



DOT and Parks: East Village/Lower East Side Waterfront Access Study

Community Workshop #2 | August 1, 2023

Project Team Introductions

City Team

- DOT: Kol Gjelaaj, Gregory Haas, Jennifer Sta. Ines, Kate Scherer
- Parks: Michael Bradley and Sarah Neilson

Consulting Team

- Arcadis
- ONE
- Starr Whitehouse
- Sam Schwartz
- Matrix
- TCT

Project Goals + Schedule

Study Background & Goals

- Conceptual study to explore potential improvements along and across FDR corridor from Montgomery St to 14th St.
- Study fulfills one of the City's commitments associated with East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR).
- Study will help NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and NYC Parks coordinate with currently planned capital improvements in East Village and Lower East Side.
- No capital funding is associated with this study – the study may help city agencies seek funding for future improvement.



Study Themes



Access + Mobility

Circulation, pedestrian safety, and access to waterfront



Health + Environment

Environmental quality concerns



Open Space

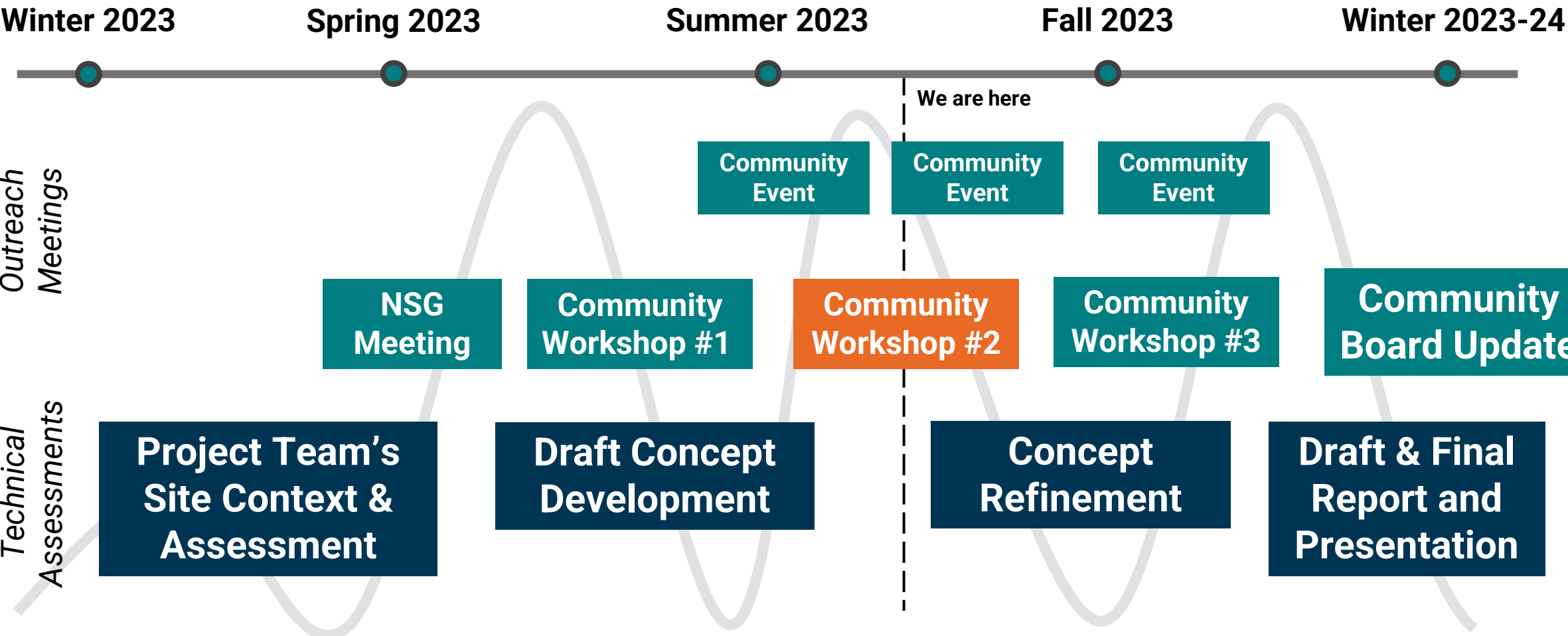
Opportunities for more trees, plantings, and recreational spaces



