



Concourse Village West Congestion Mitigation and Traffic Safety Study

Concourse Village Town Hall
March 5, 2020



Overview

- 1. Background**
- 2. Existing Conditions**
- 3. Proposed Improvements & Benefits**
- 4. Timeline and Next Steps**

Background

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Background

- Community Board 4 and local elected officials requested DOT conduct traffic study to address traffic congestion and safety on Concourse Village West corridor, between E 153rd Street and E 161st Street.
- Area is mixed-use with residential, commercial and various schools along Concourse Village West.
- Schools located in study area:
 - P.S. 359 Concourse Village Elementary School
 - P.S. 156 Benjamin Banneker School
 - P.S. / M.S. 31 The William Lloyd Garrison School
 - KIPP Academy Elementary School
 - Cardinal Hayes High School
 - High School for Careers in Sports
 - Future school to open at corner of E 156th St/Concourse Village West (Sept 2020)
- Major traffic generators on the corridor are schools, various civic offices and commercial land uses.

Existing Conditions

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Study Area



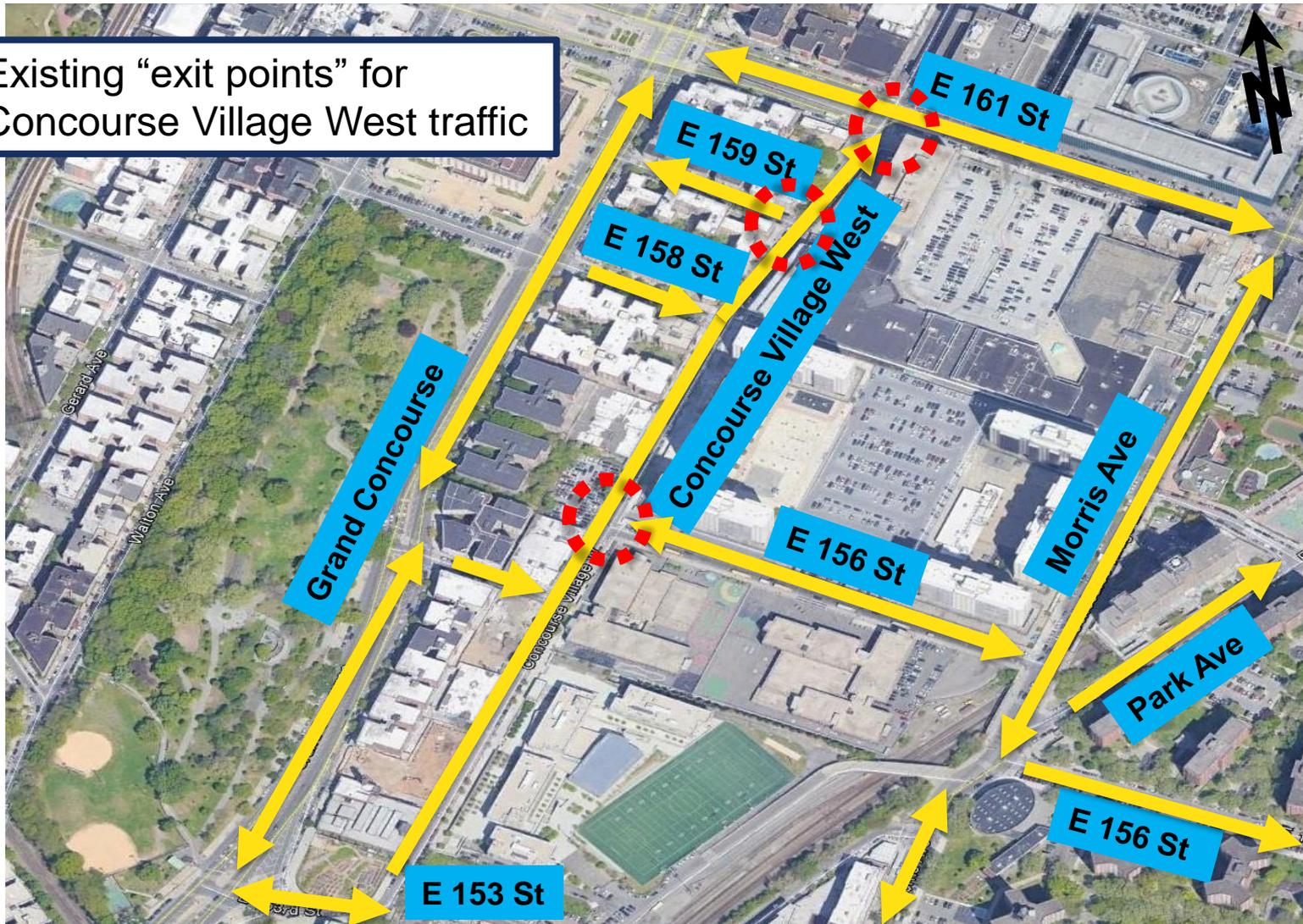
Existing School : ★

Future School : ★

Existing Street Directions



Existing "exit points" for Concourse Village West traffic



Existing Issues

Grand Concourse and E 153rd Street:

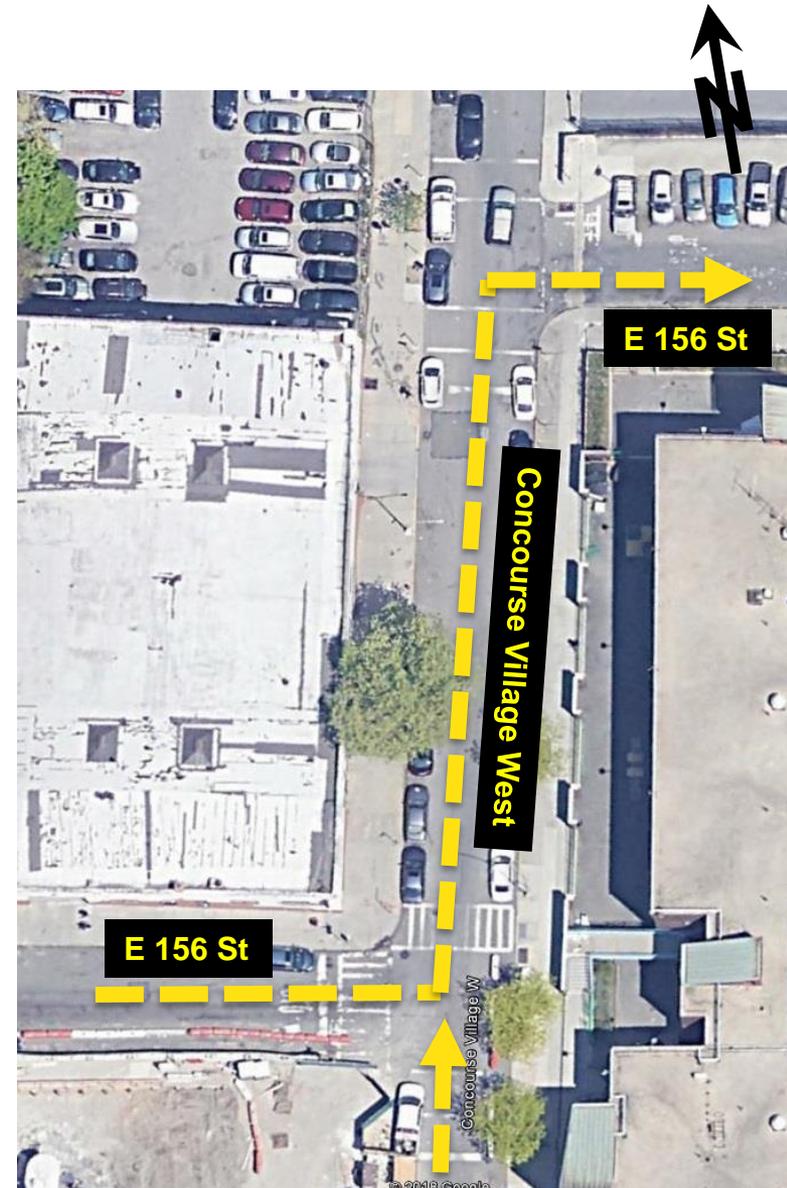
- E 153rd Street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West is marked as two-way for a short segment.
- Vehicles use this short segment to make U-turns off Grand Concourse, undermining safety for pedestrians and increasing delays for through traffic on E 153rd Street.



