



Central Park Drives | Status Update

Community Board 8
January 7th, 2026

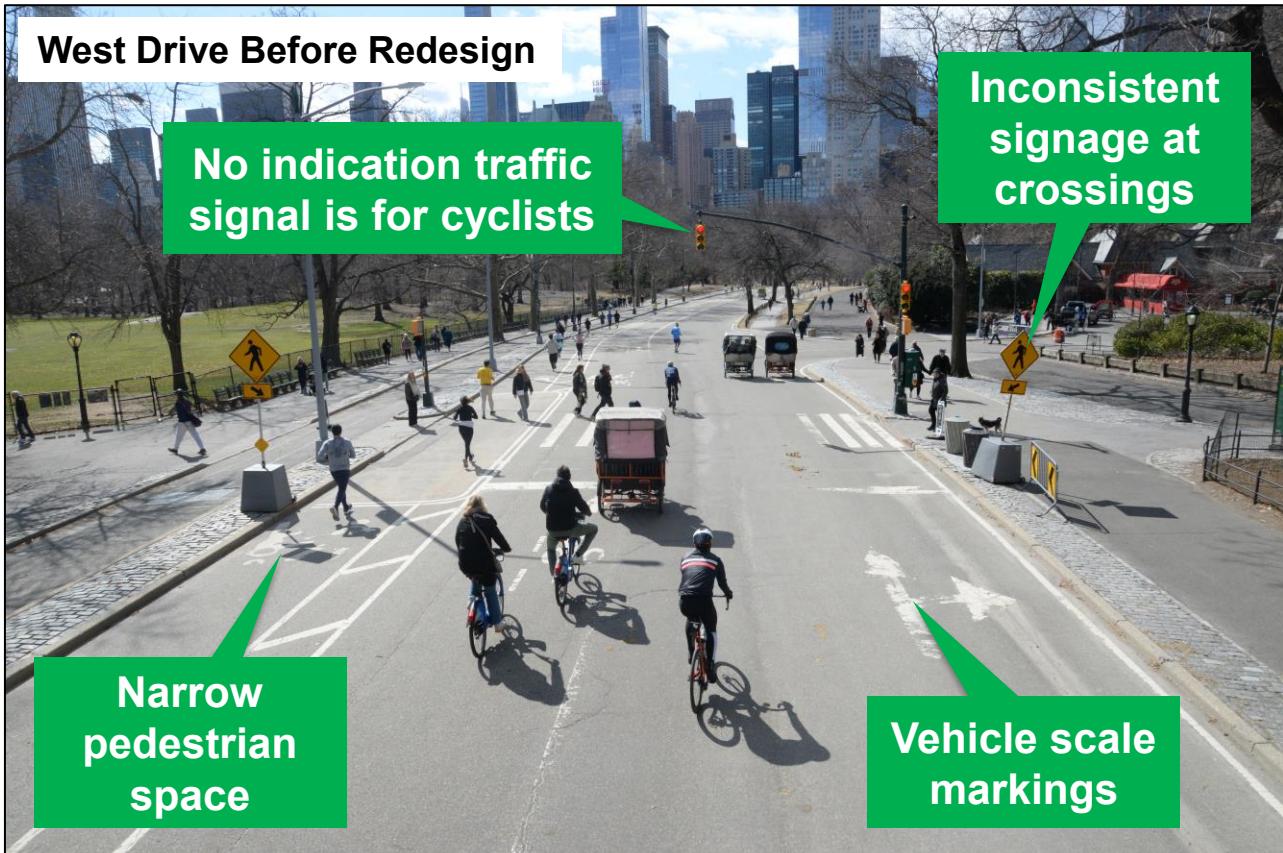


Central Park Drives

Background

- **Central Park Drives**
 - 6-mile loop road through the park
 - The needs of the Drives have changed overtime with changes in transportation
- **Car-Free since 2018**
 - However, holdover auto-centric markings, signage, and signal infrastructure
 - Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists along the Drives and at crosswalks
- **Safety & Circulation Study (2024)**
 - Led by the Central Park Conservancy, in partnership with NYC DOT and NYC Parks
 - Set of recommendations to create safer and more comfortable conditions for all park users

