Fort George Ave/Amsterdam Ave, W 188 Street to St Nicholas Ave

School Safety Improvements

Presentation for Transportation Committee of Community Board 12 | December 6, 2021
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Why Are We Here?

- Community concerns about speeding and reckless driving on Amsterdam Ave/ Fort George Hill
- Elected official requests for traffic calming and safety improvements on Amsterdam Ave, W 181 St to W 190 St
- Eight local schools near the study corridor
- Amsterdam Ave/ Ft. George Ave connects local schools to Highbridge Park
- M3 and M101 bus route
- Wide steep hills on Fort George Ave and on W 190 St encourage speeding
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Data

- 45 total injuries; 2 fatalities
- 41% of motor-vehicle injuries are rear-end injuries, indicative of speeding
- 17% of pedestrian/bicycle injuries are children, higher than the 6% average in Manhattan

Amsterdam Ave Injury Summary, 2014 – 2018 (5 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Injuries</th>
<th>Severe Injuries</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>KSI</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicyclist</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicle Occupant</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
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Fatalities, 01/01/2014 – 11/29/2021: 2

Source: Fatalities: NYC DOT
Injuries: NYS DOT

Note: Data is based off of NYSDOT/NYSMDV crash and injury data available as of November 2021
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

DOT Coordination with I Challenge Myself

- I Challenge Myself (ICM) is an afterschool program for high school students based at George Washington Educational Campus
- ICM reached out to DOT asking for safety improvements on Amsterdam Ave
- DOT School Safety & ICM have been working closely together to develop a safety proposal for the street and have met for a series of field meetings and design workshops to study the area and develop improvements
Amsterdam Ave/Ft. George Ave, W 188 St to St. Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Speeding on Wide Roadway

63% of drivers above 25 mph speed limit on Amsterdam Ave at 190 St

Max Speed Recorded: 49 mph

High School for Media and Communications student measuring speeds on Amsterdam Ave at W 190 St
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Speeding on Wide Roadway

Wide roadway with low traffic encourages speeding
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Reckless Driver Behavior
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Concerns: Inefficient Use of Existing Parking

Unmarked parking spots are used inefficiently, leaving space between vehicles which could accommodate additional parking.
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Wide Street with Long Crossing Distances

Long Pedestrian Crossing Distances

62’

Amsterdam Ave at 189 St, facing north
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Concerns: Unwanted Uses & Poor Compliance

- Speeding and reckless driver behavior leads to community avoiding the park and attract more unwanted uses and lack of accountability

- Long term truck storage in No Standing Anytime zones

- Vehicles don’t move for weekly cleaning

- Car washes parked in bike lanes
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Lack of Separated Space for Cyclists

Cyclists observed riding on the sidewalks to avoid the roadway

Blocked bike lanes

Amsterdam Ave north of W 190 St, facing south

Ft. George Ave, mid-block, facing south
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Safety Concerns: Disorganized Traffic Flow on W 190 St

Wide one lane roadway allows for disorganized driving
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

**Outreach**

### Schools
- The College Academy (G. Washington Educational Campus)
- High School for Health Careers and Sciences (G. Washington Educational Campus)
- High School for Law and Public Service (G. Washington Educational Campus)
- High School for Media and Communications (G. Washington Educational Campus)
- PS 138
- PS 189
- The Equity Project (TEP) Charter School
- WHEELS
- Yeshiva University High School for Boys

### Other Stakeholders
- Community Board 12
- Connectemonos
- Isabella Geriatric Center
- MTA New York City Transit
- NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
- NYC Mountain Bike Association

Meeting on site with CB 12, Isabella, GW Campus on 11/15/21
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal: Updated Street Design

Traffic calming and speed reduction

Shorter pedestrian crossings next to schools and senior center

Pedestrian islands provide protection and visibility for pedestrians

Protected bike lane
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Protected Bike Lanes: Safety Data

On NYC streets where protected bike lanes were installed in 2007 – 2017:

- 15% drop in all crashes with injuries
- 21% drop in pedestrian injuries
- Injuries to cyclists increase only 3%, despite a 61% bike volume increase*

Street designs that include protected bike lanes increase safety for all users

![Protected Bike Lanes: Before and After Crash Data, 2007 - 2017](image)

Data from 25 separate protected bicycle lane projects installed from 2007-2014 with 3 years of after data. Includes portions of 1 Ave, 2 Ave, 8 Ave, 9 Ave, Broadway, Columbus Ave, Hudson St, Lafayette St / 4 Ave, Sands St, Allen/Pike St, Kent Ave, Prospect Park West, Flushing Ave, Bruckner Blvd & Longfellow Ave, Imlay St / Conover St, Paerdegat Ave. Only sections of projects that included protected bike lanes were analyzed.