Existing Issues

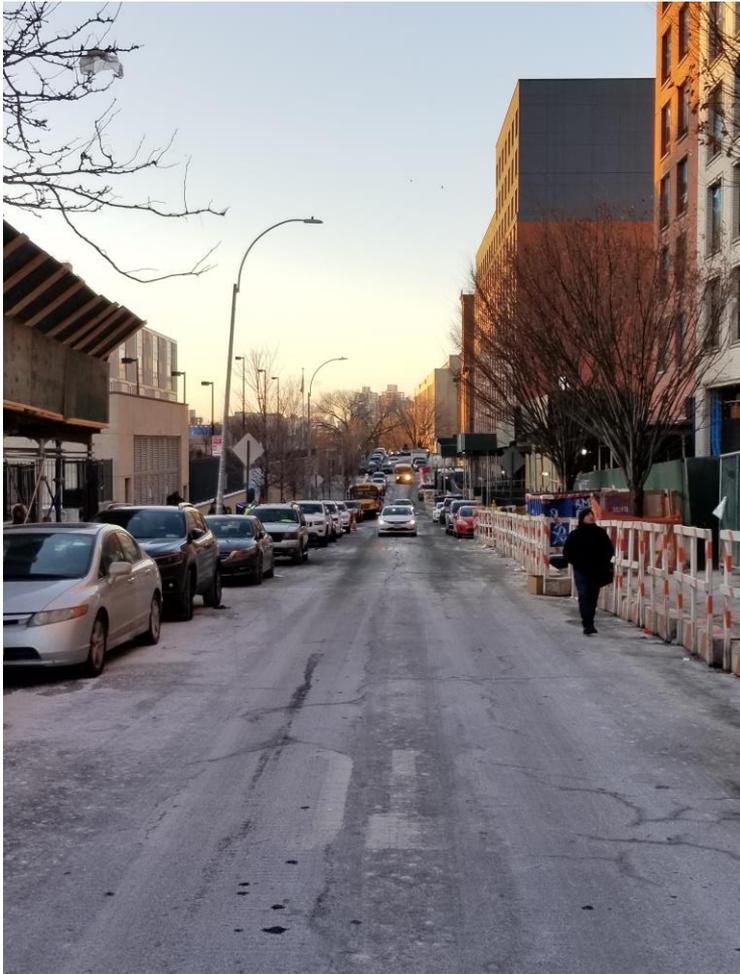
Concourse Village West and E 156th Street:

- Off-set intersections requires multiple turns, creating congestion on this critical link.
- Majority of vehicles traveling eastbound on E 156th St turn left onto Concourse Village West and then turn right onto E 156th St.
- Key conflict between northbound through traffic and eastbound left-turning traffic.

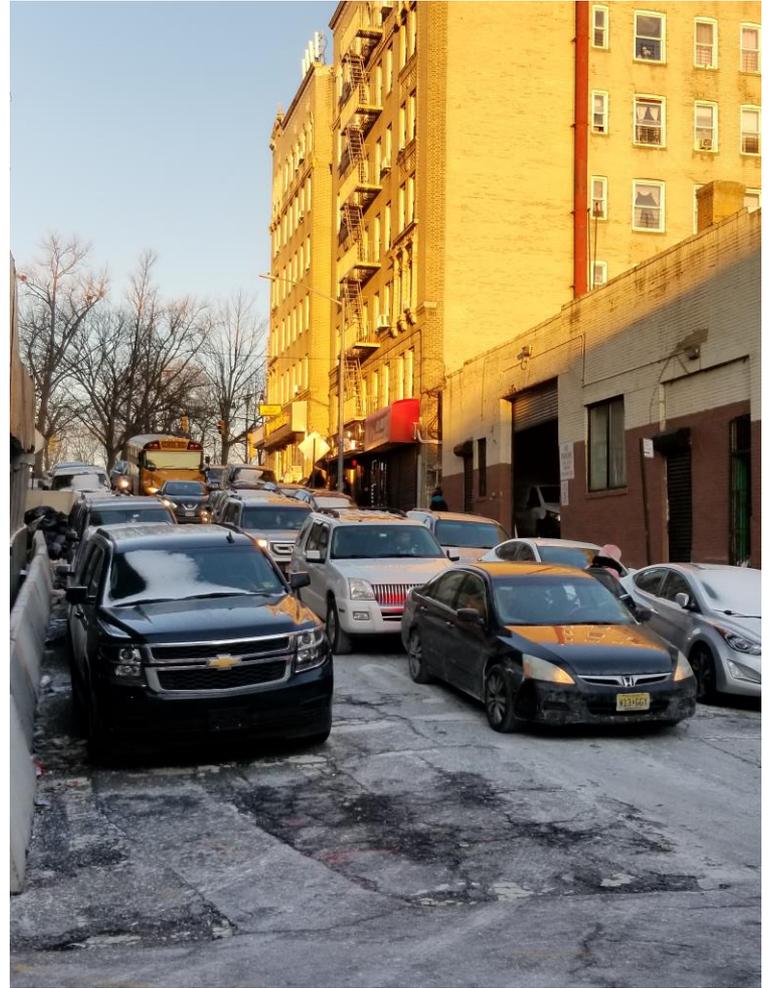


Existing Issues

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street:



Concourse Village West and E 156 St looking south



E 156 St and Concourse Village West looking west

Existing Issues

E 156th St: Concourse Village West to Morris Ave

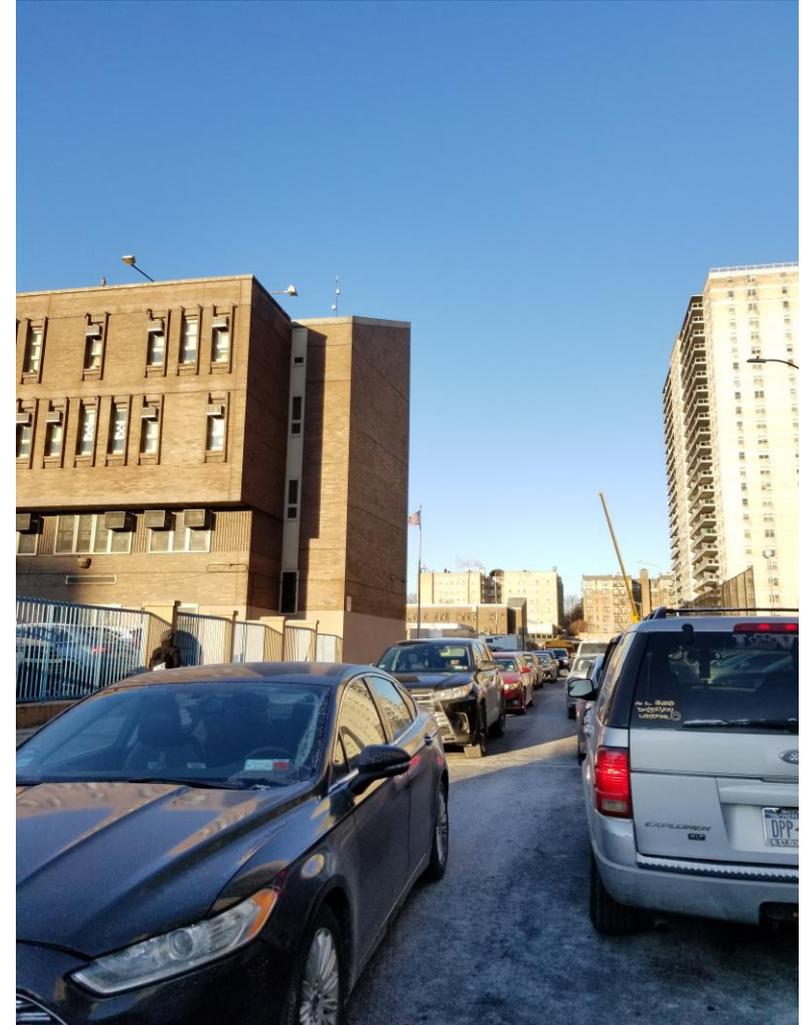
- Narrow two-way street with 90 degree angle parking on the north side.
- Turn restrictions onto E 156th St are posted at Morris Ave during school days (7-9AM and 2-4 PM).
- During weekday AM and PM school hours, street becomes congested due to narrow width, head-on traffic conflicts due to turn prohibition violations, and school bus activity.



Existing Issues

E 156th St: Concourse Village West to Morris Ave

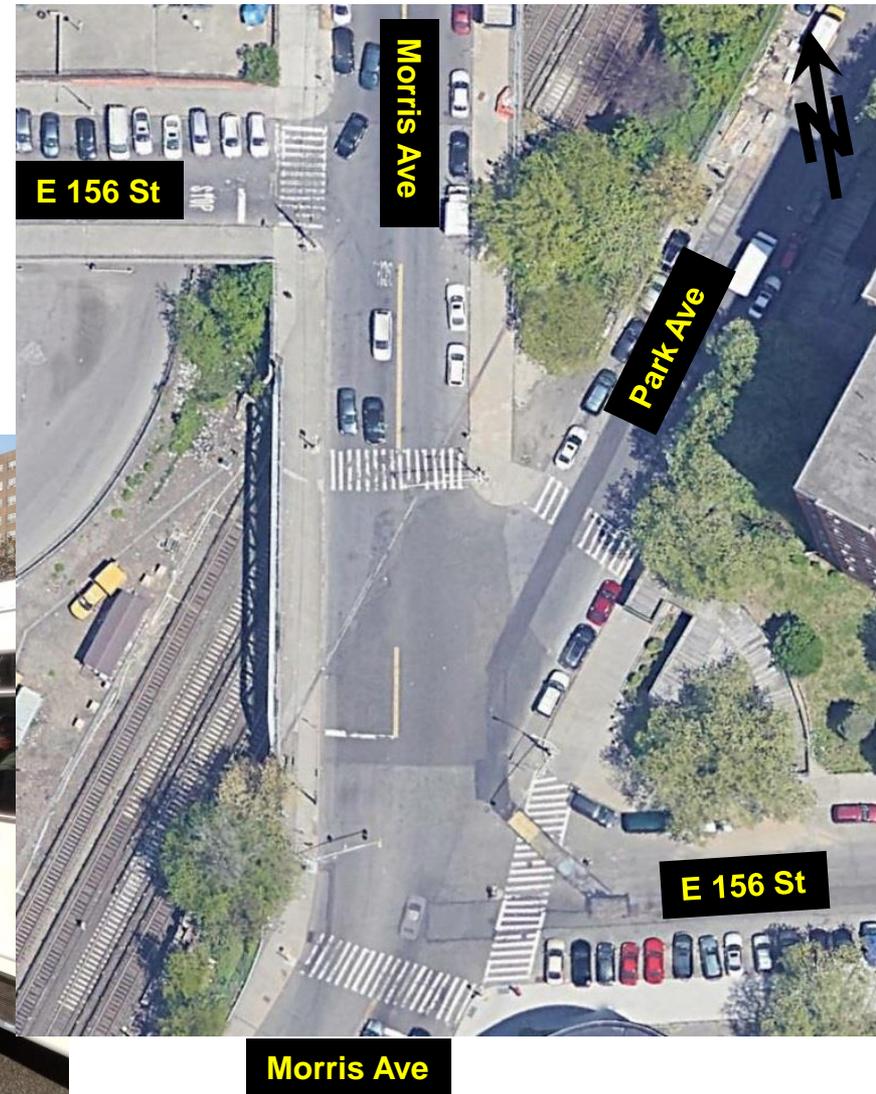
- Narrow street width and opposing vehicle conflicts makes passing difficult, causing congestion.



Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:

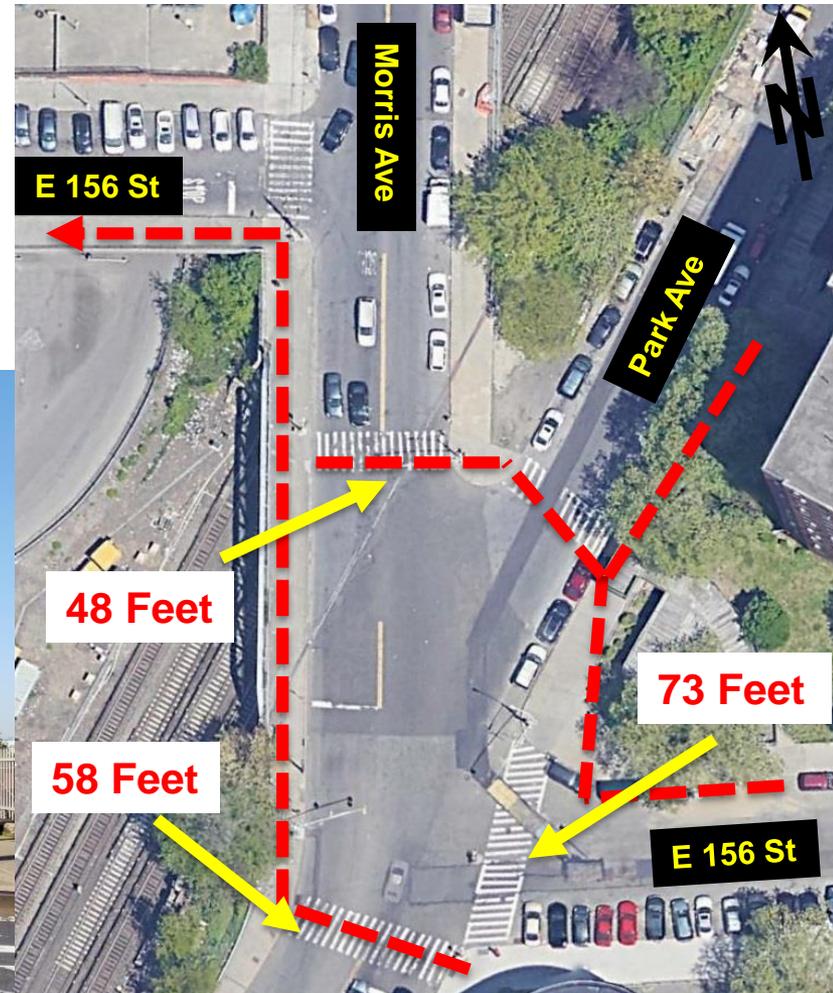
- Very wide, multi-leg intersection controlled by one signal.
- Heavy pedestrian volumes and vehicle turning movement volumes during AM and PM school hours.
- Morris Avenue lacks designated lane markings, leading to inefficient traffic flow.



Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:

- Wide intersection with long crossing distances and multiple crossings lead to increased pedestrian exposure to motor vehicle traffic.



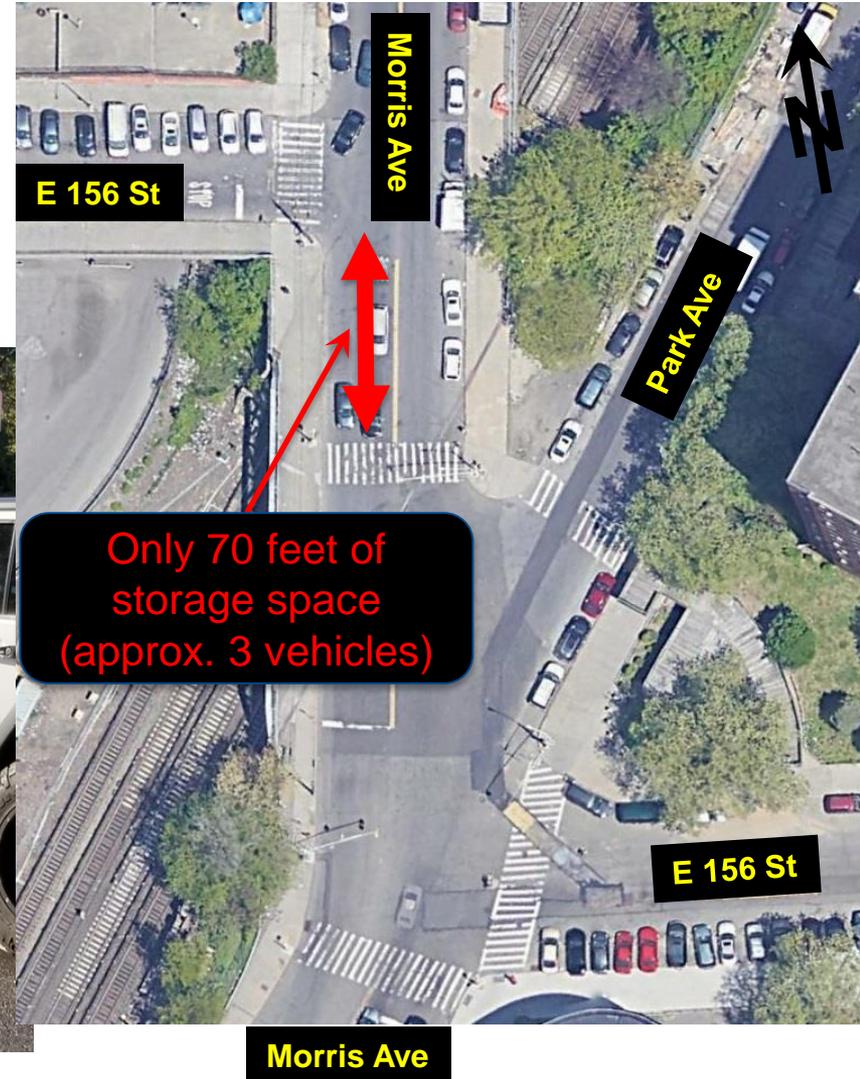
Pedestrian paths : 

Based on field observations and data collected during school arrival and dismissal hours.

Existing Issues

Morris Ave and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:

- Lack of queuing space for southbound traffic on Morris Ave, between E 156th St and Park Ave, contributes to congestion spilling back on E 156th St, resulting in blocked crosswalks for pedestrians.

