

The Future of the FDR Drive in Manhattan CB6

CB6 Full Board

03.13.2024



Manhattan Community Board Six



BUROHAPPOLD ENGINEERING



architecture + urban design

BUROHAPPOLD ENGINEERING

PREPARED FOR

Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6)

PREPARED BY

WXY architecture + urban design

CONSULTANT TEAM

WXY architecture + urban design Buro Happold Engineering

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Study Goals & Themes

FDR Reimagined Study Initiated

July 2023

Existing Conditions Analysis

Aug 2023

Design Sprint

Sept 2023

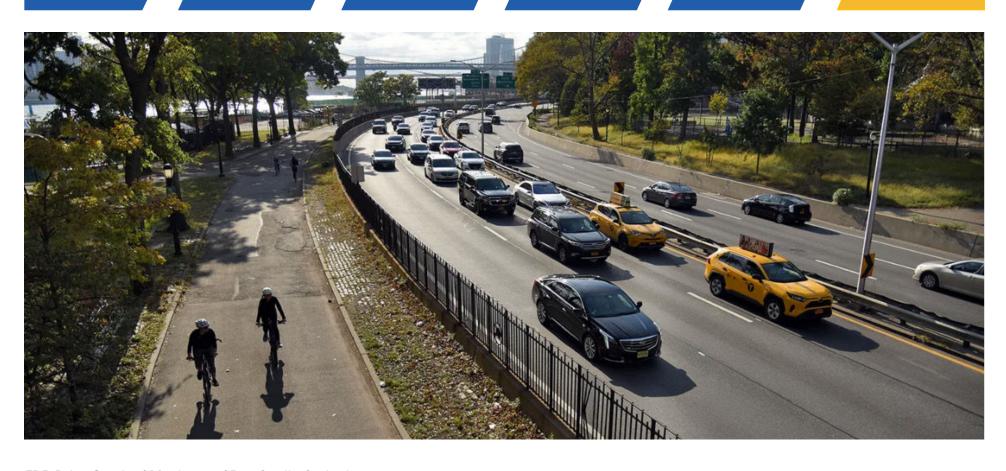
Mobility
Analysis &
Vision
Development
Oct 2023

CB6 Review & Feedback

Jan 2024

Study Final Report

Mar 202



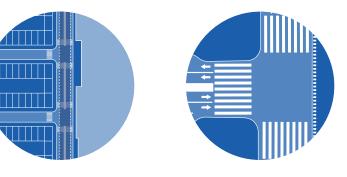


The FDR Drive Across Multiple Scales









1. Region

A key regional connector to New Jersey and Connecticut

2. City

A primary connection between boroughs

3. Community District

Separating CB6 from the East River

4. Street

Key crosstown streets in Midtown Manhattan tie into the FDR

5. Block

Intersections and crossings over and under the FDR

Community Board Priorities



Environmental
Resiliency
and mitigation of risks of flooding, air and noise pollution



Waterfront Access
for cyclists and
pedestrians
throughout the
district



Safe Multi-modal
Infrastructure
for local and
regional
connectivity



Community
Amenities
under the FDR
and along the
waterfront





FDR Drive History

1929



1935



1940



'East River Drive' envisioned by RPA as a local and regional connector

Early segments of 'East River Drive' opened

Parkway renamed FDR Drive after the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt

1945



1950



1960-1970s



Construction continues on surfacearterial boulevard from Battery Park to 92nd St

Carl Schurz Park and the UN campus are cantilevered over the FDR.

23rd, 34th, and 42nd viaducts. Boulevard between 14th and 42nd is converted to limited-access parkway

FDR Drive History

1980-1990s



2000-2010s



2010-CURRENT



South Street and Battery viaduct segments, and other ramps, deemed structurally unsound and gradually rebuilt

Major safety rehabilitation projects of the three-tiered segments and overpasses between 54th to 63rd

Various visions and plans proposed to remove and replace viaduct segments of the FDR Drive in Lower Manhattan

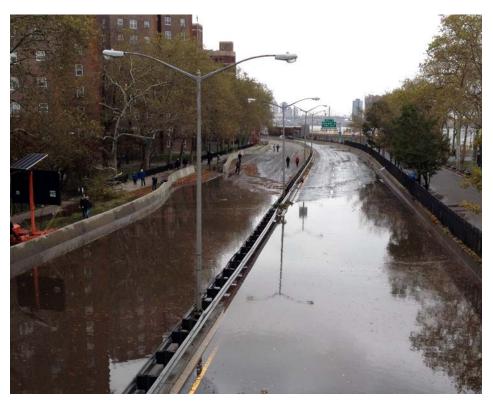
Existing Challenges

Mobility, Congestion & Road Safety

Environmental Resiliency



FDR Drive congestion within CB6



FDR Drive after Hurricane Sandy



Ongoing and Planned Projects





The East Midtown Greenway Project 53rd St. - 61st St. (Complete 2023)



The UN Esplanade Greenway Project 41st St. - 53rd St. (Planned)



East Side Coastal Resiliency Project Montgomery St. - 23rd St. (Ongoing est. 2026)

Ongoing and Planned Projects





The East River Blueway Plan Brooklyn Bridge - 38th St. (Study, 2013)



Brooklyn Bridge - Montgomery Coastal Resiliency Plan (BMCR) (Planned)



FiDi & Seaport Climate Action Master Plan The Battery to Brooklyn Bridge (Planned)



Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Plan (LMCR)The Battery (Planned)

