



**Samir Saini**  
*Commissioner*  
2 Metrotech Center  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

March 28, 2018

Alida Camp, Chair  
A. Scott Falk, Chair, Transportation Committee  
Charles Warren, Chair, Transportation Committee  
Manhattan Community Board 8  
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alida, Scott, and Charles:

Now that the comment period has ended for two groups of new proposed locations for LinkNYC kiosks within Manhattan Community Board 8, I write to acknowledge your January 11, 2018, resolution regarding LinkNYC deployment in general.

We were happy to extend the typical 60-day comment period for the first group of sites, which opened on October 2, 2017, to allow you to consider them concurrently with the next group, transmitted formally on January 10, 2018. I am also grateful that you invited representatives of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) and our franchisee, CityBridge, to address the Transportation Committee at its meetings of December 6 and January 3. I was also pleased to learn that my staff was able to provide you with additional materials following a call on January 26 with Scott, Charles, and District Manager Will Brightbill. These materials included contextual information for each proposed location and the placement of existing payphones not yet considered for LinkNYC conversion. This information is also attached.

I'd like to take this opportunity to address some concerns raised in the resolution and at those meetings. As you are aware, the LinkNYC franchise will provide the City with at least 7,500 kiosks offering a multiplicity of free services to New Yorkers and visitors – gigabit-speed Wi-Fi along commercial corridors, nationwide telephone calls, a dedicated 911 button, fast device charging, and a tablet to access a curated array of online services. The franchise is governed by a carefully negotiated agreement—which underwent extensive public review—that balances the City's interest in providing these services to as broad a public as possible, at no cost to either users or taxpayers, with CityBridge's need to earn sufficient revenue to fund the program through advertising on the kiosks' display screens. The agreement is available in full at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doitt/business/linknyc-franchises.page>.



The agreement gives CityBridge the right to install kiosks at locations where public pay telephones were in place as of April 2014, provided those locations comply with the siting criteria included in the agreement. In addition, kiosks may be installed at new locations, also subject to detailed siting criteria, after a public comment period. These new sites are crucial for our franchisee to fulfill its contractual obligation to install at least 7,500 LinkNYC kiosks across all five boroughs. New locations are selected to fill gaps in Wi-Fi coverage, allowing a seamless connection where possible. Maintaining distance between kiosks is taken into account – new locations are required to be at least 170 feet from any other kiosk or public pay telephone.

The suggestions in your resolution regarding the placement and removal of kiosks are unfortunately not consistent with the City's obligations under the franchise agreement. We do appreciate your concerns about sidewalk congestion, and DoITT therefore carefully reviews both replacement sites and new sites, in accordance with the siting criteria, to maintain the flow of pedestrian traffic, the sightlines for motorists, and safe boarding and exiting of buses, among other factors.

I'd also like to clarify the planning process for kiosk locations. In order to provide Wi-Fi service, the franchisee must run new telecommunications fiber from a central connection point along a route to each kiosk. As a result, kiosks are planned and built out street by street, rather than neighborhood by neighborhood. As we all know, sidewalk conditions change rapidly, so specific sites are not surveyed and selected until a fiber connection is available along a particular route. The kiosks being planned and installed now are already reachable by new fiber. The agreement allows the kiosks to be deployed over the course of eight years, and we expect that all existing payphone sites and most commercially zoned areas will be considered during that time.

DoITT solicits comments from local stakeholders to gain insight into community contexts as we consider these new locations, and we appreciate thoughtful comments on individual sites. (The specific procedure is laid out explicitly in DoITT's Memorandum of Understanding with the Borough Presidents, available here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doitt/downloads/pdf/LinkNYC-Siting-MOU-With-BPs.pdf>.)

To that end, my staff heard a recommendation from a member of the public at the committee meetings that alternative locations be considered for a kiosk proposed in front of 402 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street (LINK-020443). We studied this suggestion carefully, but unfortunately we concluded that this is the only safe and complying location. The First Avenue frontage is not available because of bus stops for both the Select Bus Service and local service on the M15 line, coupled with a tree just behind the bus stop on the northeast corner. On 67<sup>th</sup> Street, options on the north side are limited because of the service driveway for the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, a tree, and a fire hydrant. Unfortunately, there is not enough space between the hydrant and the tree for a Link to be installed safely without interfering with operation of the hydrant. We are therefore approving the originally proposed site, on the south side of 67<sup>th</sup> Street east of First Avenue.

Please note that you can follow the progress of LinkNYC deployment on DoITT's Open Data portal:

- You can track active LinkNYC sites here: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/LinkNYC-Locations/s4kf-3yrf>.
- Sites that have been approved by DoITT to become LinkNYC kiosks, but have not yet been constructed can be found here: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/Approved-Link-NYC-Kiosk-Locations/gsr2-xq9e>.
- Proposed new sites that have been distributed to stakeholders for comment are here: <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/LinkNYC-New-Site-Permit-Applications/xp25-gxux>.