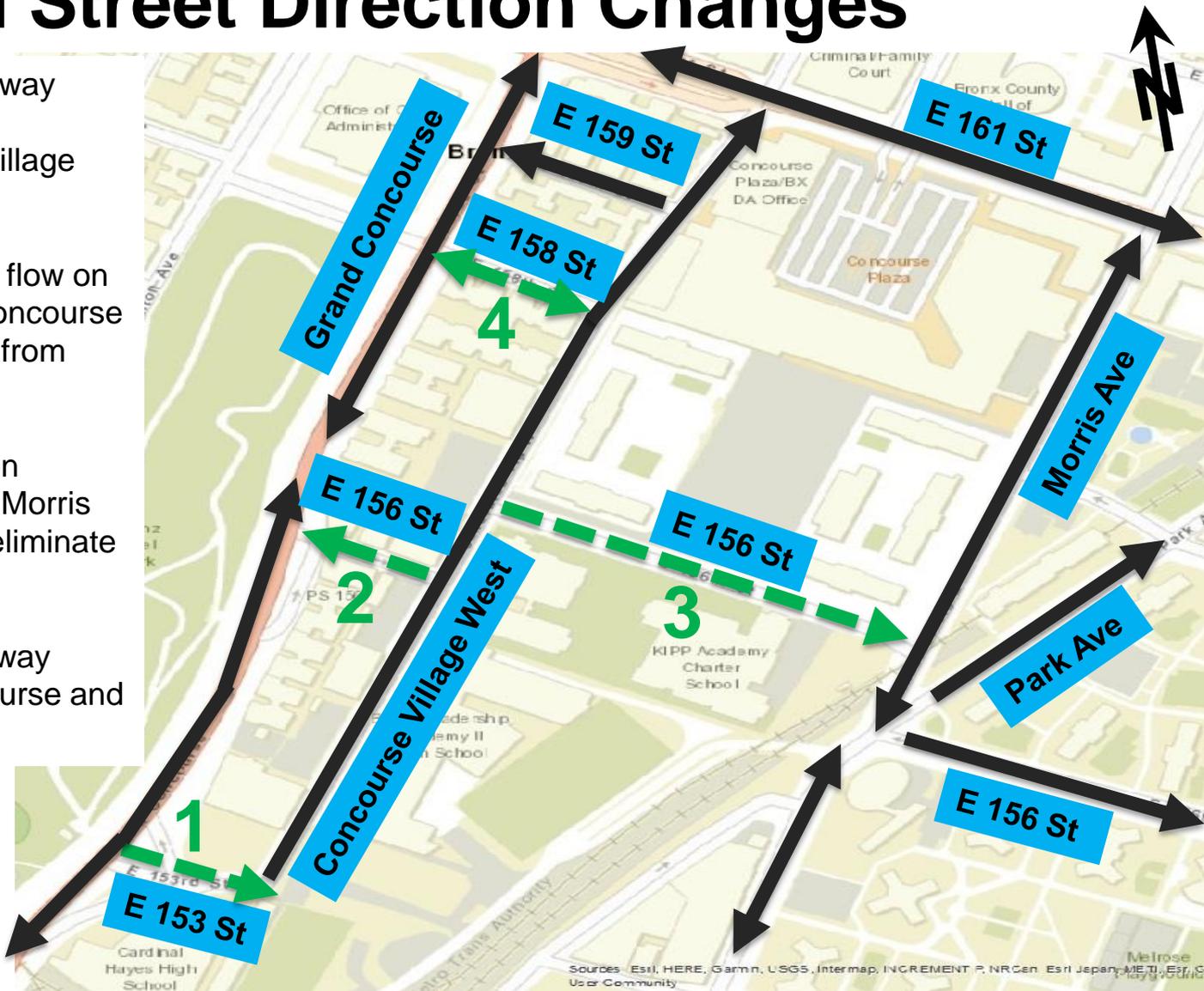


Proposed Improvements & Benefits

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Proposed Street Direction Changes

- 1) Convert E 153rd St to one-way eastbound between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.
- 2) Reverse direction of traffic flow on E 156th St between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West from eastbound to westbound.
- 3) Convert E 156th St between Concourse Village West and Morris Ave to one-way eastbound (eliminate time-of-day turn restrictions).
- 4) Convert E 158th St to two-way street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.

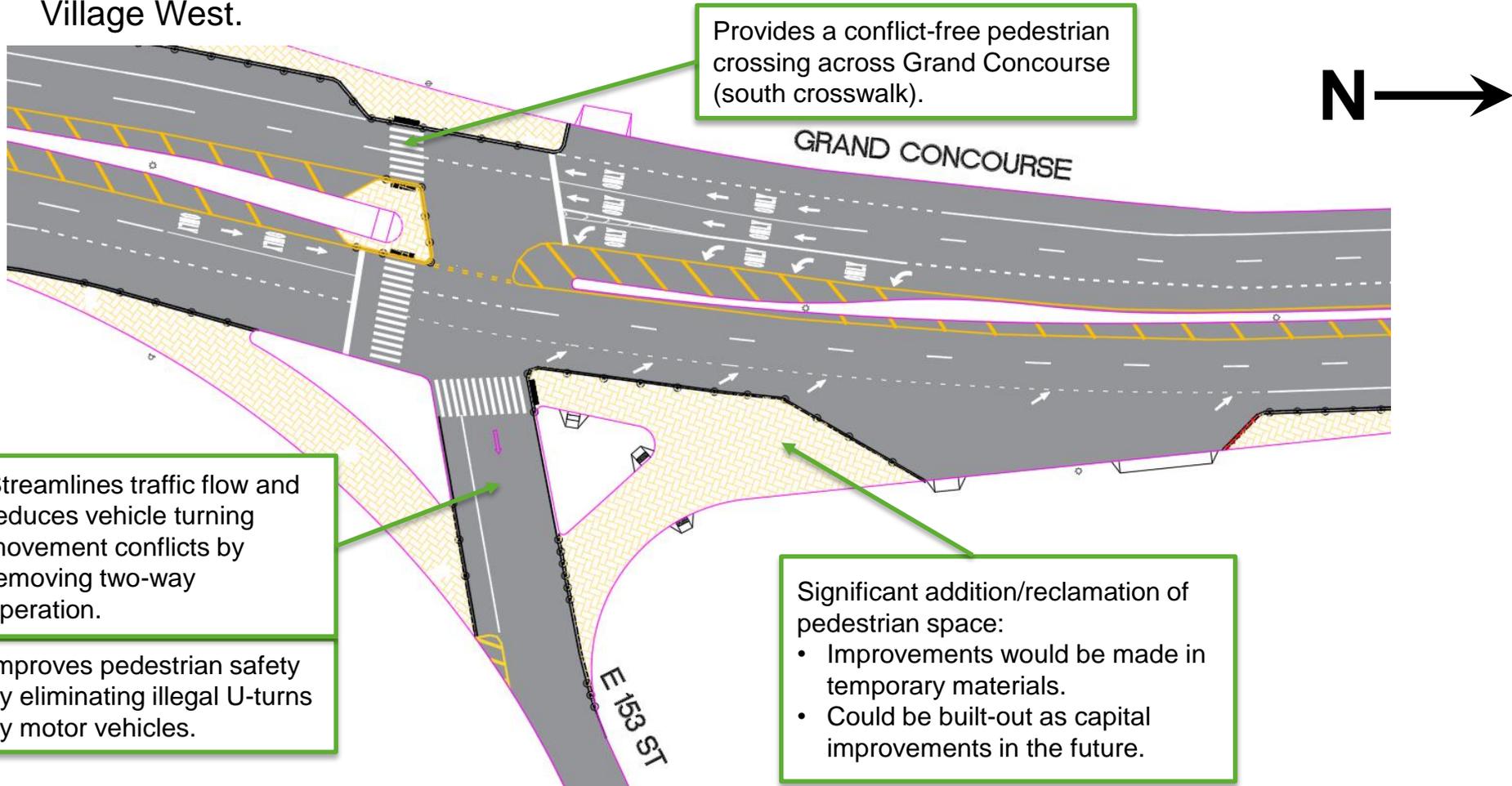


Existing : 
Proposed : 

Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design

Grand Concourse and E 153rd Street:

- Convert E 153rd St to one-way eastbound from Grand Concourse to Concourse Village West.



Proposed Street Direction Change

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street (west leg):

- Reverse the direction of traffic on E 156th Street from one-way eastbound to one-way westbound from Concourse Village West to Grand Concourse.