Stormwater Management

Rainfall flooding in the neighborhood

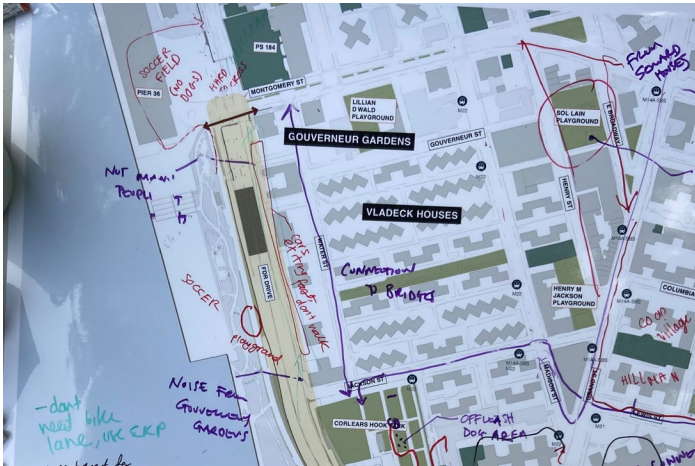
Project Schedule



Mobile Engagement



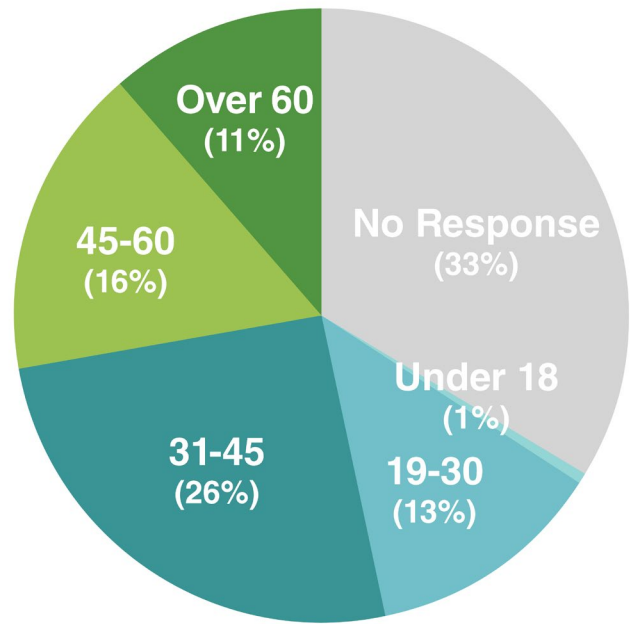
Mobile Engagement



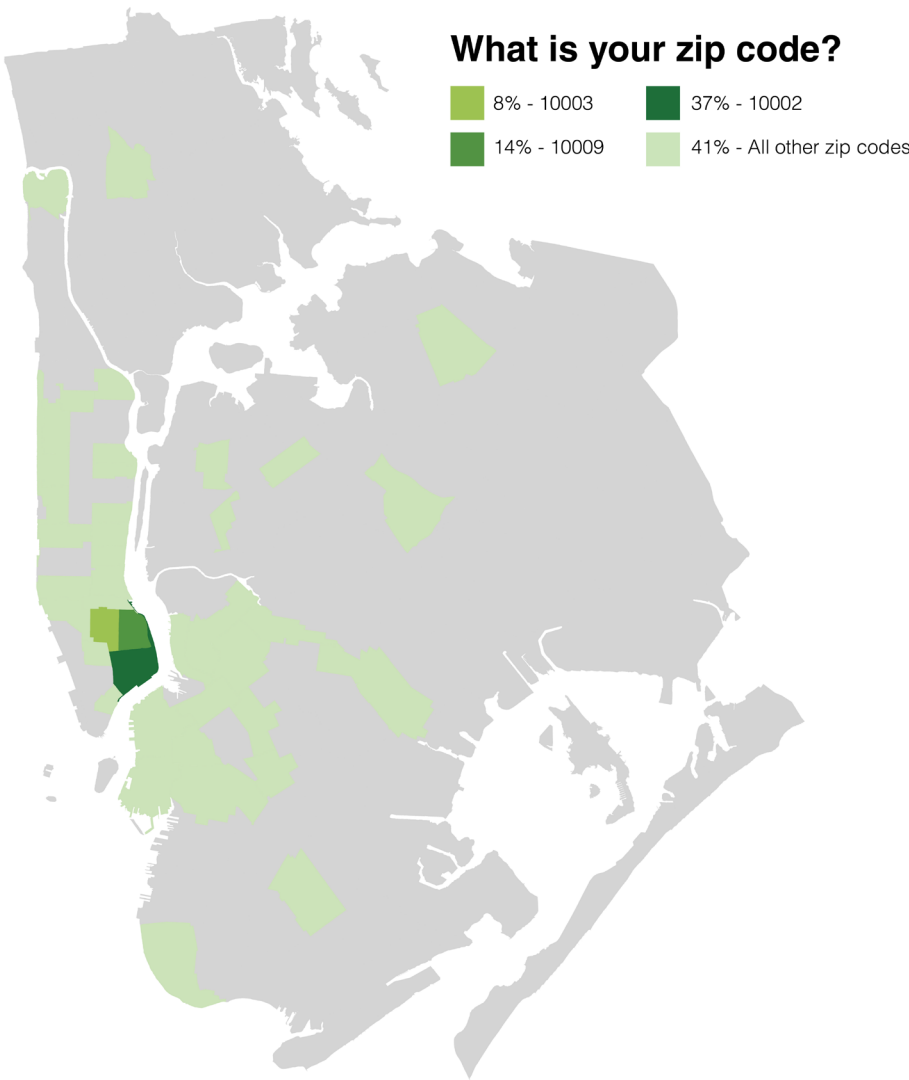
Engagement Findings

Survey Respondents

What is your age?