Thank you for reaching out to us. If you have further questions, please contact Stacy Gardener, Director of External Affairs, at [sgardener@doitt.nyc.gov](mailto:sgardener@doitt.nyc.gov) or (718) 804-6930.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samir Saini', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

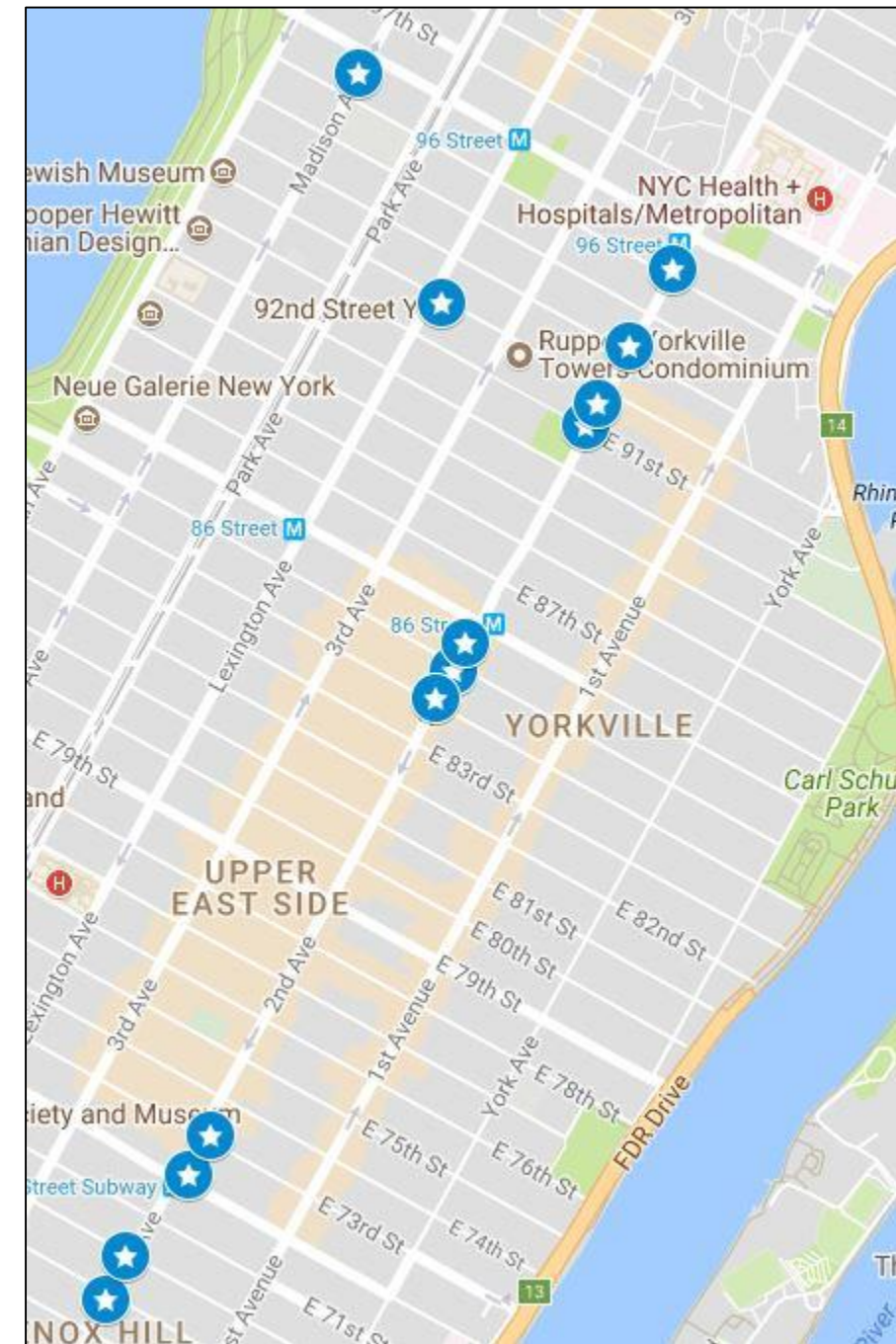
Samir Saini, Commissioner  
Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications



# Manhattan Community Board 8 New Sites for Comment

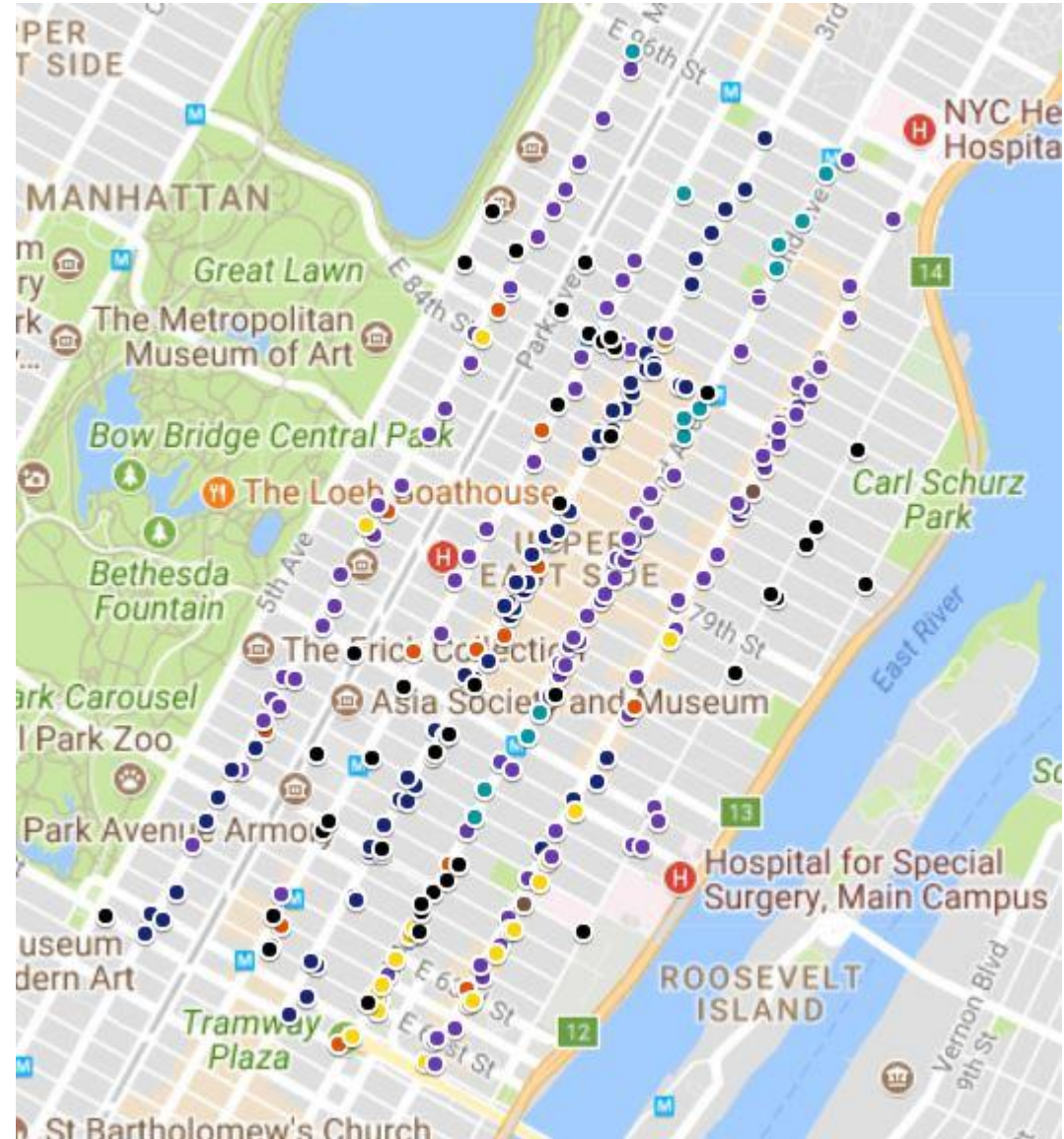
Street Address	Council District
1366 MADISON AVENUE	4
1311 2 Avenue	4
226 East 70 Street	4
1398 2 Avenue	5
1633 2 Avenue	5
235 East 95 Street	5
142 EAST 92 STREET (92nd St Y)	5
1623 2 Avenue	5
1749 2 Avenue	5
234 EAST 92 STREET	5
1404 2 Avenue	5
1802 2 Avenue	5
1645 2 Avenue	5

Comment solicited on January 10, 2018



# LinkNYC Status as of 1/30/18

- Approved/In Progress (104)
- Link Active! (63)
- Possible PPT Replacement (42)
- Installed, to be Connected (21)
- Approved/On Hold (16)
- New Site 1/10 - 3/11 (13)
- Site Presented Dec/Jan (2)
- Link Pending Activation (1)



Full Map available here:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vqu3bLWKQFx0FE\\_81YTEZD2aNMLGZBT1&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vqu3bLWKQFx0FE_81YTEZD2aNMLGZBT1&usp=sharing)

# Community District 8 Usage

December 2017 saw:

**2.7M+**

Wi-Fi Sessions

**8.6M+**

Minutes Spent on the WiFi

**991 3rd Ave**

Most popular Link in CB8  
43,924 Connected Devices

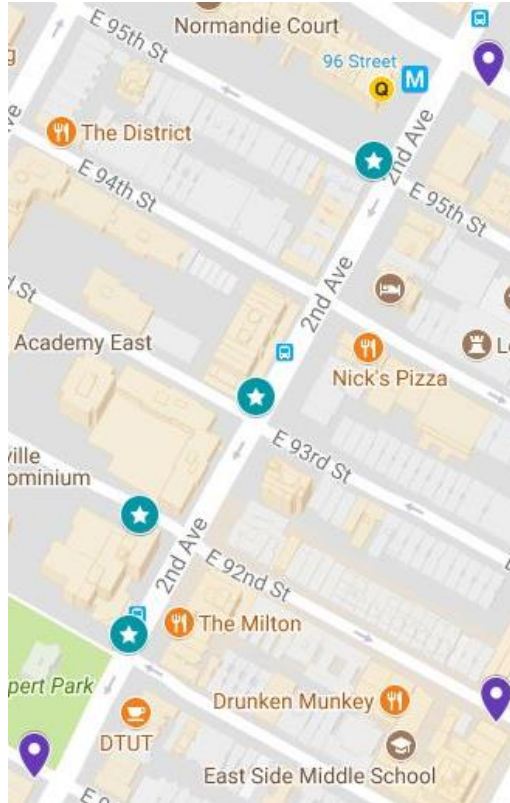


# Context for New Sites Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- Many Public Pay Telephones (PPTs) had to be removed for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Subway construction, especially near stations; most were deactivated in DoITT's records.
- At the time PPTs were catalogued for the LinkNYC franchise, the deactivated PPTs were not counted.
- New sites proposed along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue fill in gaps left by these deactivated PPTs to provide continuous Wi-Fi service along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- Because these are being installed as new sites, they must be 170 feet apart, as opposed to the 50 feet required for replacements.

