



The Future of 34th Avenue Open Street

Office of Street Improvement Programs
June 2021



Agenda

Introductions + Background

Safety + Mobility Updates

Community Survey

- Survey Design
- What We Heard

Ongoing Stakeholder Outreach + Workshops

Challenges/Successes

Next Steps

Recent History of DOT on 34th Ave

- Winter 2018/Early 2019: Outreach for corridor redesign begins
- October 2019: Walkthrough with CEC 30
- December 2019: PTA meetings along the 34th Avenue corridor
- Spring/Early Summer 2019: Meetings with 9 School Administrations/PTAs, Community Board 3
 - Request for: traffic calming measures, safer crossings, slow vehicular traffic, divert vehicles off avenue during arrival and dismissal, better bike infrastructure
- Summer/Fall 2019: Analysis for traffic calming measures
- Fall/Winter 2019: Continued outreach to schools/PTAs, local residents, Community Board 3
- Winter 2020: COVID shutdown
- May 2020: 34th Avenue Open Street Launches
- Summer 2020 - present: Open Street continues
- Fall 2020: Outreach to community, elected officials and CB on future of Open Street
- Winter 2020/21:
 - Community Listening and Info Sessions
 - Public Survey Launch
- February/March 2021: 34th Ave design workshops
- May 2021: Community Board Report back on Outreach

Safety + Mobility Updates

1

Safety on 34th ave

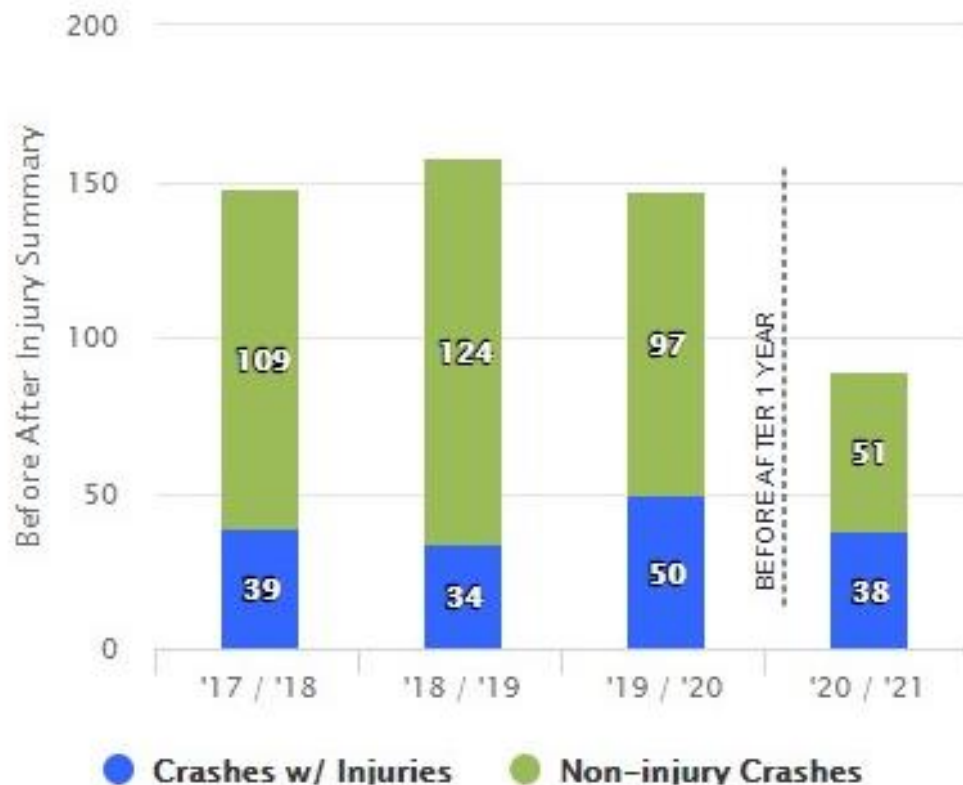
Injuries from Traffic Crashes on 34th Avenue