Map of the Central Park Drives



Central Park Drives

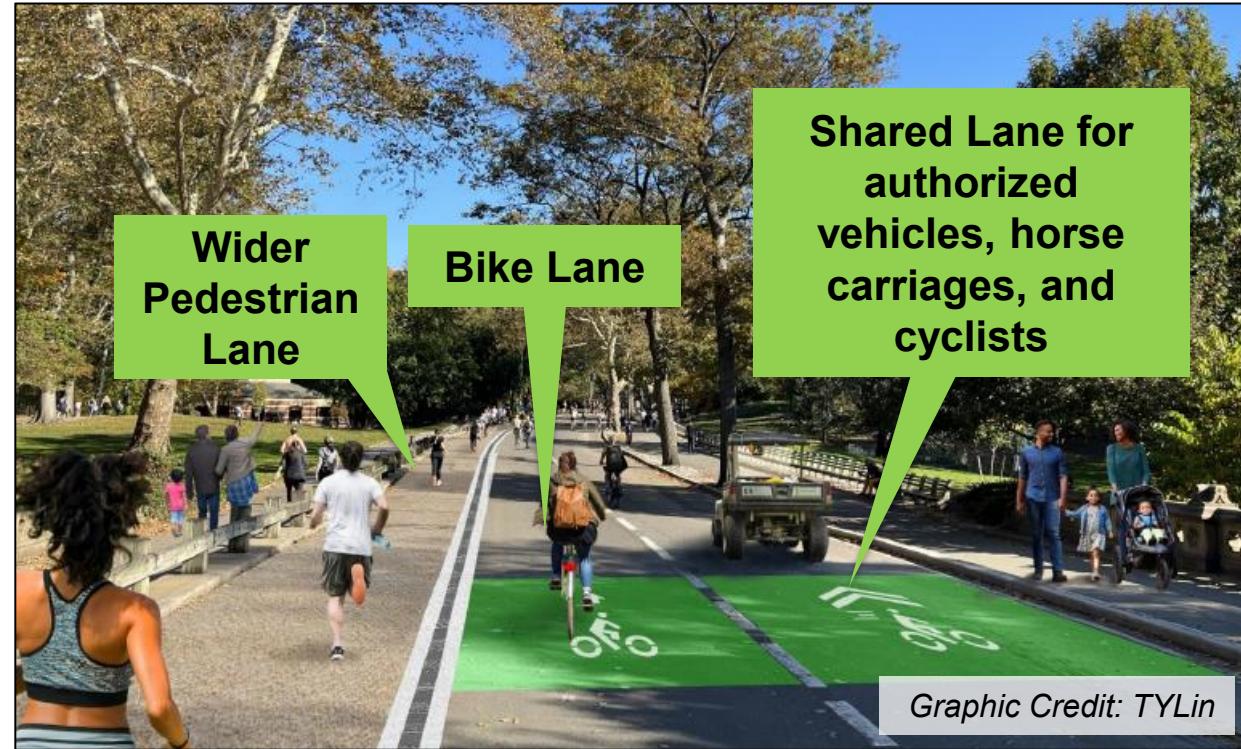
Goals & Objectives

- **Project Goals**

1. Improve Safety
2. Improve Mobility
3. Maintain the Character of the Park

- **Objectives**

- Allocate space consistently across the Drives
- Provide better separation between pedestrians, cyclists, and other park users
- Modify signage and signals at crossings to improve safety and comfort
- Reduce conflict points along the Drives



Graphic Credit: TYLin

Central Park Drives

New Speed Limit

- DOT to reduce the speed limit on the Drives from 20 MPH to 15 MPH
- This speed limit applies to all vehicles on the Drives
- Notification was sent to local elected officials and community boards on 12/15
- New speed limit goes into effect in February



Before & After

West Drive South of 72nd St



Before



After

Before & After

West Drive South of 72nd St



Before



After

Wider Pedestrian
Space

Update Signal to
Flashing Amber
(Bike Lens To Be
Installed)