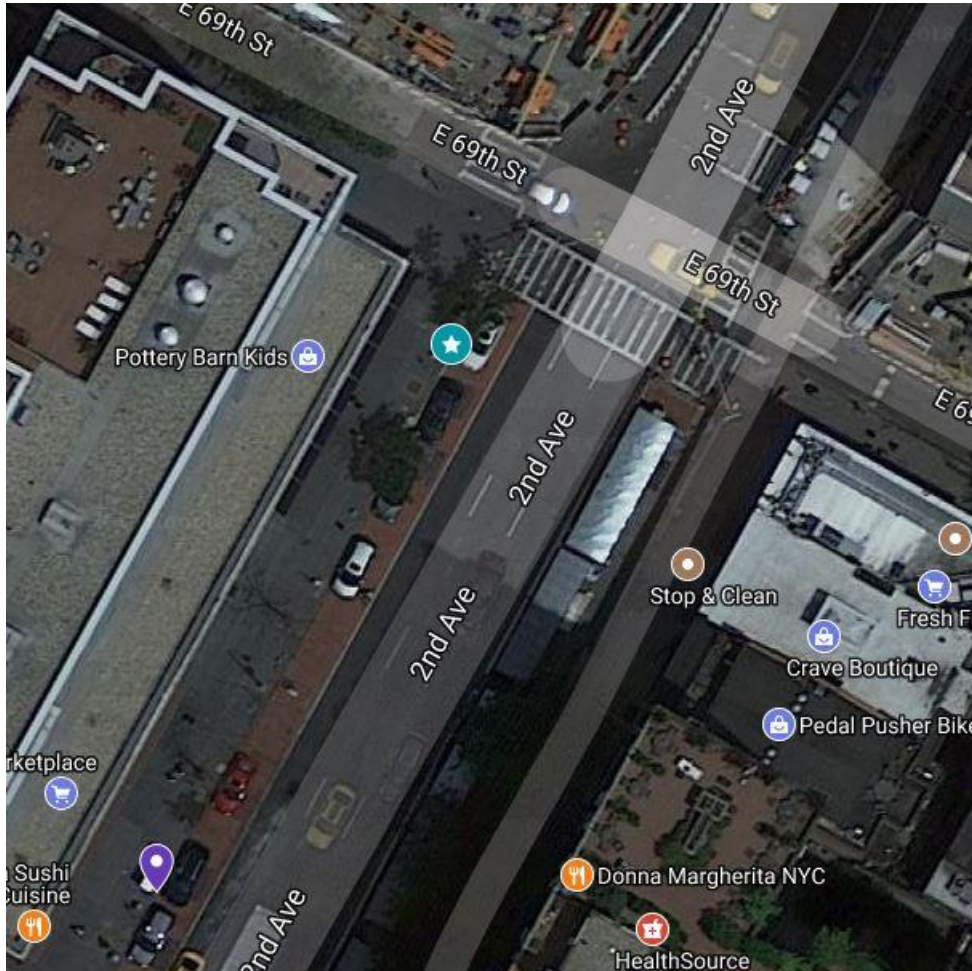
# Context for New Sites Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- Approved/In Progress
- Link Active!
- Possible PPT Replacement
- Installed, to be Connected
- Approved/On Hold
- New Site 1/10 - 3/11