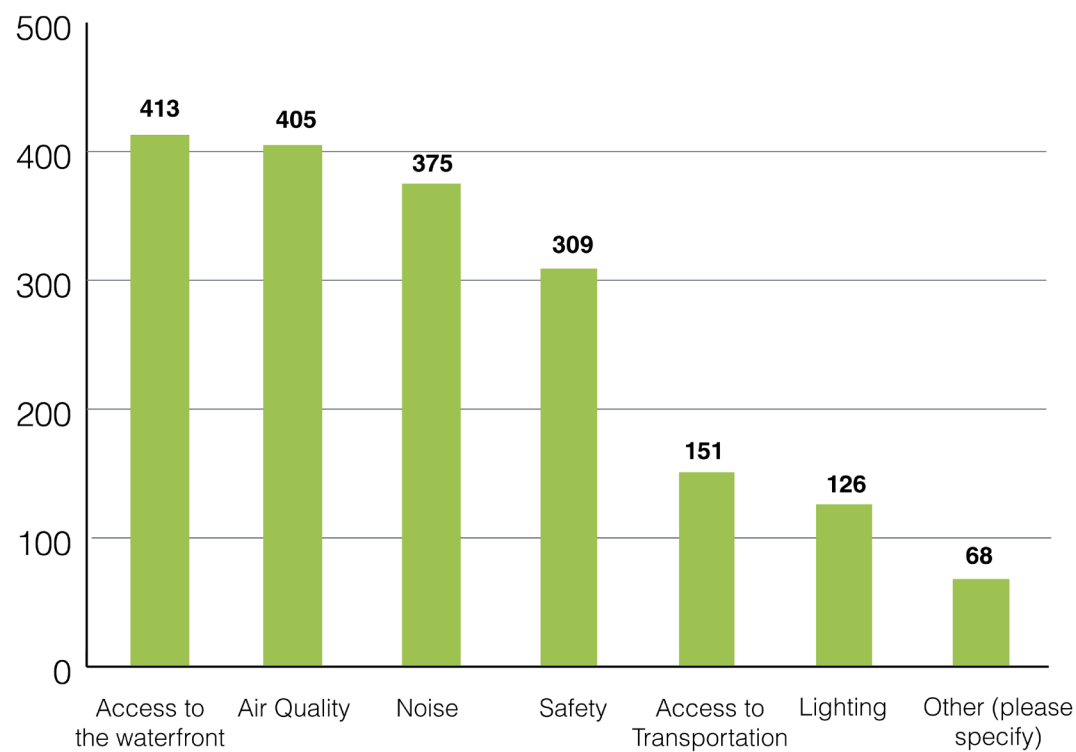
What is your zip code?



Engagement Findings

Survey Results

What quality of life concerns do you have related to the FDR Drive? (select all that apply)