BEFORE 01/01/2017 - 12/31/2019 (3 YEARS)

AFTER 05/01/2020 - 04/30/2021 (1 YEARS)

[+ Show Node Info](#)

	BEFORE				AFTER		CHANGE	
	'17 / '18	'18 / '19	'19 / '20	AVG.	'20 / '21	AVG.	Actual	Percent
Total Crashes	148	158	147	151	89	89	-62	-41.1%
Crashes w/ Injuries	39	34	50	41	38	38	-3	-7.3%
Motor Vehicle	31	27	43	33.7	20	20	-13.7	-40.6%
Pedestrian	11	9	12	10.7	7	7	-3.7	-34.4%
Cyclist	13	6	8	9	16	16	7	77.8%
Total Injuries	55	42	63	53.3	43	43	-10.4	-19.4%



Community Survey

2

Survey Design

To better understand how the 34th Avenue Open Street is being used, a month-long community survey, which was made available in six languages, was conducted during Winter 2021:

1. Included were questions that asked how residents are currently using the space and how they would like to see it used in the future
2. We wanted it to be independently accessible via the internet due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic
3. Coordinated with multiple local elected offices and various Community Based Organizations (CBO) to assist with survey distribution



Tweet



NYC DOT
@NYC_DOT

NYC DOT is looking for community feedback about your experience and the future of the 34th Ave Open Street in Jackson Heights, #Queens.

The survey is available in six languages. Please fill it out here: surveymonkey.com/r/34thAve



4:18 PM · Dec 21, 2020 · Twitter Web App

13 Retweets 13 Quote Tweets 32 Likes

Who took the survey

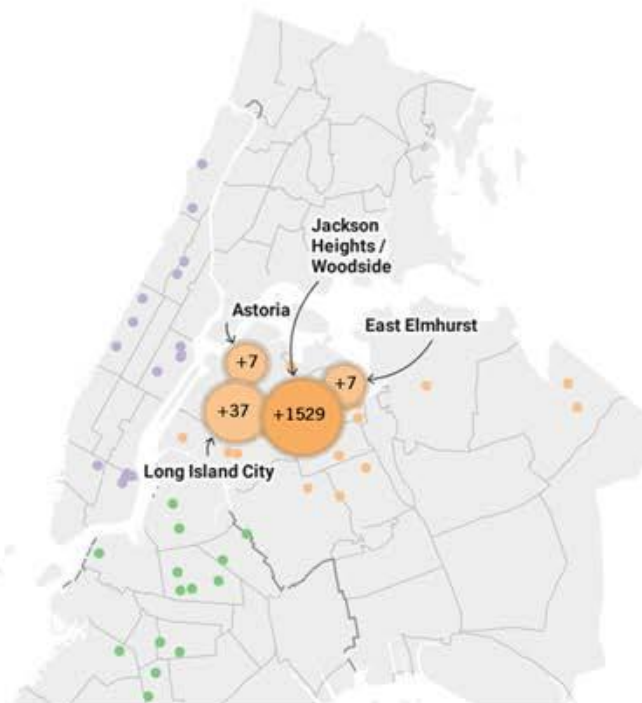
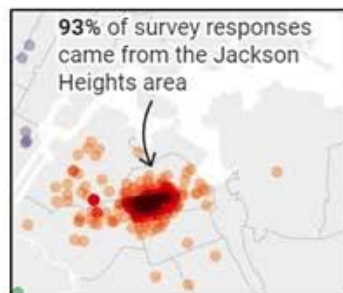
2,212

Community Survey Responses:

- **93%** of survey responses were local to the Jackson heights neighborhood
- Nearly a third (**27%**) of participants who took the survey listed 34th Ave as the closest intersection to their home
- **90%** of participants say they live nearby, close in proximity to 34th Avenue

Grouped Responses by Borough

BROOKLYN
MANHATTAN
QUEENS



Response to survey question: "What is the closest intersection to your home?"
Results from 1,632 out of 2,212 (74%) participants that provided a valid home intersection