# 1311 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue





# 226 E 70<sup>th</sup> Street



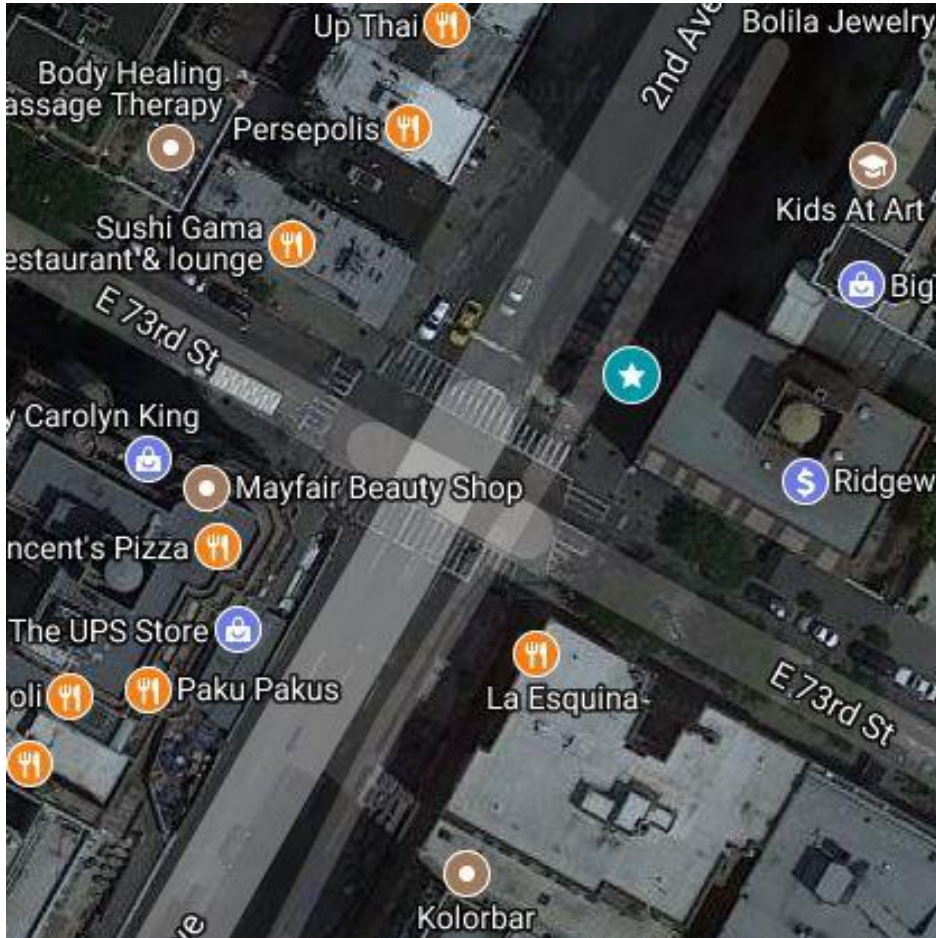


# 1398 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



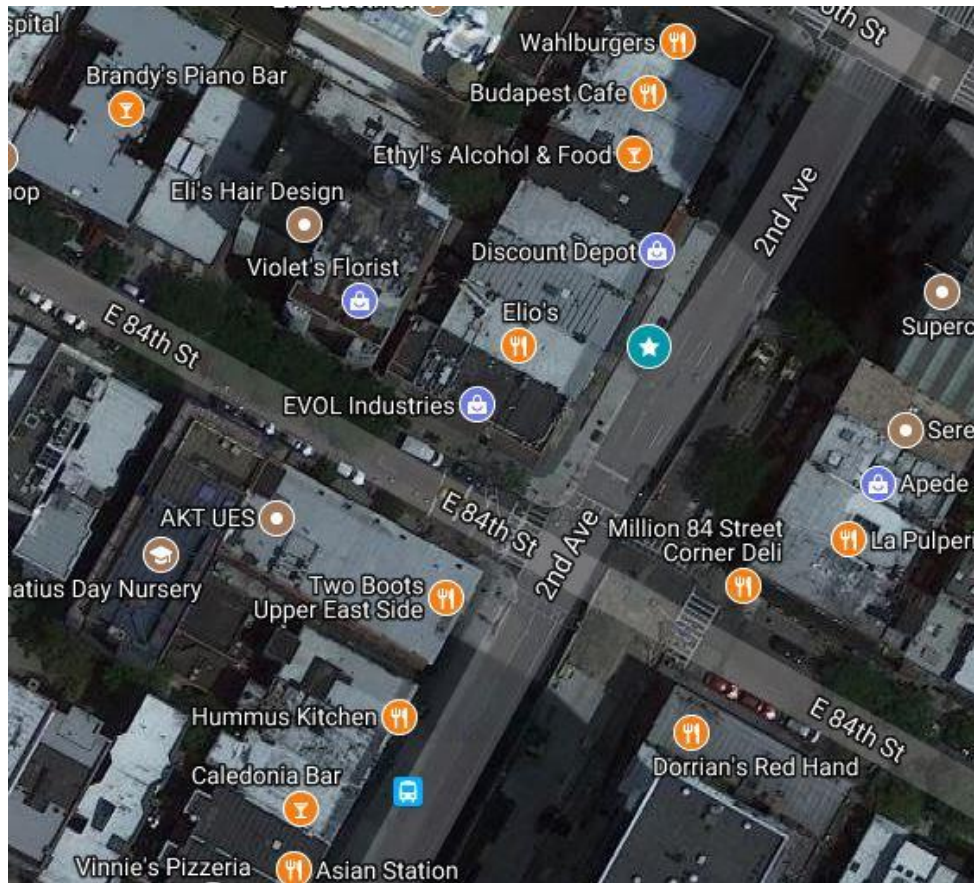