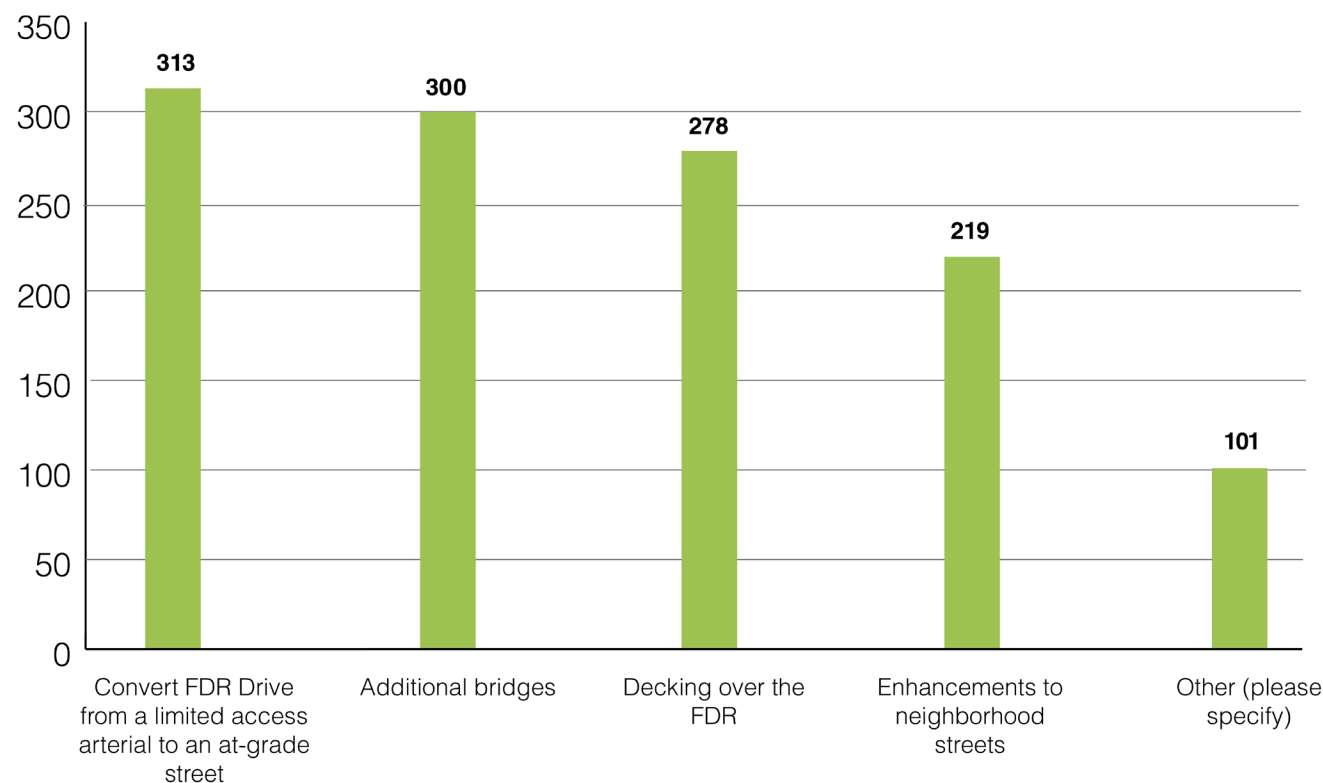


Summary of “Other” responses:
light pollution; wildlife
preservation; bicycle routes; lack of
parking; heavy traffic; equity; heat;
contribution to climate crisis

Engagement Findings

Survey Results

What would you like the project team to study to improve access to East River Park and the waterfront? (select all that apply)



Summary of “Other” responses: remove the FDR; add public transportation; elevators to pedestrian bridges; more signage; green floodwalls; fishing access; more trees

Engagement Findings

Concerns



Access + Mobility

- Pedestrian safety + wayfinding
- Bicycle connections to East River Park
- Universal accessibility



Health + Environment

- Noise + air quality
- Lack of tree canopy + heat island
- Environmental impact of car dependence



Open Space

- Additional trees + green
- Lighting
- Biodiversity + native plants



Stormwater Management

- Localized flooding on bike routes
- Flooding has been observed on FDR Drive during heavy rain

Improvement Concepts

Engagement Findings

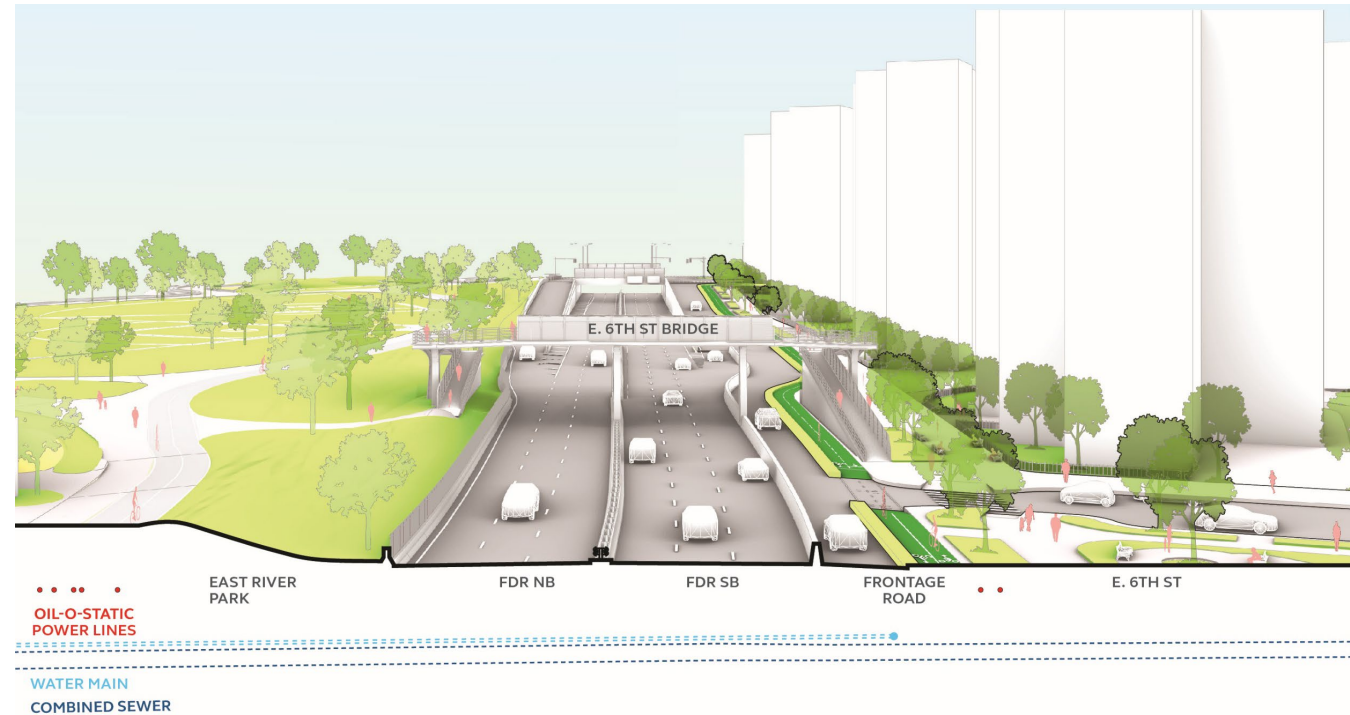
Focus Areas

- **Existing Pedestrian Crossings:** Streetscape enhancements and improvements to at-grade crossings such as Montgomery Street and Houston Street.
- **Bridges:** Additional locations for pedestrian / bicycle bridges across the FDR Drive.
- **Deck:** Potential to cover FDR or enhance existing Houston overpass.
- **New Pedestrian Crossings:** Updating road geometry to create new at-grade crossings.