Source: NYPD AIS/TAMS Crash Database

*Based on total volume change for 12 hour weekday (in season) before/after counts on protected bike lanes in this study*.
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

**Proposal**

1. **Amsterdam Ave**
   (W 188 St – W 190 St)

2. **Amsterdam Ave/ Ft George Ave**
   (North of W 190 St – top of the hill – angled parking section)

3. **Amsterdam Ave/ Ft George Ave**
   (North of W 190 St – top of the hill – parallel parking section)

4. **Ft George Ave**
   (Top of the hill – St. Nicholas Ave)

5. **W 190 St**
   (Amsterdam Ave – Wadsworth Ave)
Proposal Section 1: Amsterdam Ave (W 188 St - W 190 St)

Existing

- West Sidewalk
  - 9' Parking Lane
  - 5' Bike Lane
  - 11' Travel Lane
  - 11' Travel Lane
  - 9' Parking Lane

- East Sidewalk

Proposed

- West Sidewalk
  - 9' Parking Lane
  - 11' Travel Lane
  - 11' Travel Lane
  - 8' Pedestrian Island/Parking Lane
  - 5' Bike Lane
  - 5' Bike Lane

- East Sidewalk

Example: Willis Ave, Bronx

- Pedestrian Island
- Jersey Barrier
- Hardened Centerline 189 to 190 St
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal Section 2: Amsterdam Ave (W 190 St – GW Campus Sports Field)

Existing

- West Sidewalk
- 32’ Shared Travel Lane and Angled Parking
- 32’ Shared Travel Lane and Angled Parking
- East Sidewalk

Proposed

- West Sidewalk
- 18’ Angle Parking
- 16’ Travel Lane
- 11’ Travel Lane
- 8’ Pedestrian Island/Bus Island
- East Sidewalk

Angle parking

Painted Curb Extensions

Hardened Centerline

Parallel parking

Concrete bus boarding island

Concrete pedestrian safety island
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave
Proposal Section 3: Amsterdam Ave/Ft. George Ave
(GW Campus Sports Field – Top of the Hill)

Example: Oceania St, Queens

New Alternate Side Parking

Two-way protected bike connects to a pair of one-way protected bike lanes at the top of the hill -- an interim solution; to be addressed in an upcoming capital project.
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave
Proposal Section 4: Amsterdam Ave/Ft. George Ave
(Top of the Hill – St. Nicholas Ave)
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal Section 5:
W 190 St (Amsterdam Ave – Wadsworth Ave)

Existing

South Sidewalk

42’ Combined Travel Lane and Parking Lanes

North Sidewalk

Proposed

South Sidewalk

18’ Angle Parking/Curb Extension

16’ Travel Lane

8’ Parking Lane

North Sidewalk

New angle parking

Painted curb extensions

102 St, Queens
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal Summary: Benefits of a Protected Bike Lane with Islands

- Traffic calming and speed reduction
- Shorter pedestrian crossings next to schools and senior center
- Pedestrian-cyclist conflicts on sidewalk minimized
- Dedicated protected space for cyclists
- Pedestrian islands provide protection and visibility

Example: parking-protected bicycle lane on Willis Avenue in the Bronx
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal – Bike Connections

Upgrade existing bike lanes and sharrows to protected lanes
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Next Steps: Speed Cushion Feasibility Studies

- New speed reduction treatment designed for bus routes since standard speed humps cannot be installed on bus routes
- Limitations on placement
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Community Requests: Audubon Ave (W 190 St – W 193 St)

**Concerns:**
- Congestion
- Double parking
- Active driveways and high volumes of students
- Absence of traffic controls

**Studies in progress:**
- Studies for traffic controls on Audubon Ave at W 191, W 192 St and W 193 St
- Feasibility study for a one-way conversion of Audubon Ave (W 193 St – St Nicholas Ave)
- Changes to school loading
Amsterdam Ave/Ft George Ave, W 188 St to St Nicholas Ave

Proposal – Parking Considerations

- Net parking loss: approximately 9-12 parking spots
- Parallel parking converted to angle parking + ~41 spots
- No Standing Anytime converted to Alternate Side Parking + ~35 spots
- Perpendicular parking replaced with angled and parallel parking - ~82 spots
- Pedestrian Islands and visibility improvements: - ~3 spots
Thank You!

Questions?

Contact: NYCDOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner’s Office – (212) 839-6210