# 1404 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue





# 1623 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



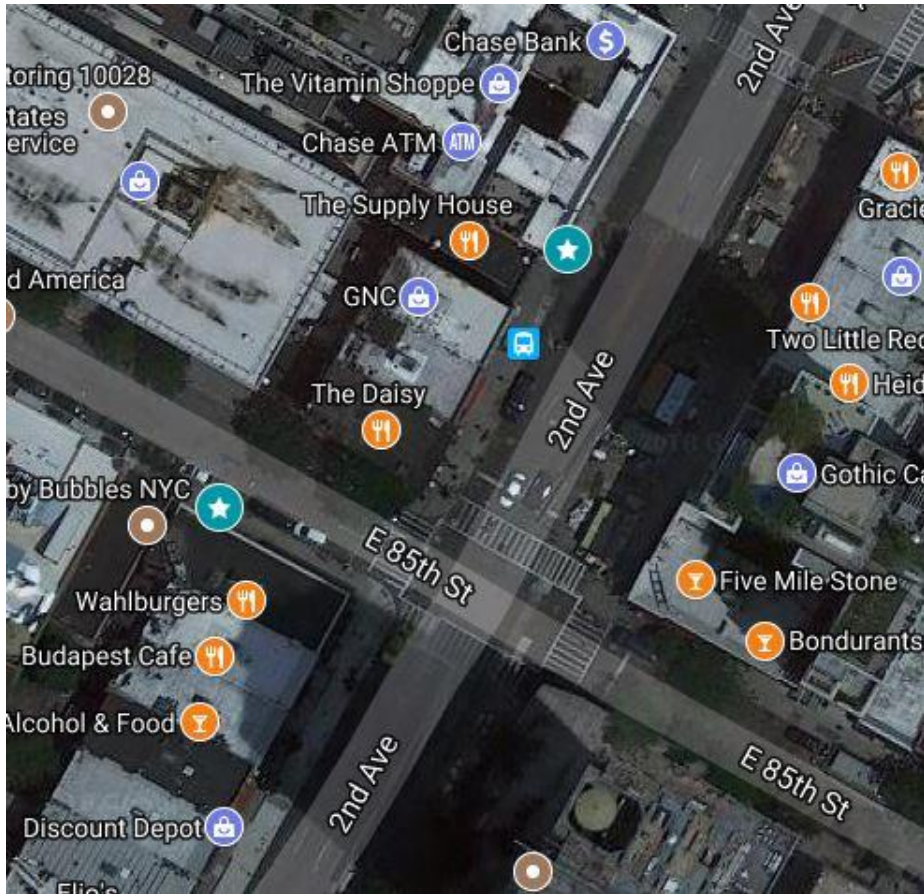


