31st Ave, Astoria

Bike Network and Public Realm Planning

MAY 2024
Open House Overview

**Introductions (20 min)**
- NYC DOT Queens Borough Commissioner
- Elected Officials Welcome

**Presentation (10 min)**
- Past Improvements
- Background
- Summary of Outreach
- What We’ve Heard
- Proposed
  - Neighborhood Circulation
  - Design Concepts
- Next Steps

**Open House**
- 5:30PM -7:00PM
Past Improvements

Public Realm and Bike Network Improvements:

Painted Bike Corral:
• In coordination with the DOT Art Program, DOT installed a curb extension on 31st Ave and 34th St. featuring a new public art installation, and bike parking

Open Streets
• 2020: OS in partnership with 31st Ave Coalition; maintenance and operational support by DOT and the Horticultural Society of New York

Bike Lane Projects:
• 2021: Astoria Bike Network, Northern Blvd
• 2020: Crescent St
• 2017: Hoyt Ave N
• 2016: Shore Blvd, 20th Ave Upgrade, 31st Ave
• 2015: Vernon Blvd.

Since 2015, DOT has installed over 16.5 lane miles of protected bike lanes, and 21 lane miles of standard bike lanes and shared lanes in the area.
Background

1. Vernon Blvd - 30th St
   - Mostly residential area
   - Access to waterfront

2. 30th St - Steinway St
   - Commercial land uses
   - Open Street (Sat., Sun. 12-8 PM)

3. Steinway St - 51st St
   - Residential; auto-oriented businesses; schools

Major Destinations:

- Vernon Blvd Waterfront Access
- 31st Ave Open Street, businesses
- P.S. 151, William Cullen Bryant HS
Summary of Outreach

Online Survey
(April – June 2023)

2,200+ responses; 92% of respondents lived in the area. Questions on people’s ideas for improvements

Five Pop-Up Workshops
(Summer, 2023)

Five pop-ups to gather additional feedback on safety and overall street improvements people would like to see realized

Merchant Survey
(July 2023)

99 businesses surveyed along 31st Ave on questions related to loading, deliveries, and other business-related issues

In-Person Workshop
(Sept. 2023)

More than 150 people attended the in-person workshop where DOT requested feedback on conceptual designs
What We’ve Heard

Survey: Most Frequently Mentioned Safety Concerns
- Vehicles disregard traffic signals (400+ responses)
- Lack of protected bike lanes (300+)
- Double parking for extended periods of time (250)
- Excessive vehicular speeding (180)
- Unsafe intersection crossings (150)

Intersections with most comments:
1. Newtown Rd, 31 Ave and 43 St
2. Vernon Blvd and 31 Ave
3. 31 St and 31 Ave
4. Crescent St and 31 Ave
5. 33 St and 31 Ave

Merchant Survey: Most Frequently Mentioned
- Lack of curb access for deliveries
- Delivery trucks double park on 31st Ave
- Merchants have no control of delivery times
- Many businesses have cyclists deliver their goods
- Roadway is too narrow

Public Realm and Bike Network: Most Frequently Mentioned Improvements

Pedestrian Space & More Greenery

Street Seats, Public Art, and Community Programming

Protected Bike Lanes

Improved Curb Management
Proposed: Neighborhood Circulation

Traffic Diverters:
- 21st St (all out)
- Crescent St (all in)
- 31st St (all out)
- 35th St (all in)
- Steinway St (all out)
- Phase II diverters TBD

Typology: Crescent St
31st Ave, Vernon Blvd - 31st St

Typology: Berry St
31st Ave, 31st St – 36th St

Typology: Crescent St
31st Ave, 36th St – Steinway St

Two-way path on the north curb, intersection improvements

EB contraflow bike lane, WB shared lane, ped/programable space

Two-way path on the south curb, intersection improvements

Existing Open Street
31st Ave, 33rd St – 35th St

Traffic Diverters:
- 21st St (all out)
- Crescent St (all in)
- 31st St (all out)
- 35th St (all in)
- Steinway St (all out)
- Phase II diverters TBD
Proposed: Design Concepts

Existing Open Street
31st Ave, 33rd St – 35th St

Future Scope

31st Ave, Vernon Blvd - 31st St
- Open Street
- Protected Bike Lane
- Conventional Bike Lane
- Shared Lane
- Direction of Vehicular Traffic
- Future Scope

31st Ave, 31st St – 35th St
- Open Street
- Protected Bike Lane
- Conventional Bike Lane
- Shared Lane
- Direction of Vehicular Traffic
- Future Scope

31st Ave, 35th St – Steinway St
- Open Street
- Protected Bike Lane
- Conventional Bike Lane
- Shared Lane
- Direction of Vehicular Traffic
- Future Scope

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Next Steps

May/June:
- Open House
- QN Community Board 1

Summer/Fall:
- Phase I Project Implementation
- Phase II

Future:
- Continued Outreach for Phase II
- Potential Future Projects:
  1. Astoria Heights, Queens Waterfront Greenway
  2. Astoria Park Bike Blvd
  3. 51st St Traffic Calming
  4. Newtown Rd Traffic Calming
  5. 31st St Under the El Bus Stop Upgrades
Thank You!