approaching Atlantic Ave

Existing PM Signal Phasing

Atlantic Ave phase: 70 seconds
Westbound protected phase: 15 seconds
Franklin Ave phase: 35 seconds
Issue: Congestion On Franklin Ave Approaching Atlantic Ave

- Westbound left turn volumes are very small
- Protected westbound left turn phase receives a disproportionate amount of green time (2% of volume, 13% of signal time)
Pedestrian crossing is more than 100 feet long
East crosswalk connects to C-train entrance
Pedestrians who don’t cross in time are stranded
Vehicles turning left from Franklin Ave to Atlantic Ave often drive aggressively through the crosswalk
Proposed Enhancements to Franklin/Atlantic Intersection

- Ban the westbound left turn from Atlantic Ave to Franklin Ave
- Redistribute the green time associated with the protected left turn phase to Franklin Ave and Atlantic Ave phases
- Build concrete pedestrian islands on Atlantic Avenue
Traffic Analysis

• Westbound left turn volumes are very small

• Nearby intersections (e.g. Grand Ave, Brooklyn Ave) can easily absorb the additional vehicle volume

• Congestion on Franklin Ave would be significantly reduced as a result of the additional green time
Proposed Enhancement: Improved Traffic Flow

Existing PM Signal Phasing

- Atlantic Ave phase: 70 seconds
- Westbound protected phase: 15 seconds
- Franklin Ave phase: 35 seconds
Proposed Enhancement: Improved Traffic Flow

Proposed PM Signal Phasing

Atlantic Ave phase: 80 seconds

Franklin Ave phase: 40 seconds
Proposed Enhancement: Concrete Pedestrian Islands

- Install concrete pedestrian islands on Atlantic Avenue

- Benefits:
  - Shorter crossing distance
  - Refuge for pedestrians who can’t cross in time
  - Slows turning vehicles
Issue: Congestion On Franklin Ave Approaching Fulton St

- Signal timing coordination needs improvement
- Road narrows for 70’ south of Fulton St
  - East side combined travel/parking lane narrows to 14’
  - Not wide enough for parked cars and moving cars
  - Effectively only one receiving lane
Proposed Enhancements to Franklin Ave

- Sync green phases to 25mph progression between Gates Ave and Fulton St
- Update markings so the east side combined travel lane is always 17’ wide
Issue: Tompkins Ave Approaching Fulton St

- Traffic congestion
  - Signal timing coordination needs improvement
- Bike lane markings end abruptly at MacDonough St
Proposed Enhancements to Tompkins Ave

• Sync green phases to 25mph progression between Gates Ave and Fulton St

• Add shared lane markings and signage to Tompkins Ave south of MacDonough St to guide cyclists towards Brooklyn Ave / Atlantic Ave
  • No parking removal
  • No lane removal

Example of Shared Lane Markings: Ocean Ave, Brooklyn
Summary of Proposal

- Increase green time for Franklin Ave approaching Atlantic Ave
- Build concrete pedestrian islands on Atlantic Avenue
- Sync green phases along Franklin Ave and Tompkins Ave north of Fulton St
- Fix lane alignment on Franklin Ave south of Fulton St
- Guide cyclists from Tompkins Ave bike lane with shared lane markings and guide signs

Benefits:

- Reduced congestion and delay for motorists and bus riders on Franklin Ave and Tompkins Ave
- Safer pedestrian crossing of Atlantic Ave at Franklin Ave
- Improved wayfinding and guidance for cyclists on Tompkins Ave

Planned implementation in Spring 2015
Questions?

Thank You