Stop For
Peds
Sign

Before & After

East Drive & Terrace Drive



Before



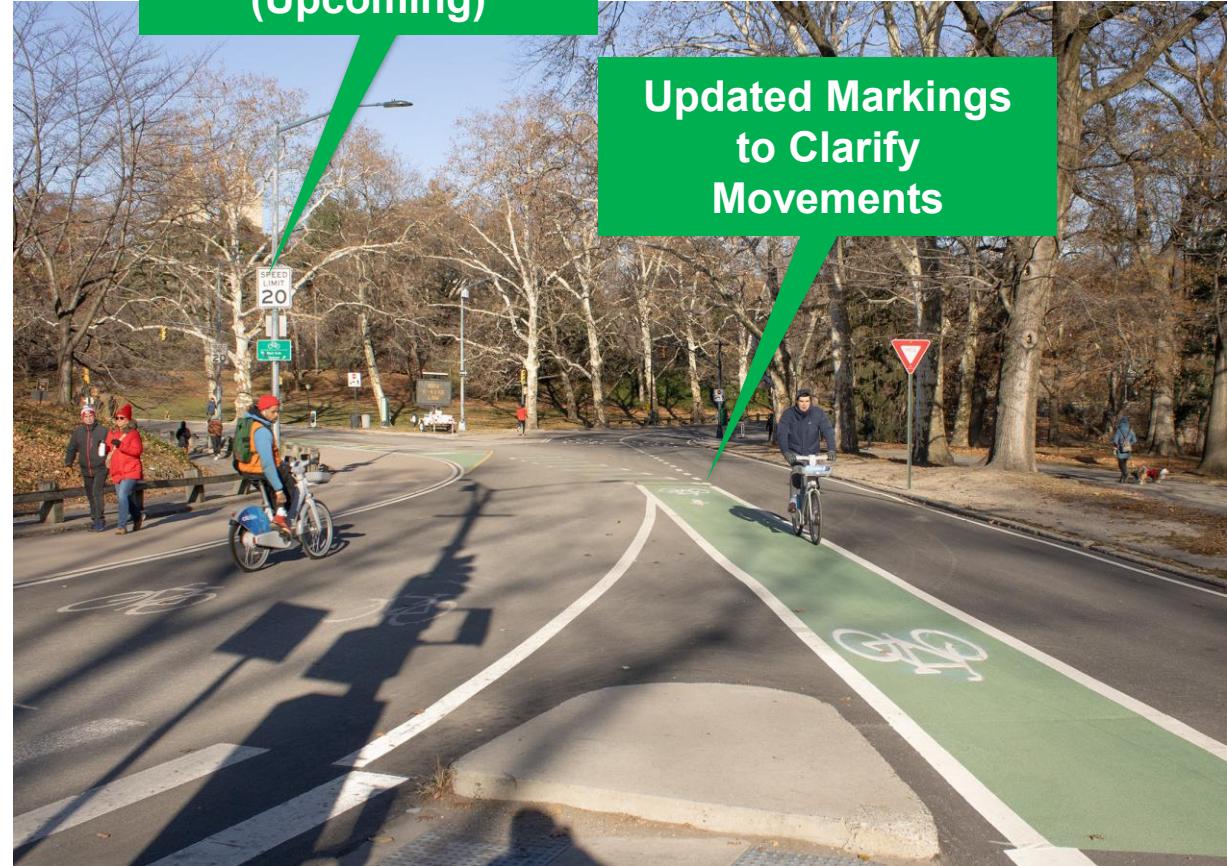
After

Before & After

East Drive & Terrace Drive



Before



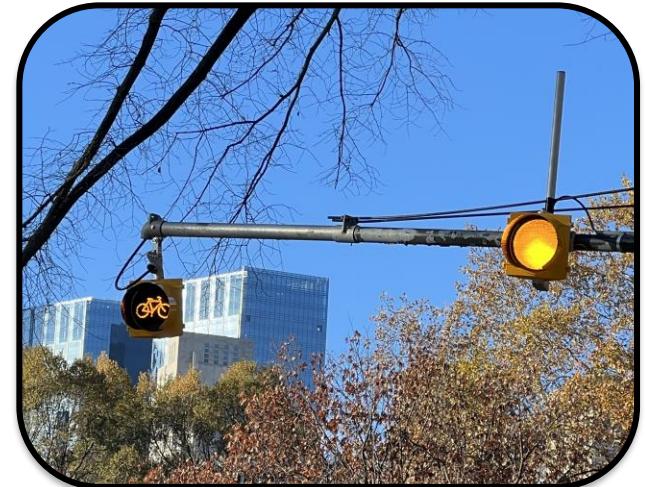
After

Reduce Speed Limit
to 15 MPH
(Upcoming)

