Lafayette Avenue: Traffic Calming for a Complete Street

Division of Street Management & Safety
Traffic Operations Bureau
Presentation to CB 9, Bronx
June 2007
Why are we here?

- Community Input to Improve Designs
- Priority School Area
- Parks Department Coordination
- PlaNYC 2030 Initiative to Add 200 Miles of Bicycle Lanes by 2009
“Priority School” Public Outreach

- DOT ranked top NYC schools with the most serious accident histories
- I.S. 131 was selected as one of “135 Priority Schools”
• IS 131 requested new school crosswalks and warning signage on Lafayette Avenue

• A new signal and school crosswalks were installed on Bolton and Lafayette last year

Bolton and Lafayette Avenues
Lafayette Avenue
Primary Goal: Complete Street

- Safer Routes to Schools, Parks, & Greenways
- Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Road Diet: Manage Excess Roadway Capacity
  - Reduce High Speeds
  - Organize Vehicle Movements
- Provide Quality Bicycle Routes
## Project Highlights

### Short Term
- New Signal
- New School Crosswalks
- Left Turn Bays
  - 4 Lanes → 3 Lanes
- Painted Median
- Bicycle Lanes

### Medium/Long Term
- Raised Pedestrian Refuges
- Neckdowns
- Potential for Greening
  - Refuges and Medians
Lafayette Avenue Project Area

Eight Schools will Benefit from Pedestrian Safety Enhancements
## Most Students Walk to School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Travel</th>
<th>Students (Percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driven by Car</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTA Bus/Subway</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Priority School Report, 2006
Low Traffic Volume

Westbound Traffic Volume
Lafayette @ Noble

- One lane of traffic can accommodate >600 Vehicles
- Westbound Daily Count ≈ 4900 (2-way ≈ 7800)

Traffic Counts performed on 1/16/2002

AM Peak 521
PM Peak 402
• Lafayette Avenue
  • 180 Crashes; 24 Pedestrian Injuries

• Seward Avenue
  • 134 Crashes; 13 Pedestrian Injuries

• Randall Avenue
  • 137 Crashes; 15 Pedestrian Injuries
Increase Pedestrian Safety

Existing Condition: Lafayette Avenue

Pedestrian Refuge
48th Avenue, Long Island City
Manage Excess Vehicle Capacity

Existing Condition: Lafayette Avenue

Short-term Improvement: Striped Median

Potential Improvement: Planted Median
Reduce Pedestrian Risk Exposure

Existing Condition:
Lafayette Avenue

Grand Street, Manhattan
Improve Bicycle Conditions

Existing Condition: Lafayette Avenue

Bicycle Lanes: Montgomery Street, Manhattan
Link to Parks and Greenways

Proposed Bicycle Lane Routes

Existing Bicycle Facilities
- Class 1, Greenway / Off-Street Path
- Class 2, Bicycle Lane

Planned Bicycle Facilities
- Class 1, Greenway / Off-Street Path
- Class 2, Bicycle Lane
Link to Parks and Greenways

Soundview Park
Organize Vehicle Movements

Existing Condition: Lafayette Avenue

Left Turn Bays: Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn
Simplifying Left Turns

Existing Condition

1) Vehicles Approaching from Behind

2) Identifying Gap in Left Lane

3) ID’ing Gap in Right Lane

4) ID’ing Pedestrians in Crosswalk

Left Turning Motorist Have 4 Concerns

1) Vehicles Approaching from Behind

2) Identifying Gap in Left Lane

3) ID’ing Gap in Right Lane

4) ID’ing Pedestrians in Crosswalk

VISIBILITY HINDERED
Simplifying Left Turns

Proposed Condition

- Driver only needs ONE gap to turn; can then look at crosswalk

Only 2 Points of Focus and No Visibility Problem

- Vehicles from behind in different lane
Complete Street Safety Improvements

Existing

Proposed
Summary

**Project Goal**: A Safer and More Comfortable Lafayette Avenue Corridor for **ALL** Street Users

- **Pedestrians** –
  - More Comfortable and Safe with Potential for Planted Median

- **Motorists** –
  - Simplified and Safer Operations
  - Center median reduces head on crash risk

- **Cyclists** –
  - Improved experience
  - Connection to local schools and to Soundview Park

**Next Steps**: Refine Plans Based on Community Input
End of Presentation