Street Improvements

Improvement Concept

- Enhance the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the FDR Drive service road and existing at-grade crossings. Possible improvements include: planting street trees and other native plantings to provide shade and create biodiversity; installing green infrastructure, where feasible; and improving safety bike and connectivity for bicyclists.

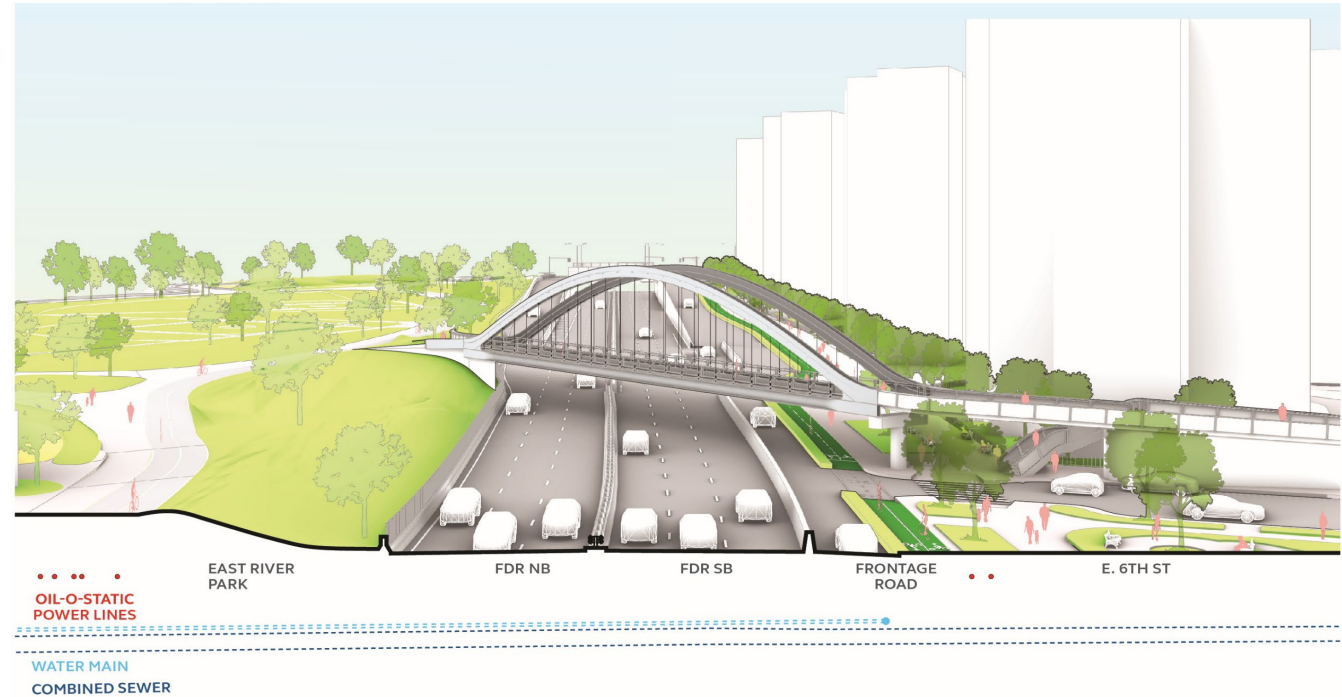


NB = northbound
SB = southbound

Pedestrian Bridges

Improvement Concept

- Provide additional crossings over the FDR Drive to supplement the four pedestrian bridges included in the ESCR project