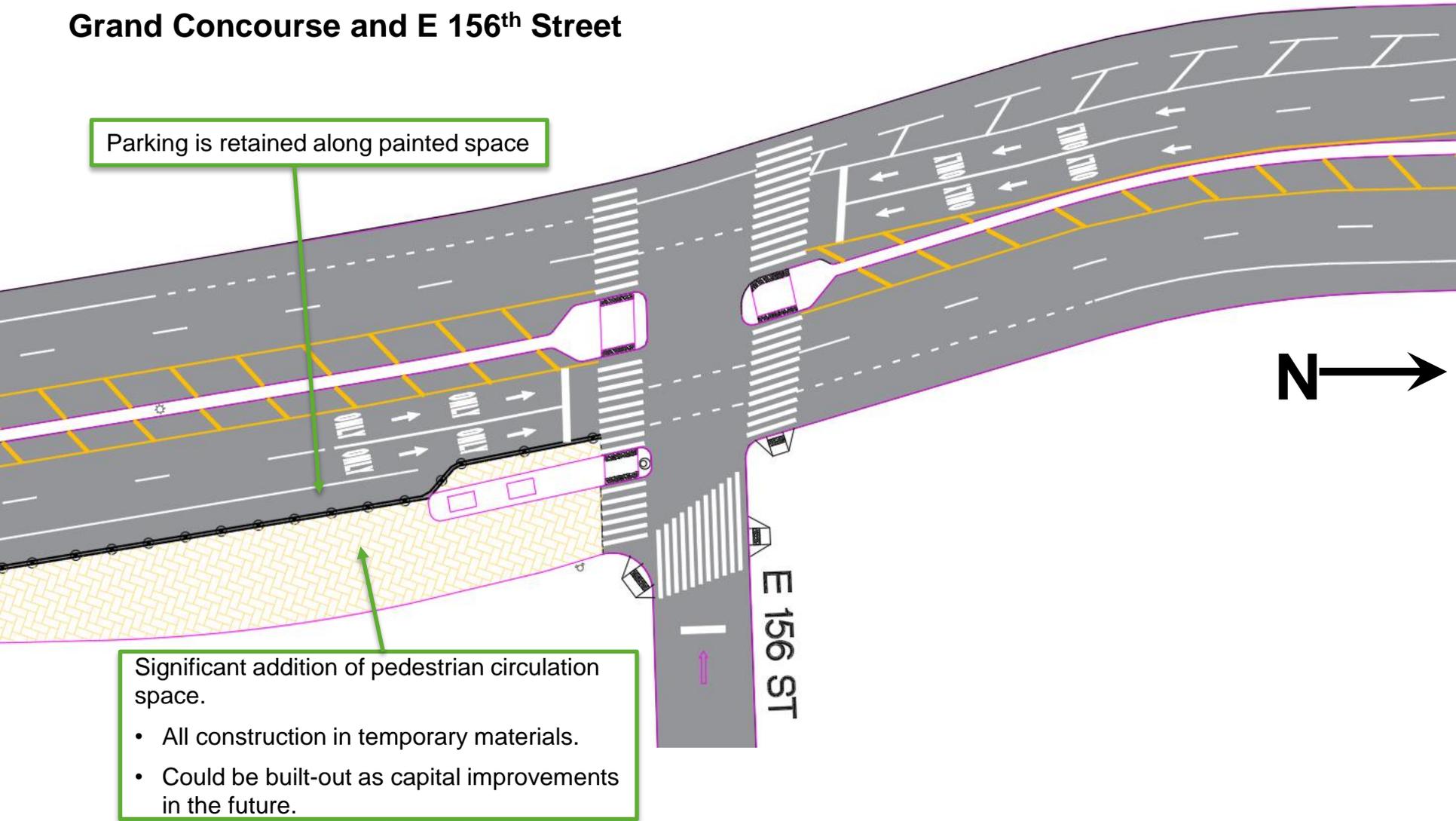


Reduces pedestrian/vehicle and vehicle/vehicle conflict points.

Proposed direction: 

Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design

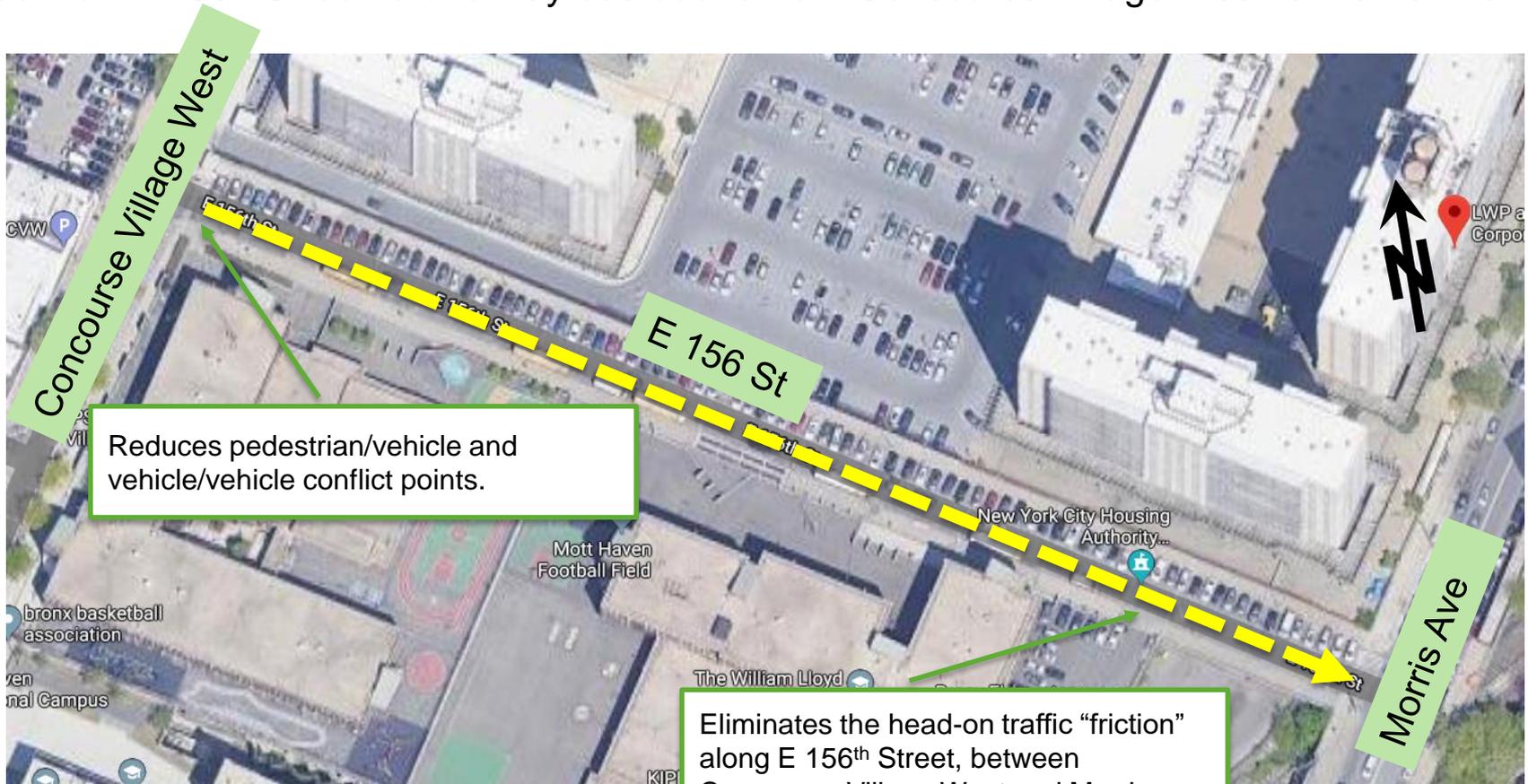
Grand Concourse and E 156th Street



Proposed Street Direction Change

E 156th Street between Concourse Village West and Morris Avenue (east leg)

- Convert E 156th Street to one-way eastbound from Concourse Village West to Morris Avenue.