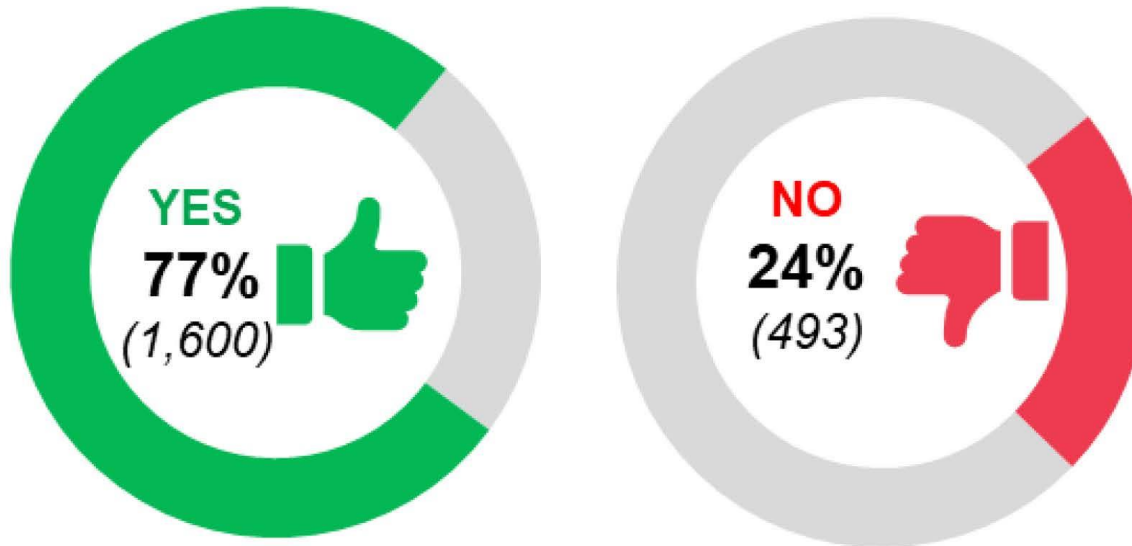
Relationship to 34th Avenue (Select all that apply)

I live nearby	(1,997)	90%	
I shop/run errands nearby	(862)	39%	
I visit friends and/or family here	(607)	27%	
I visit here for recreation, school, etc.	(259)	12%	
I work nearby	(248)	11%	
I'm just passing through	(226)	10%	
I visit nearby medical facilities	(194)	9%	
I attend nearby religious services	(97)	4%	
First time visiting today	(5)	<1%	

Would you like to see permanent changes?