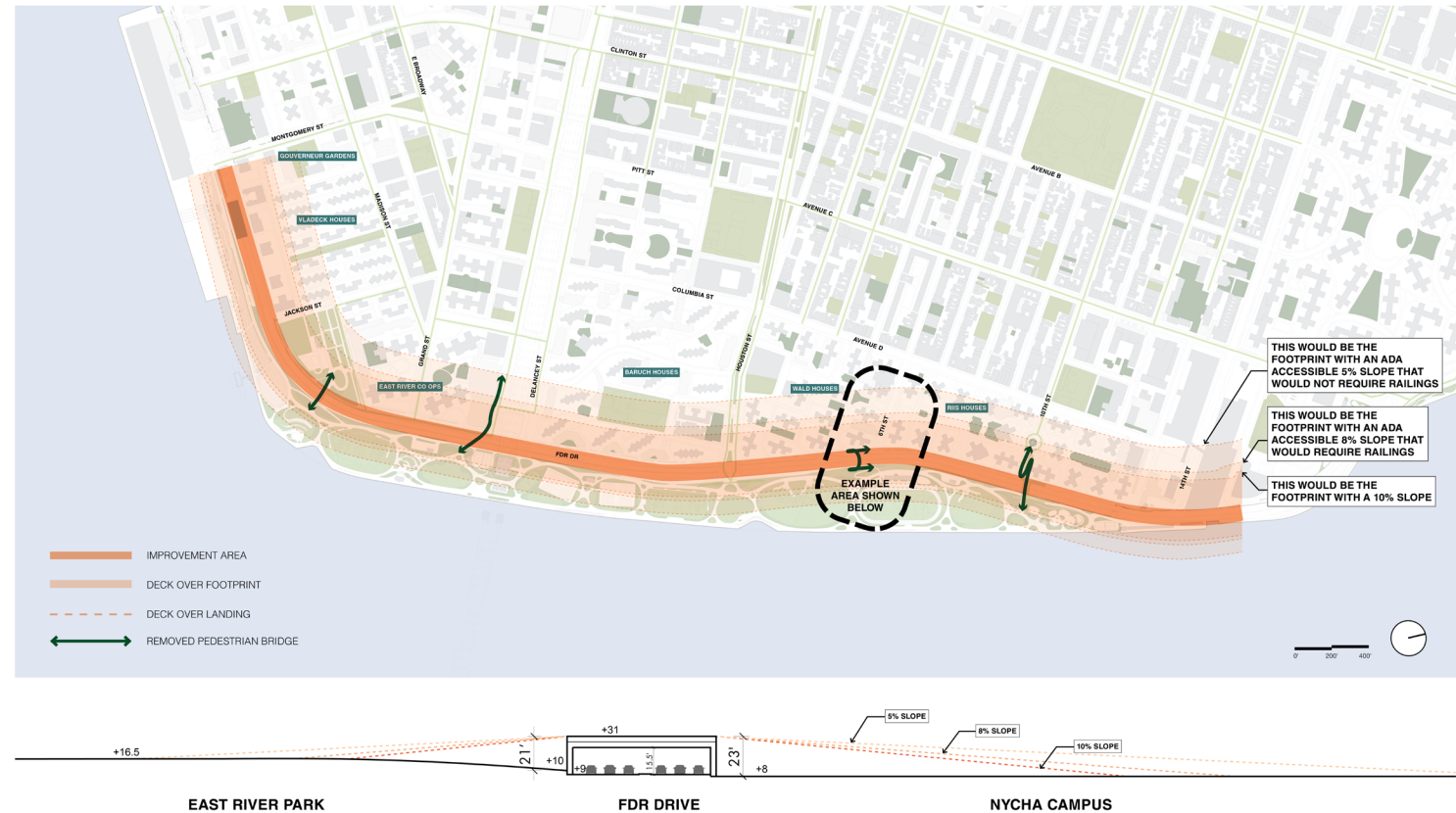


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SB = southbound

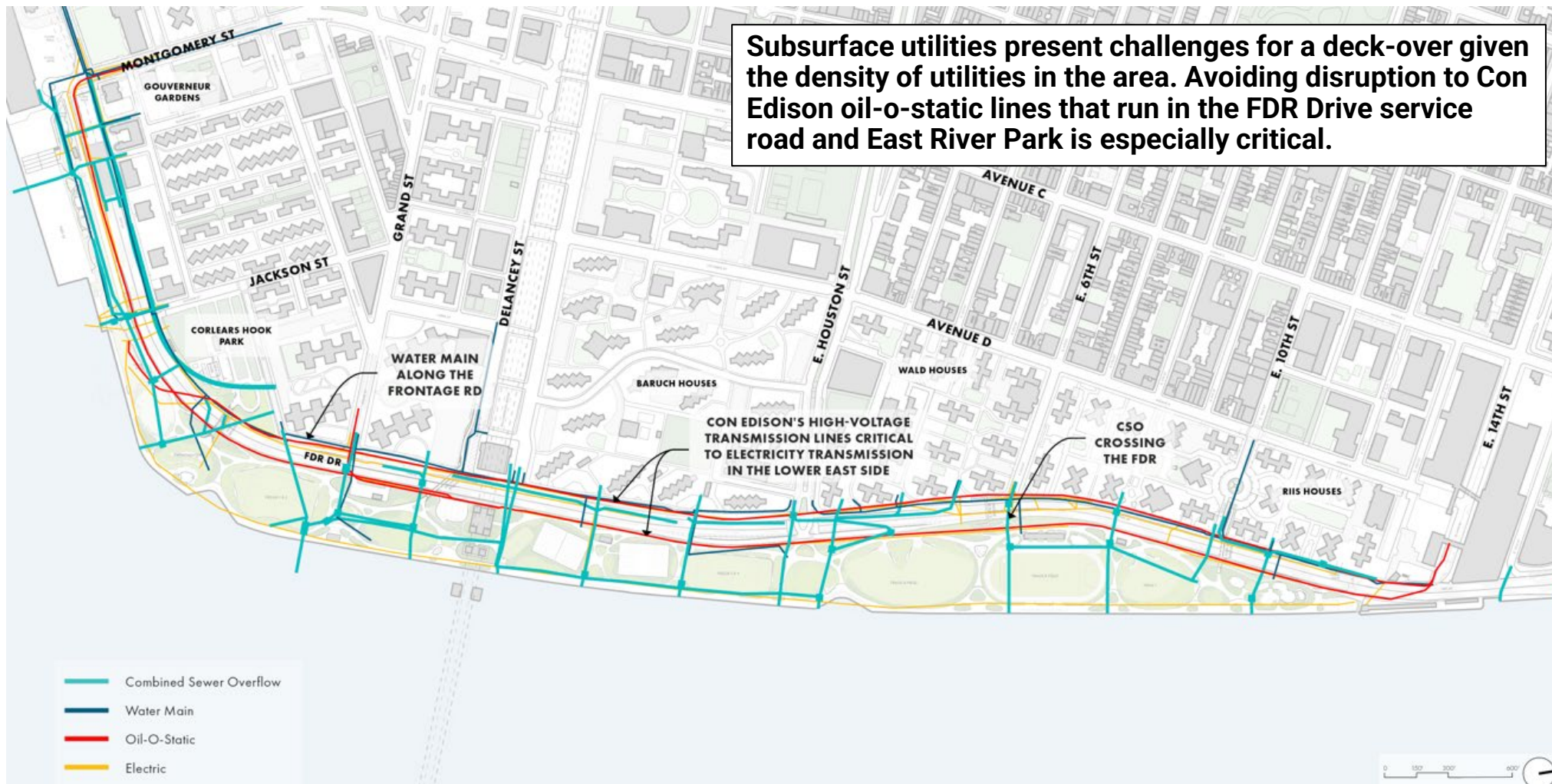
Deck Study

Improvement Concept

- Cover portions of FDR Drive and enhance existing overpass at Houston Street.
- Study indicates deck structure would have many challenges:
 - Impacts on newly constructed bridges and East River Park
 - Utilities
 - Impacts on adjacent communities