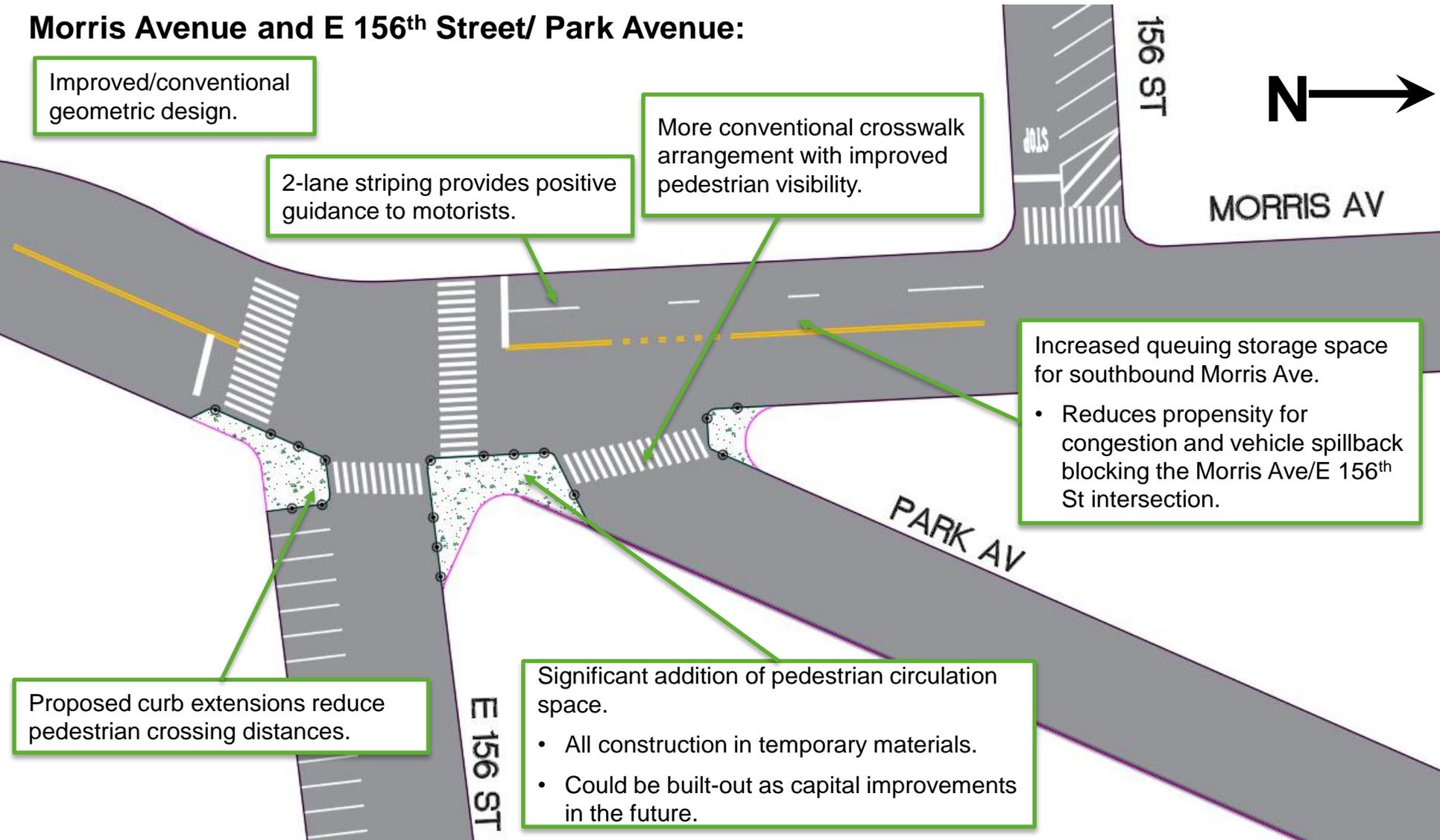
Reduces pedestrian/vehicle and vehicle/vehicle conflict points.

Eliminates the head-on traffic "friction" along E 156th Street, between Concourse Village West and Morris Ave, resulting in more streamlined traffic flow out of Concourse Village West corridor.

Proposed direction: 

Preliminary Proposed Roadway Design

Morris Avenue and E 156th Street/ Park Avenue:



Proposed Street Direction Change

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

- Convert E 158th Street to two-way operation between Concourse Village West and Grand Concourse.

Two-way operation allows motorists to avoid overlapping with school traffic.

- Motorists can access civic buildings or commercial establishments north of E 158th Street.

Creates another new opportunity for a “way out” of northbound Concourse Village West.

Grand Concourse

E 158 St

E 158th St

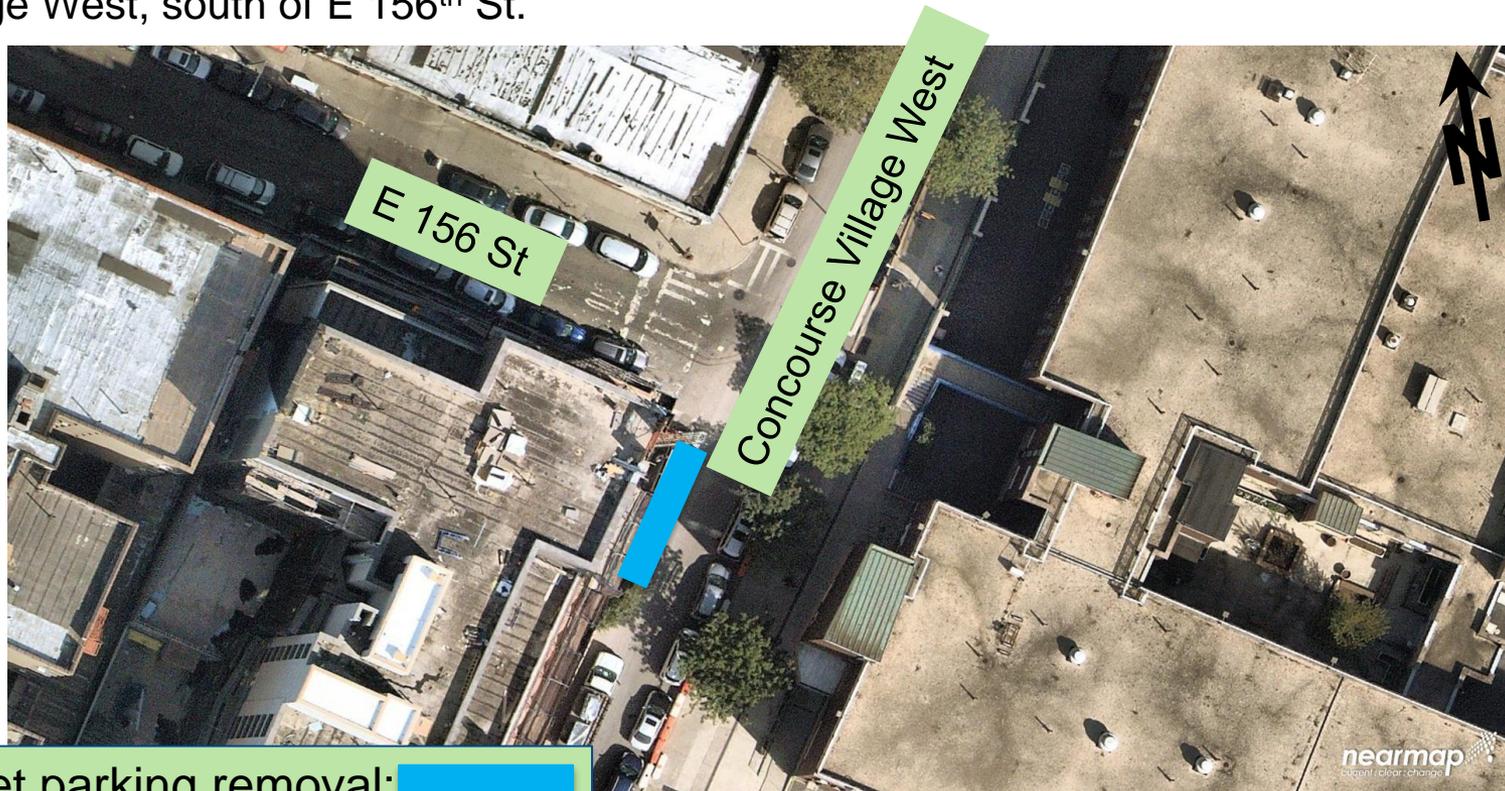
Concourse Village West

Proposed direction: 