# 1633 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave



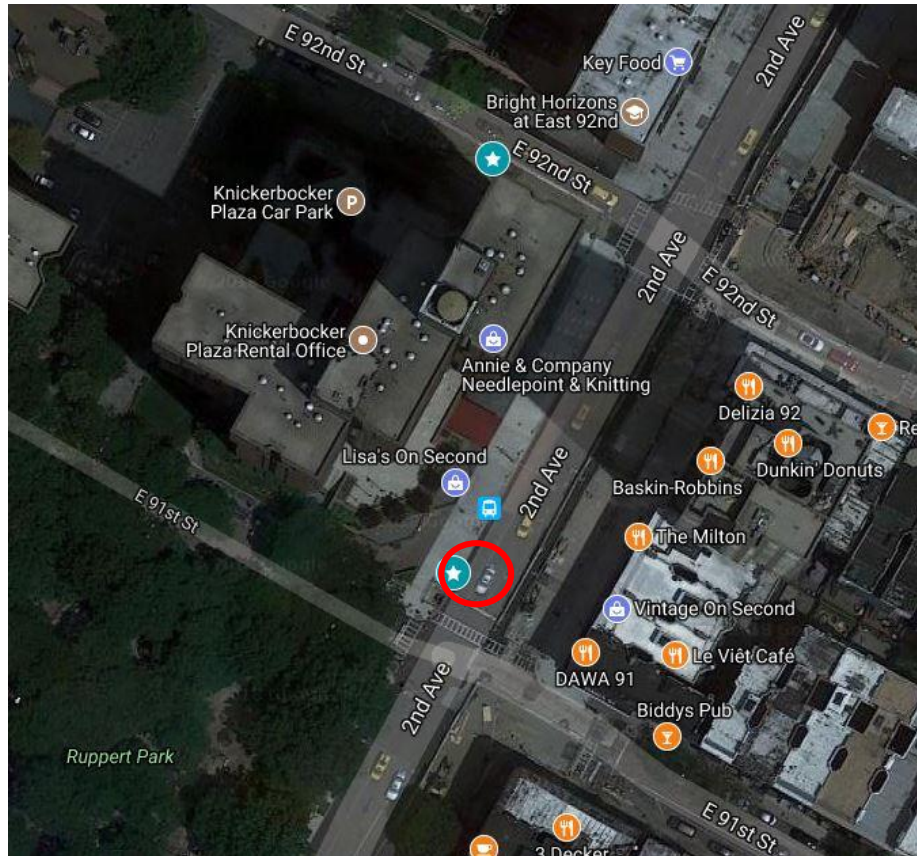


# 1645 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



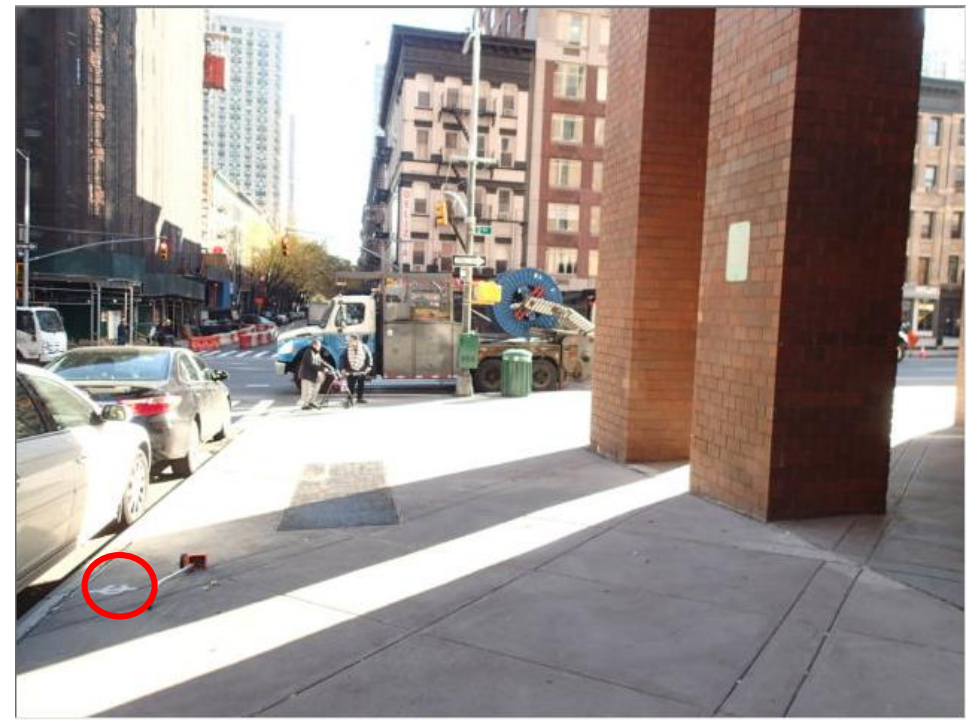
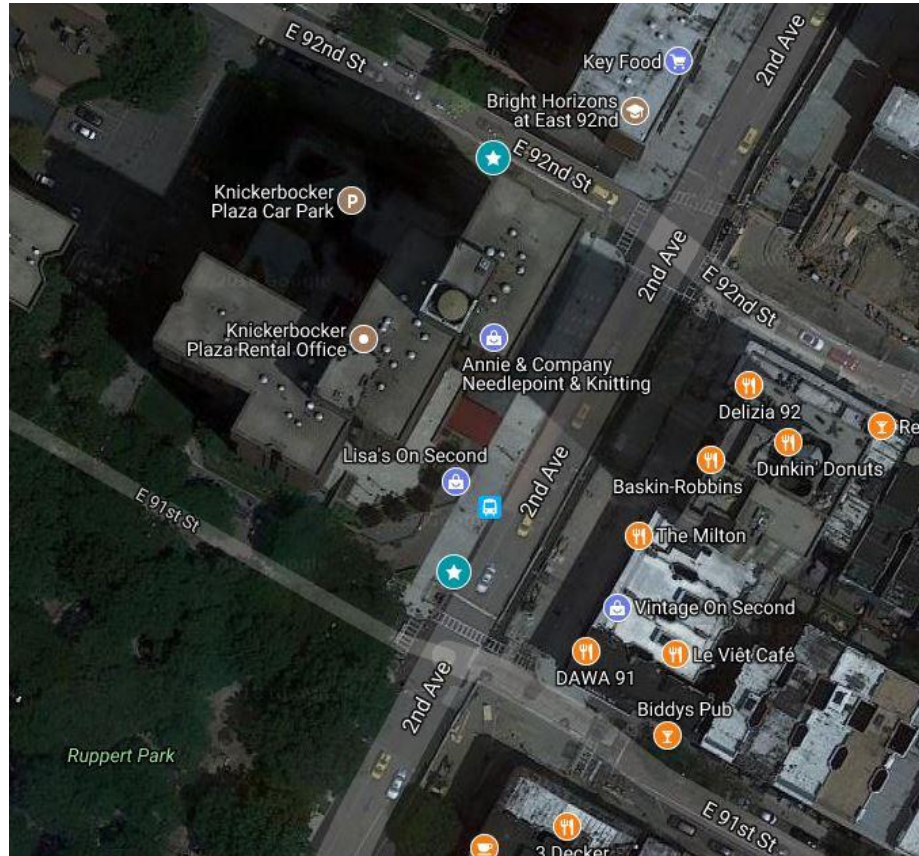