 - Traffic impacts during construction
 - 5+ year construction period



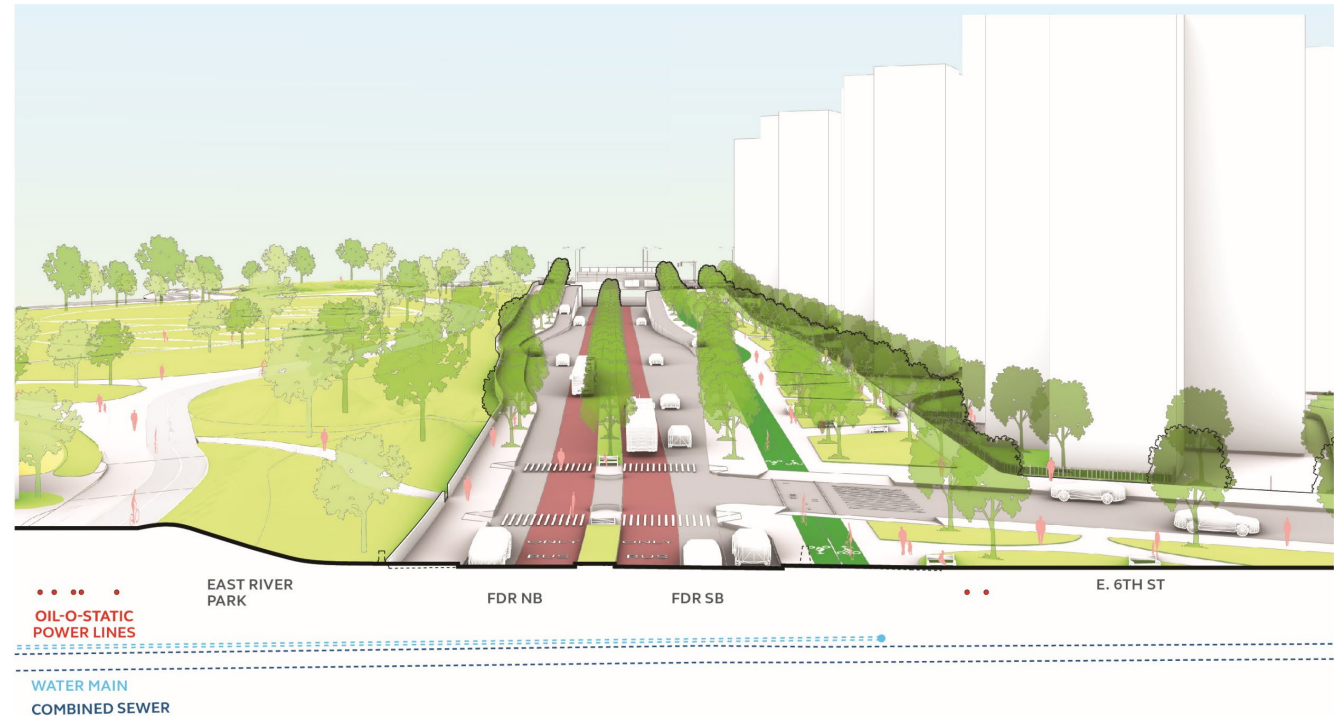
Deck Study: Subsurface Utilities



At-grade Crossings

Improvement Concept

- Additional at-grade street crossings to East River Park and the waterfront with signalized intersections on the FDR Drive.
- This concept needs to be considered as part of a broader examination of FDR Drive corridor and evaluated for its impact on local streets.