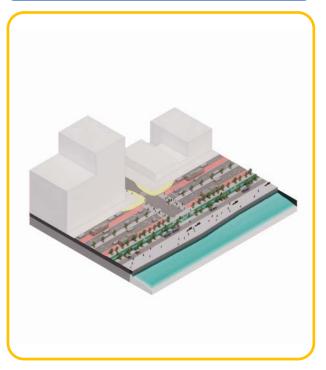
FDR Drive Vision Opportunities

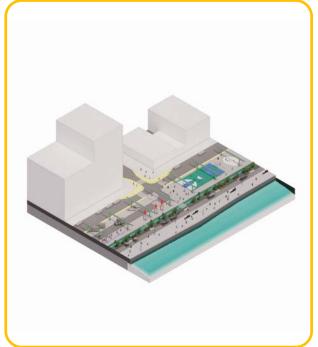
Overbuild

Boulevardization

Activation







Overbuild Park



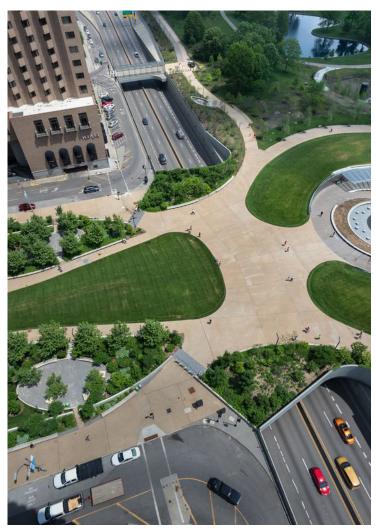
Overbuild parks atop segments of the FDR Drive aim to create elevated green spaces fostering improved exposure and access to the waterfront.



Illustrative Diagram of an Overbuild Park Over the FDR Drive

Case Study

Park Over the Highway, St. Louis Arch

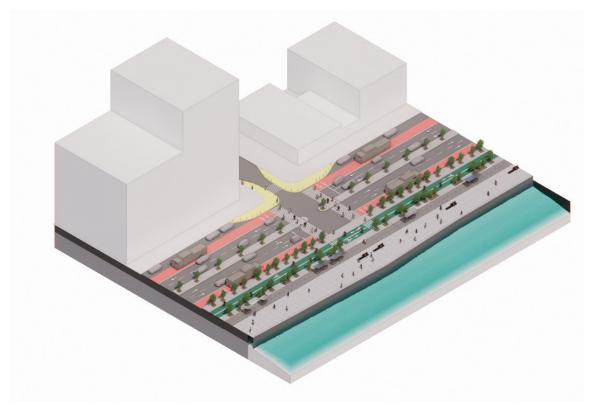


Park over the highway connecting to St. Louis Arch

Boulevardization

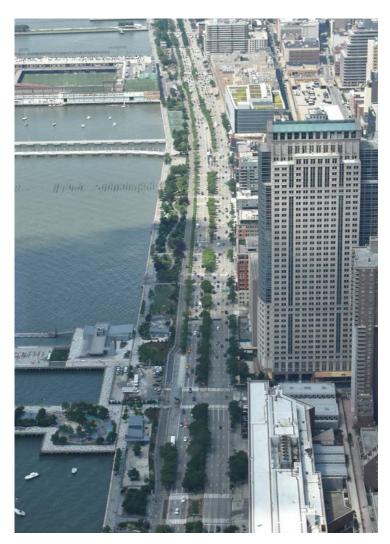


Turning segments of the FDR Drive into an aesthetically pleasing boulevard with wider sidewalks, landscaped medians, bike lanes, and reduced traffic speeds.



Illustrative Diagram of a Boulevard Segment of the FDR Drive

Case Study West Side Highway, New York

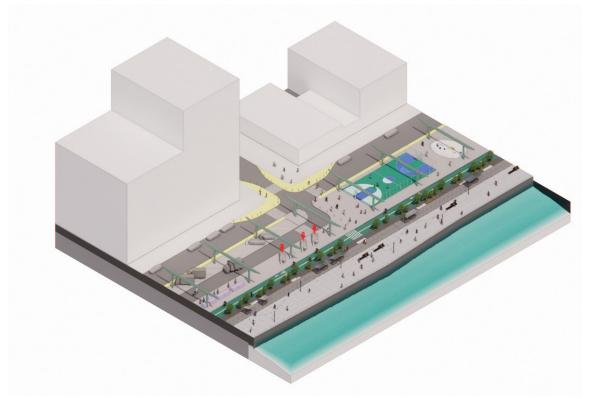


West St. after conversion into a boulevard

Activation

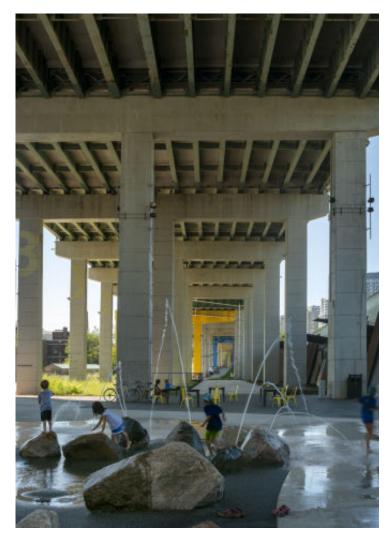


Activating segments beneath the FDR Drive by enhancing lighting, adding community programming, art installations, and safe pathways to the waterfront.



Illustrative Diagram of an Activated Segment Under the FDR Drive

Case Study The Bentway, Toronto, CA



Playground under the Gardiner Expressway