# 1749 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue





# 234 E 92<sup>nd</sup> Street



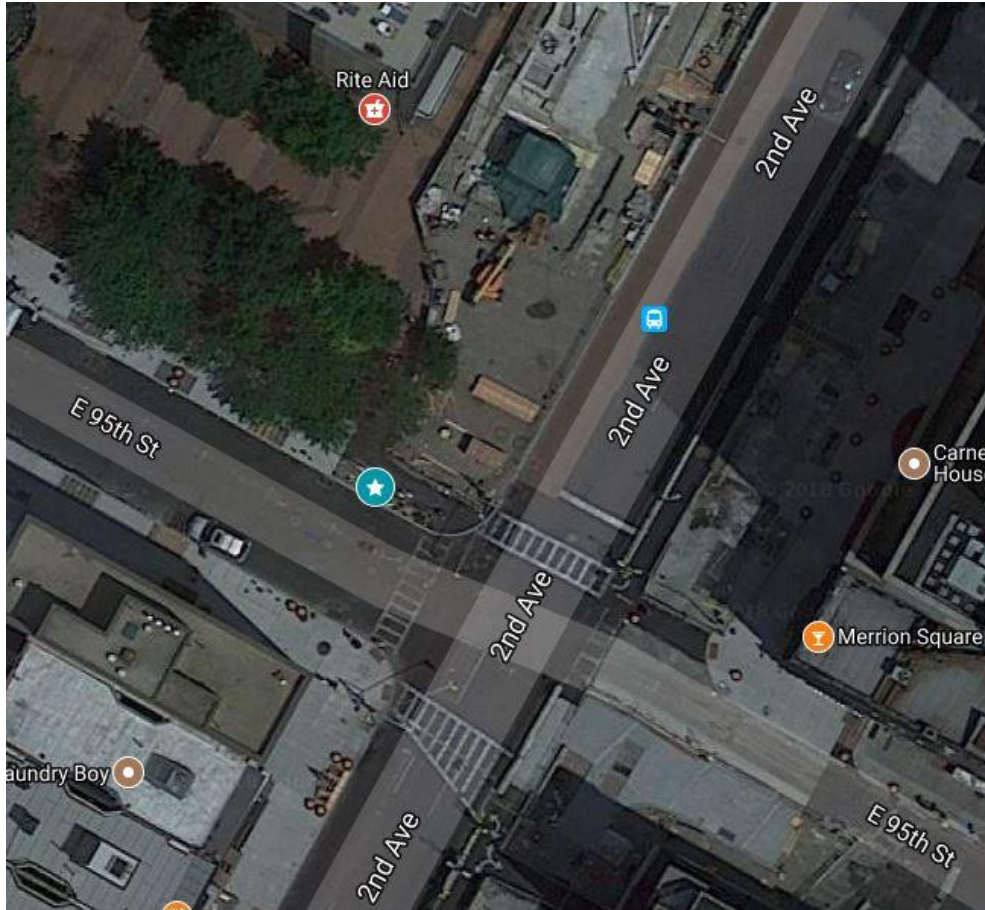


# 1802 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue





# 235 E 95<sup>th</sup> Street



# Context for Other New Sites: 1366 Madison Ave/142 East 92<sup>nd</sup> Street

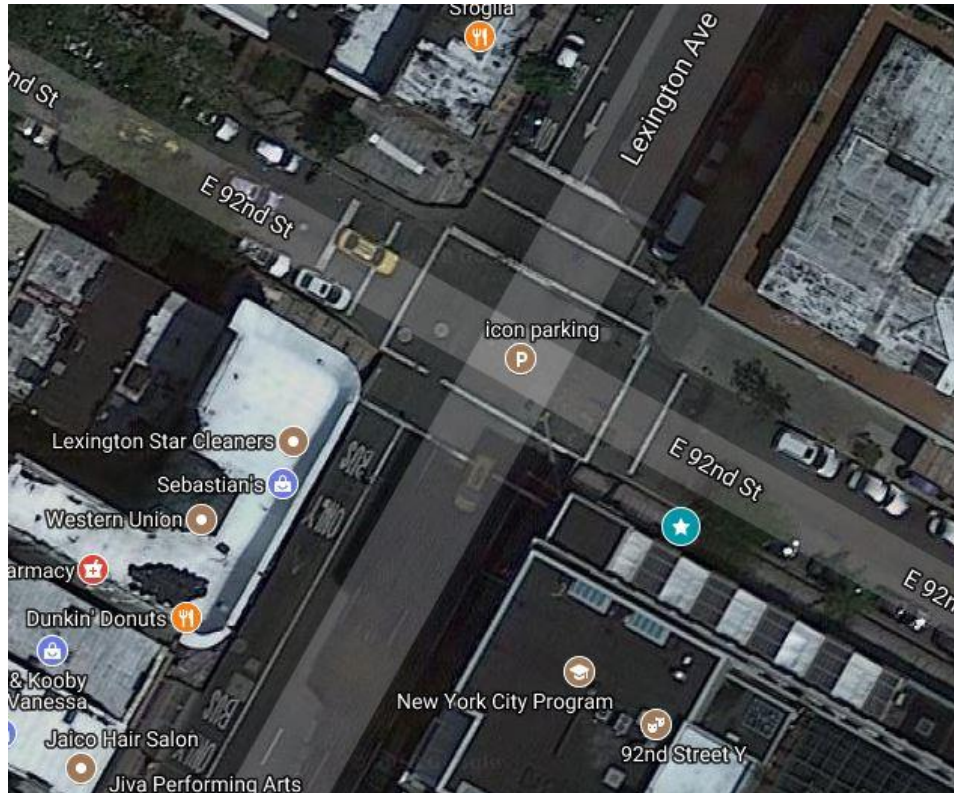
- Along corridors with likely PPT conversions
- Review prior to buildout of this corridor is designed to make installation as efficient as possible
- New sites will likely fill in gap in coverage



- Approved/In Progress
- Link Active!
- Possible PPT Replacement
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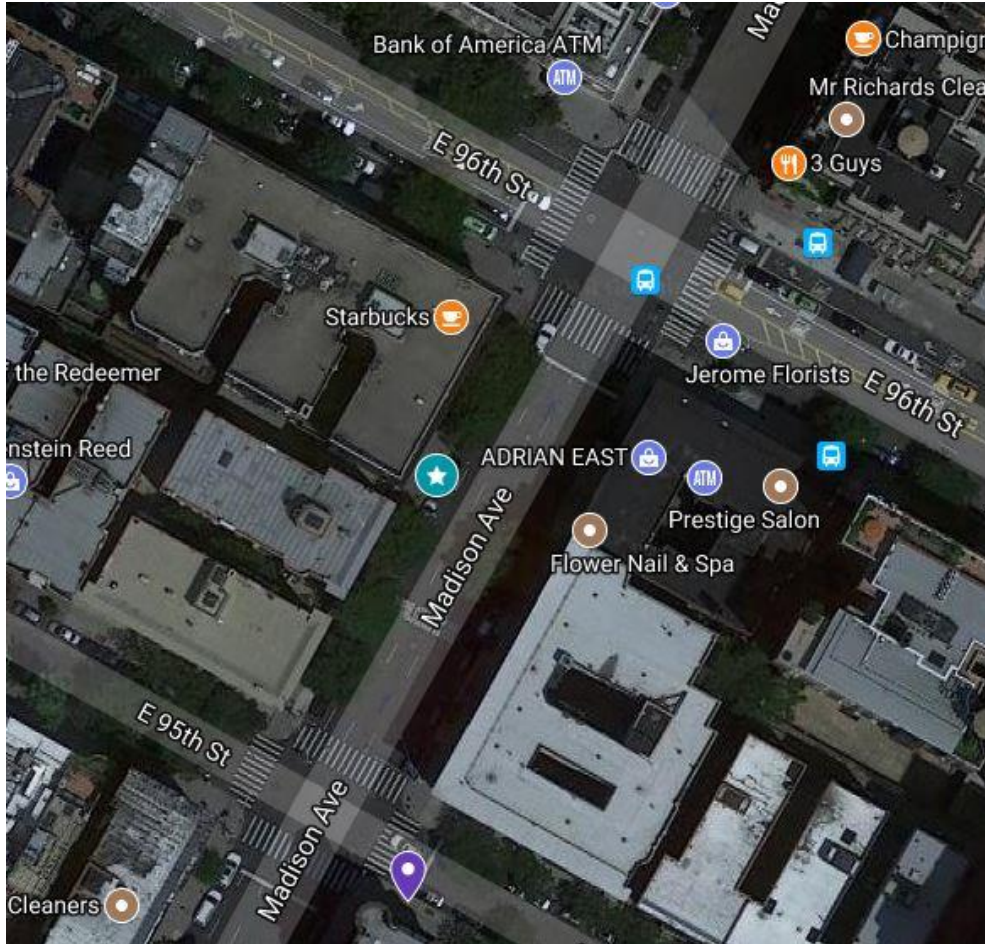


# 142 E 92<sup>nd</sup> Street





# 1366 Madison Ave





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# Thank you

Stacy Gardener

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