

Downtown Far Rockaway

Urban Design & Streetscape Reconstruction Project

Milestones:

- May 2016: CB14 Schematic Geometric Design Approval
- July 2016: Public Design Commission Preliminary Design Presentation
- December 2016: DDC/DOT Design Approval
- Summer 2017: Start Construction
- September 2019: Finish Construction

Budget:

- Total DOT Budget: \$20 Million, of which \$4.8 Million was allocated from the Mayor in Jan 2016
- Total DEP Budget: \$6 Million
- CM Richards allocated \$500K and has been a champion for improvements in the community
- Funding Resources: City Capital, Community Development Block Grant (City & State), and Federal Highway Administration

Location

Downtown Far Rockaway, Queens



Contact

Queens Borough Commissioner
Nicole Garcia 212-839-2510



Project Description

The overarching goals of planning and design efforts in Downtown Far Rockaway are to revitalize the economic base of the area, improve pedestrian safety, and strengthen the district's environmental sustainability and resiliency in the wake of extreme weather events. To achieve this goal the NYC DOT, the Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency (ORR), the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corporation (RDRC), Councilmember Donovan Richards, and Representative Gregory Meeks have forged a partnership to implement a capital project aimed at enhancing the public realm.

The project will utilize existing assets and recommendations from previous studies to create an environmentally sustainable district that reinforces the strategic 'higher ground' role that Far Rockaway plays for the entire peninsula.

Project Goals

- Reinforce Mott Ave as a 'village main street' by expanding sidewalks, adding street trees, and improving street lighting
- Build a public plaza space with seating and plantings on the existing DOT parking lot between Beach 21st St and the subway station on Beach 22nd St, facilitating pedestrian circulation throughout the downtown
- Reorganize bus and commuter van operations to increase efficiency and convenience for users
- Install storm sewers to increase stormwater management capacity
- Employ districtwide amenities such as Citybenches, WalkNYC wayfinding signage, and sidewalk plantings
- Net-zero loss of on-street parking and an expansion of municipal meters throughout the downtown

