Rockaway Blvd

Community Board 13 Transportation Committee

January 16, 2020
Background

- 1.25 mile stretch between Sutphin Blvd and Farmers Blvd
- Direct access to JFK Airport cargo area
- Two schools and Baisley Pond Park on the western end of the corridor
- Industrial corridor – designated truck route with heavy truck volumes, wide streets, fast speeds
- Divided between Community Board 12 and Community Board 13 at the Belt Parkway
Safety Data

Vision Zero

- Rockaway Blvd is a Vision Zero Priority Corridor

- Rockaway Blvd had a 21% increase in pedestrian KSI per mile between 2009 – 2013 and 2012 - 2016

- High speeds – maximum recorded velocity of 51 MPH (at 144th Terrace)
Crash Data

- 5 pedestrian fatalities on the corridor since 2013
- High rate of rear end crashes – indicative of speeding
- More than a third of pedestrians injured while crossing in crosswalks with signal
Existing Conditions

- Rockaway Blvd is an 80’ to 90’ wide corridor with two to three moving lanes in each direction
- Q6 bus runs on Rockaway Blvd
- High quantities of trucks due to JFK Airport and Industrial District
Existing Conditions - Corridor

Corridor Conditions – 144th Road to Farmers Blvd

• Wide street with excess vehicular capacity leads to frequent speeding
• Substandard pedestrian facilities – few crosswalks, long crossings, and missing sidewalks
• Right lane of southeast bound Rockaway Blvd often used for truck storage in southern portion of the corridor
**Proposed Improvements**

**Corridor**

Existing Conditions: 144th Rd to Farmers Blvd

Proposed Conditions: 144th Rd to Farmers Blvd

**Proposed design will standardize Rockaway Blvd as two lanes in each direction at all times**
Proposed Improvements

Corridor

- Add left turn bay to provide access to 144th Terrace
- Add Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) to all crossings to provide a pedestrian head start
- Restripe Rockaway Blvd to have 2 lanes in each direction with parking lane stripe and channelization around median to encourage safer speeds
- Bartlett dairy to continue sidewalk on west side and expand pedestrian network
Analysis of Lane Changes

• Peak recorded volume of 766 vehicles per hour (northbound AM rush hour between 145th Dr and 145th Rd)

• One lane has capacity to process up to 700 vehicles per hour

• Considerably lower off-peak volumes

• Signal timing adjustments to be made concurrently will allow for LPIs at all crossings south of the Conduit, better processing at S Conduit Ave, and safe progression of all vehicles

• No predicted impacts to travel time on Rockaway Blvd
Proposed Intersection Improvements

159th St/144th Rd

- Add LPI to cross Rockaway Blvd to provide a pedestrian head start
- Install painted pedestrian space to shorten crossing distances and encourage slower, safer turns
- Add new crosswalk with median cut-through to expand pedestrian network
Proposed Intersection Improvements

146 Ave and Q6 bus stop

- New signal and crosswalk to be installed at 146th Ave
- Re-located Q6 bus stop
- Existing Q6 bus stop
- 146 Ave
- Rockaway Blvd
- MTA JFK Depot
- Nassau Expwy
- 147 Ave

NYC DOT and MTA to relocate the southbound Q6 bus stop to 146th Ave. NYC DOT will provide a safe crossing across Rockaway Blvd at 146th Ave.
Additional Work

NYS DOT, NYC DEP, Bartlett Dairy Plant Development

- NYSDOT Capital project
  - Planned capital project on Rockaway Blvd from Farmers Blvd to 3\textsuperscript{rd} St includes substantial safety improvements at Farmers Blvd intersection

- NYC DEP Water main replacement
  - Upgrading of water main between S Conduit Ave and Farmers Blvd will allow for repaving of street
  - NYC DOT exploring incorporating additional safety improvements in capital project

- Bartlett Dairy Plant
  - Bartlett Dairy will construct missing sidewalk on southwest curb from 145\textsuperscript{th} Rd to 146\textsuperscript{th} Ave

Pedestrians cross Rockaway Blvd at Farmers Blvd – NYS DOT will provide a crosswalk at this location
Community Board 12 Continuation of Project

- Construct pedestrian refuge islands at Sutphin Blvd, Baisley Blvd, and 137th Ave
- Construct concrete median tip at Rockaway Blvd and N Conduit Ave
- Ban northwest bound left turns onto Baisley Blvd and onto 136th Ave
- Add new crosswalk at 137th Ave
Project Benefits

Safety Improvements

- Lane reduction encourages slower, safer speeds on Rockaway Blvd
- Markings plan provides two standard width lanes at all points on Rockaway Blvd
- Formalizes space for parking already occurring on the south curb
- New crosswalks and LPIs improve the pedestrian network on Rockaway Blvd
- Coordination with other agencies allows for substantial additional improvements
Thank You!

Questions?