Visioning – The Future of 34th Avenue

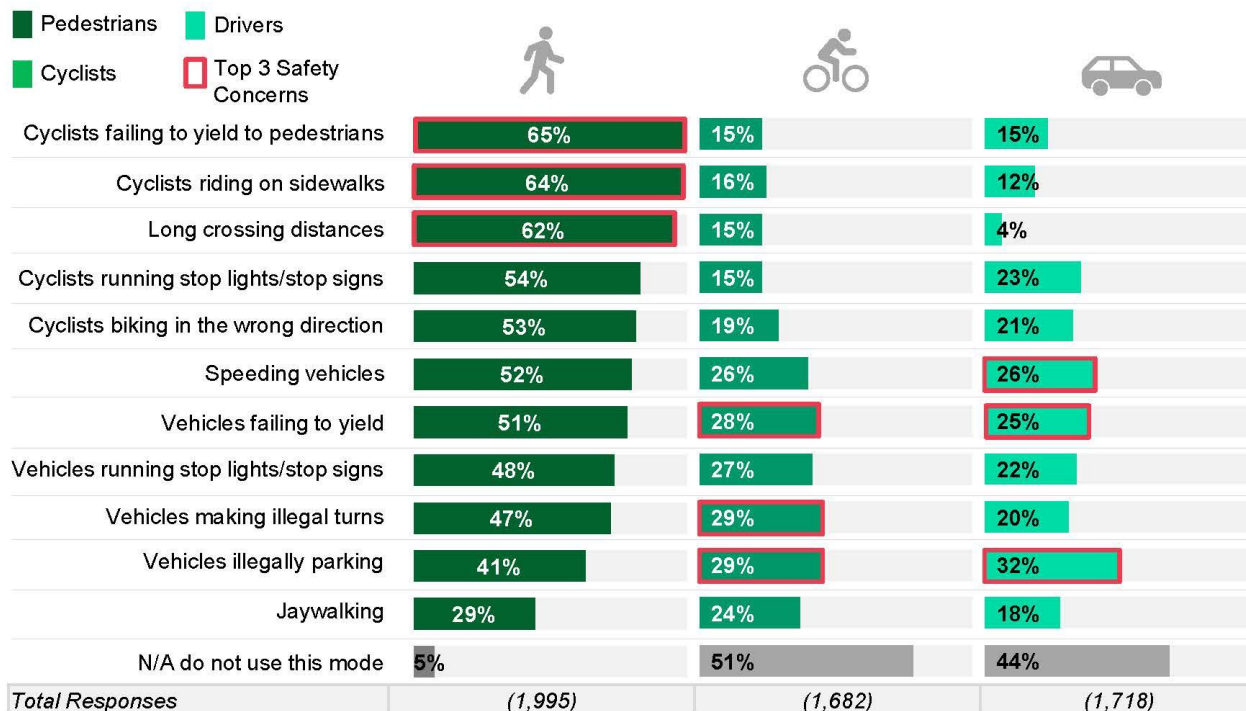
» Would you like to see permanent changes to make 34th Ave a pedestrian and/or cycling priority corridor?



What are the problems we can solve?

Roadway Traffic Safety Concerns in the Neighborhood

What roadway safety concerns do you have when utilizing streets throughout Jackson Heights and surrounding neighborhoods?



Common written traffic safety concerns specific to 34th Ave:

- » Cars driving into the open street, moving barriers, and going past 5 MPH limit (200+ mentions)
- » Mixing of pedestrians and cyclists creating conflicts. (200+ mentions)
- » E-scooters/bike speeding. (100+ mentions)
- » Vehicles, including scooters and other motorized bikes running red-lights. (100+ mentions)
- » Increased traffic on nearby side streets. (90+ mentions)
- » Delivery trucks double parking and creating circulation issues. (30+ mentions)

Response to survey question: "Roadway safety concerns by mode, please explain (select all that apply)"
Data based on 2,093 responses; 119 skipped

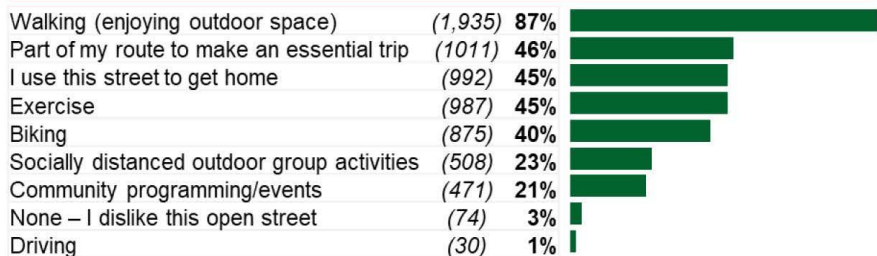
Data Notes
(x) Number of Responses
Displayed % Values Rounded
Based on 2212 responses unless otherwise noted

How do you want to use it in the future?

Current Use & Visioning Future Activities

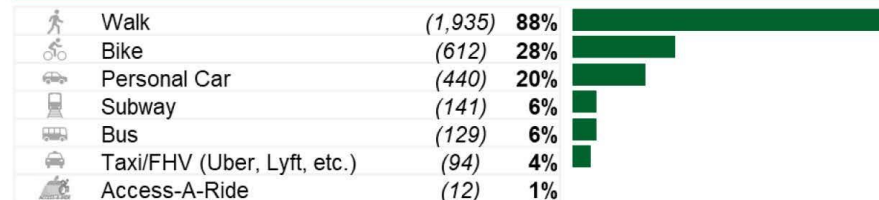
» How's the Open Street Being Used?