On-Street Parking Changes

Concourse Village West and E 156th Street

- Remove parking on the SW corner of Concourse Village West and E 156th Street to allow for improved intersection operations.
- Curbside parking space for two (2) vehicles would be eliminated on west side of Concourse Village West, south of E 156th St.



On-street parking removal: [REDACTED]

On-Street Parking Changes

E 156th Street between Concourse Village West and Morris Avenue

- Rotate current 90-degree back-in angle parking on the north side of E 156th Street to 60 degree back-in parking with striping.
- Currently un-striped parking stalls accommodate approximately 87 spaces. Space for one (1) vehicle would be eliminated (86 striped spaces).

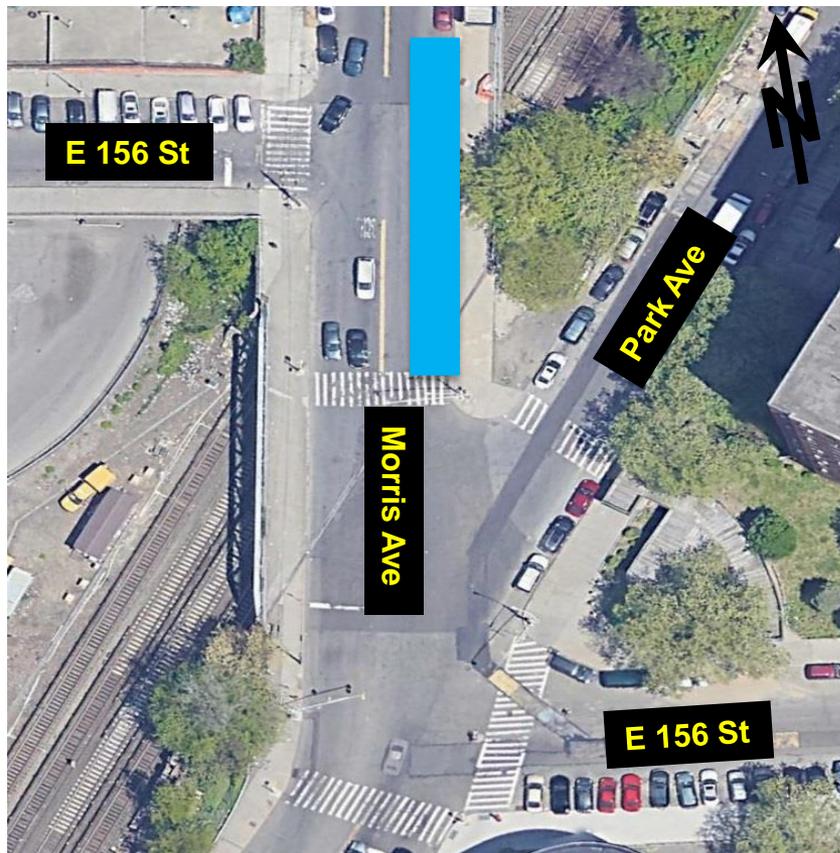


On-street parking changes:

On-Street Parking Changes

Morris Avenue, between Park Avenue and E 156th Street

- Restore parking on east curb of Morris Ave between Park Ave and E 156th Street.
- Currently signed as No Parking Anytime (8 parking spots restored).

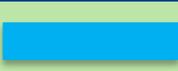


Existing



Proposed



On-street parking changes: 

On-Street Parking Changes (Original Plan)

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

- Considered on-street parking removal on the north side of E 158th St, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West, to allow for two-way operation (street is 35 feet wide).
- Eliminated curbside parking space for approximately 14 vehicles on the north side of E 158th St.



On-street parking removal: [REMOVED]

On-Street Parking Changes (Revised Plan)

E 158th Street, between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West:

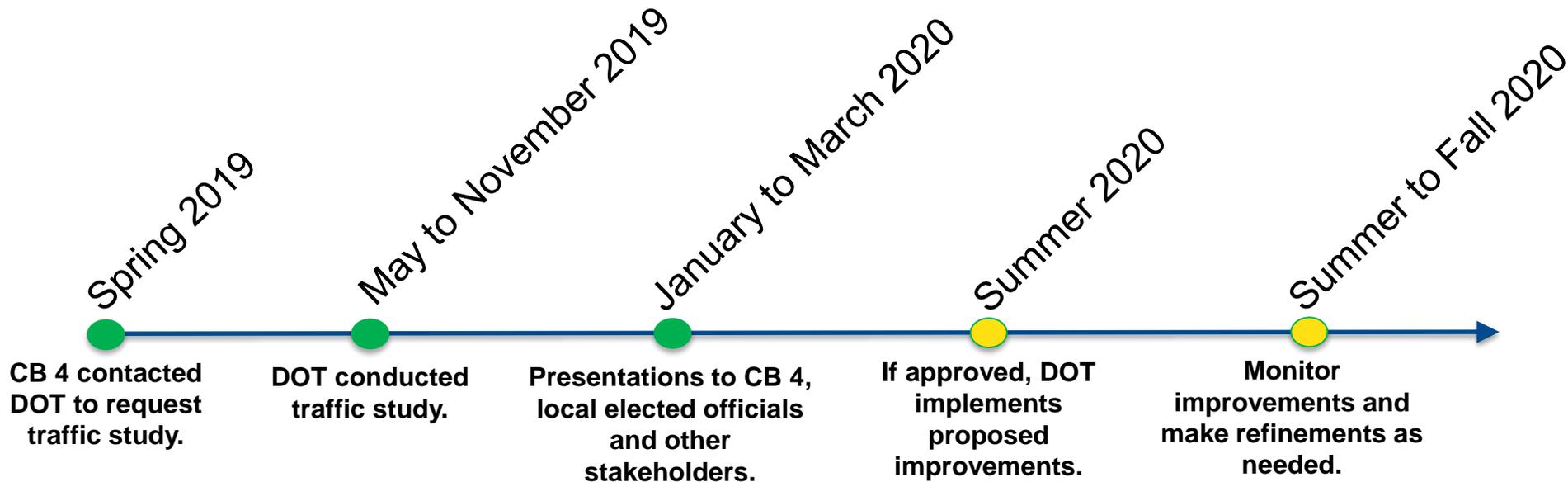
- After Community Board and residents feedback, parking will be maintained on north curb of E 158 Street between Grand Concourse and Concourse Village West.



Timeline and Next Steps

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Timeline and Next Steps



Thank You!



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