Today's Workshop

Presentation Times:

Afternoon Session

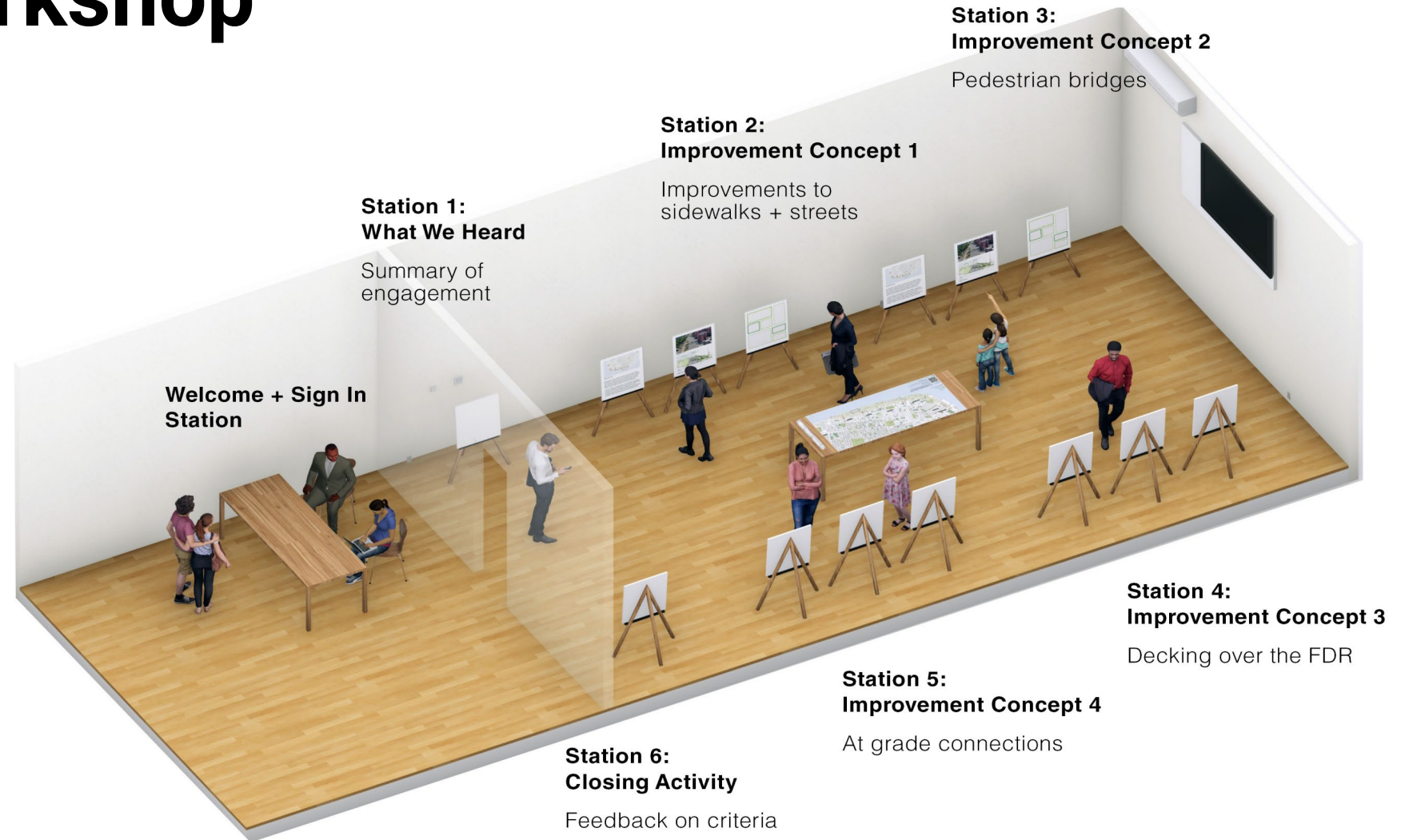
1:00 pm

2:00 pm

Evening Session

6:00 pm

7:00 pm



Discussion Questions

- What are your thoughts about the improvement concepts?
- What aspects of the improvement concepts should the team study further?
- What should be the priority considerations as the team advances the concepts?

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Feedback from Community Workshop 2 will be compiled and integrated into improvement concepts.
- The design team will advance and refine the feasible improvement concepts, which will be shared at Community Workshop 3, expected to be in the fall.
- For more information, email: NYCDOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office at ManhattanBC@dot.nyc.gov



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