Activities on this Open Street (Select all that apply)



Response to survey question: "What activities do you like to do on this open street?"

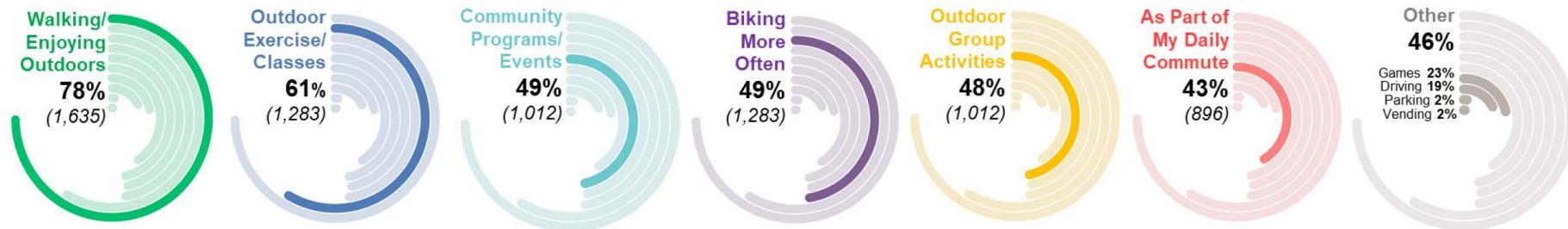
Mode(s) of Transportation (Select all that apply)



Response to survey question: "What mode(s) of transportation do you typically use to get to 34th Ave?"

"I would normally walk north or south to Northern Blvd or towards 35 Avenue but now I walk farther and longer on 34 Avenue to take advantage of the open space"

» Top Ranked Activities for the Future (Select all that apply)



Data based on 2,093 responses; 119 skipped

Data Notes

(x) Number of Responses
Displayed % Values Rounded
Based on 2212 responses unless otherwise noted

Ongoing Stakeholder Outreach

3

Open Street Outreach Efforts to Date

CB 3 Transportation Committee

- Six monthly appearances since Fall 2020

Stakeholder Meetings

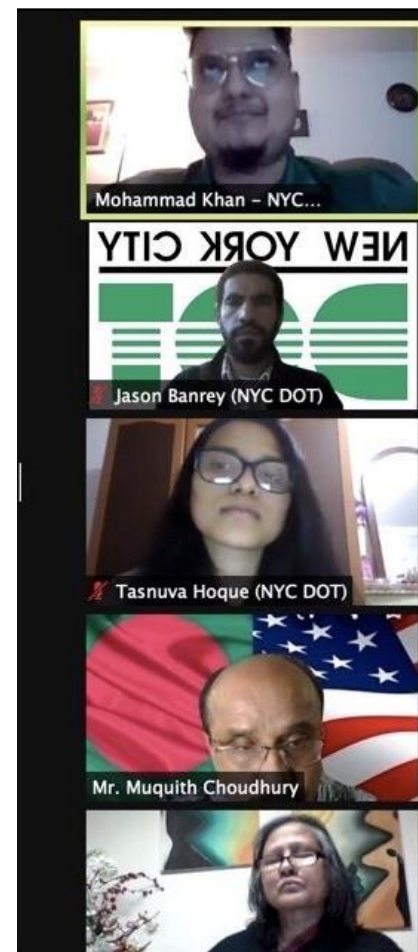
- Various meetings with residents, advocates, and elected officials
- On Site Walk-Throughs
- Zoom Info Sessions in Bengali, English, Hindi, Nepali, Spanish, and Tibetan

Public Workshops

- Multiple Digital Public Workshops in Bengali, Hindi, Tibetan, English, and Spanish

Inter Agency Coordination

- DCA, DCWP, NYPD, Parks



Outreach & Inter-Agency Efforts to Date & Ongoing

Meetings w/Elected Officials, Self Help/NORCs, PS 398, PS 149, PTAs

- Individual follow-up meetings with NORC residents, parents, seniors and building representatives
- Outreach to continue to residents in the western portion of 34th Avenue

Ongoing conversations w/ 34th Avenue Open Street Coalition, 34th Avenue Open Street Compromise, Jackson Heights Beautification Group, DSNY & Parks

- Continued partnerships will enable group to help coordinate potential beautification opportunities & develop maintenance solutions for Avenue

Joint Walkthrough w/DWCP & CB3 - May

- Followed by outreach to individual vendors on 34th Ave.
- Enforcement began June 1st
- Working w/community residents to identify unsanctioned vending and work with approved vendors to correct operations

Outreach & Inter-Agency Efforts to Date & Ongoing



Challenges + Successes

4

Community Partner Support

- Community Partners need operational support for long term success –relying on volunteer labor is not sustainable in the long term

Quality of Life Issues

- Vending – DWCP enforcement ongoing on 34th Avenue
- Litter – Ongoing conversations with DSNY about improving services
- Noise – Working to improve permitted events via SAPO process (NYPD)
- Pick-Up/Drop-Off/Delivery Access

Traffic Safety + Access

- Vehicles parking at street ends
- Bike/Pedestrian conflicts
- Speeding Vehicles

Community Support

- The 34th Ave Open Street has offered an opportunity for residents to band together to take ownership

Flexibility

- Brings much needed programmable, active, open space to the neighborhood while maintaining vehicular access for parking, Pick-Up/Drop-Off, and deliveries

Traffic Safety + Access

- Fewer crashes
- Lack of thru-traffic makes 34th Ave feel safer for pedestrians and cyclists
- New bike parking provides more options for cyclists using the corridor

Next Steps

5

Open Street Operational Improvements

Volunteer Support

- DOT is working on a number of ways to support our partners' programming efforts through direct activation and reimbursements
- DOT is working to provide direct operational and maintenance support to Open Streets across the city through the Mayor's Clean Up Corps.

Curbing Vending

- We're currently working with Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) on solutions to the ongoing vending issues

Permitting Activations

- We'll continue to work with SAPO to ensure all programming and activations are properly permitted

Ongoing Outreach

Examining Barrier Configurations

Focused Design Opportunities

- Established programming locations
- Adjacencies which need more public space
- Opportunities to break up through traffic

Mapping Vehicular Access Needs

- Driveways
- Delivery needs
- Accessibility needs
- Pick-up/Drop off
- Network demands

Assessing Safety Needs

- Pre-pandemic crash locations
- Pre-pandemic speeding locations
- Cyclist/pedestrian conflicts

Base Blocks

- Expand pedestrian space
- Designate cyclist space
- Rebalance the allocation of space to meet the needs of the largest number of users
- Designate space for queuing at crowded crossings
- Expand space where we have crowded sidewalks
- Add programmable space where through traffic must be maintained
- Calm traffic

34th Ave // Design Development

Slow Blocks

- Designate space for cyclists, where pedestrians can expect cyclists
- Prioritize pedestrians and cyclists
- Add amenities
- Add programmable space
- Maintain vehicular access
- Slow traffic with self-enforcing geometry



34th Ave // Design Development

Plaza Blocks

- Add programmable space
- Compliment adjacencies which need more space
- Build on existing, successful, public space
- Break up through traffic
- Add amenities such as seating options and plantings



Next Steps

2021

- **Spring 2021:** Community Outreach Report Back
- **Summer 2021:** Implement Operational Improvements + Increase Volunteer Support
- **Summer/Fall 2021:** Design Development of Interim + Capital Treatments
- **Fall/Winter 2021:** Presentation of design proposals
 - Public Feedback Forum
 - Community Board 3
 - Elected Official Briefing

2022

- **Spring 2022:**
 - Implement Interim Improvements
 - Continue Conversations on Capital Design

Q & A

Thank you!



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