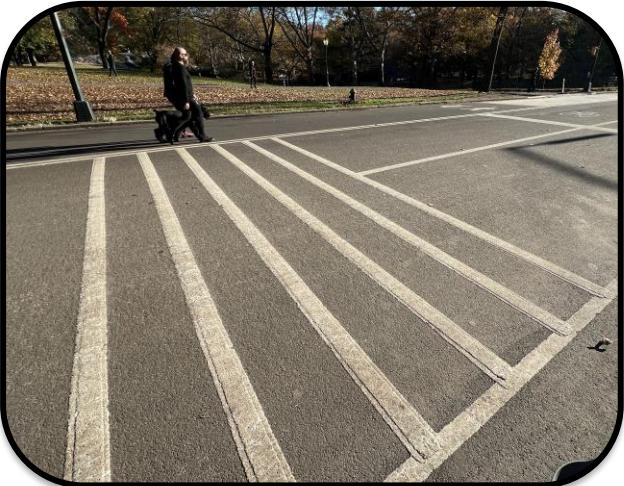
Updated Markings
to Clarify
Movements

Central Park Drives

Other Updates



Bike Signal
Lens



Painted
Rumble Strips



“Stop For Peds”
Messages

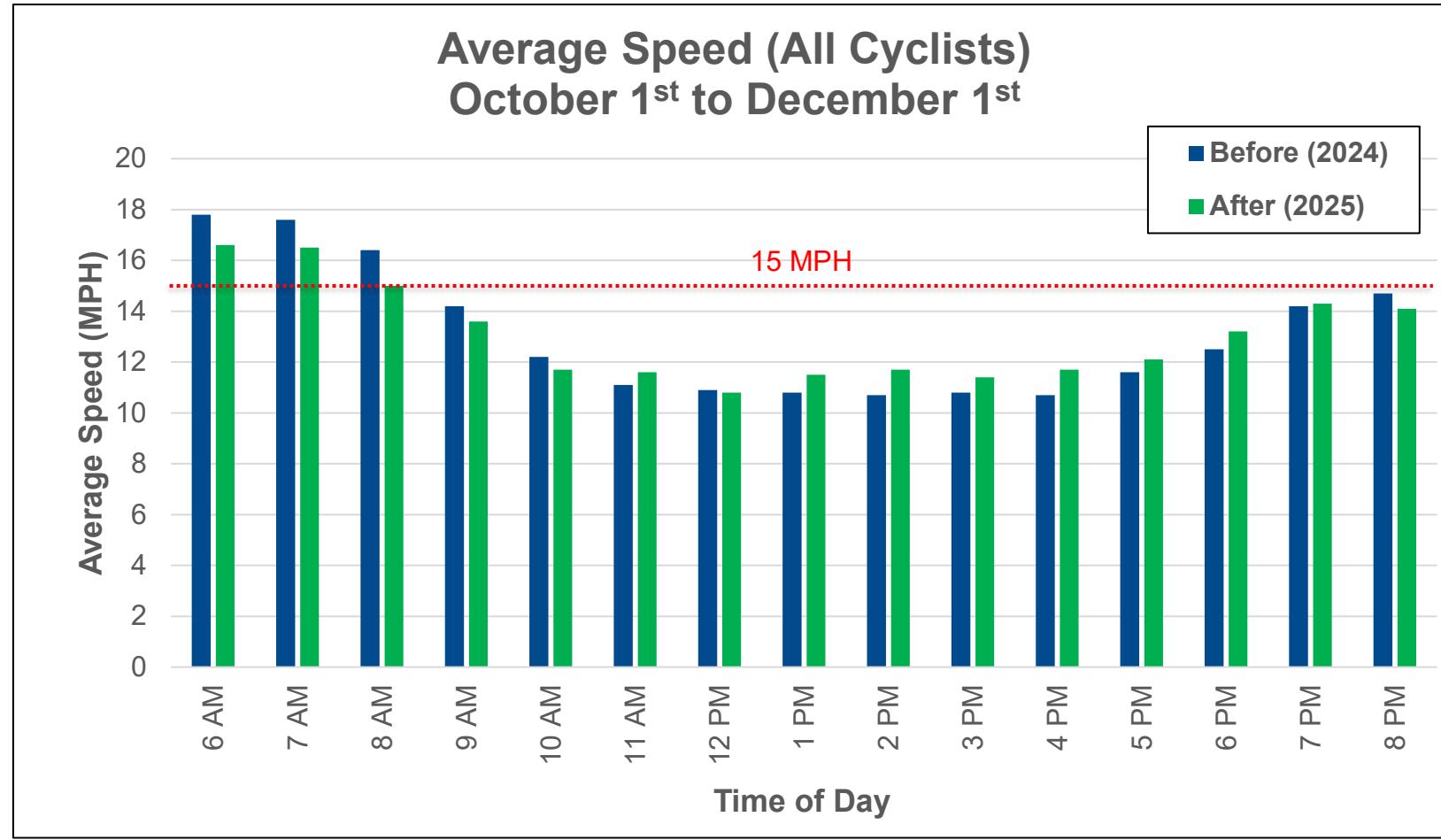


“Look!”
Stamps

Project Evaluation

Cyclist Speed

- Average Speeds have not significantly changed
- Speeds remain slightly higher in the early morning when there are fewer people in the Park
- Data collected at the Columbus Circle entrance



Source: Viva

Project Evaluation

Pedestrian Delay

- Share of pedestrians waiting more than 10 seconds to cross the Drive decreased with change from timed signal to flashing amber signal

- Timeframe
 - Weekday Counts
 - Before Date (August 2025)
 - After Date (October 2025)
 - Saturday Counts
 - Before Date (August 2025)
 - After Date (December 2025)

- Limitations
 - Small sample size
 - DOT to continue to collect more observations at additional locations



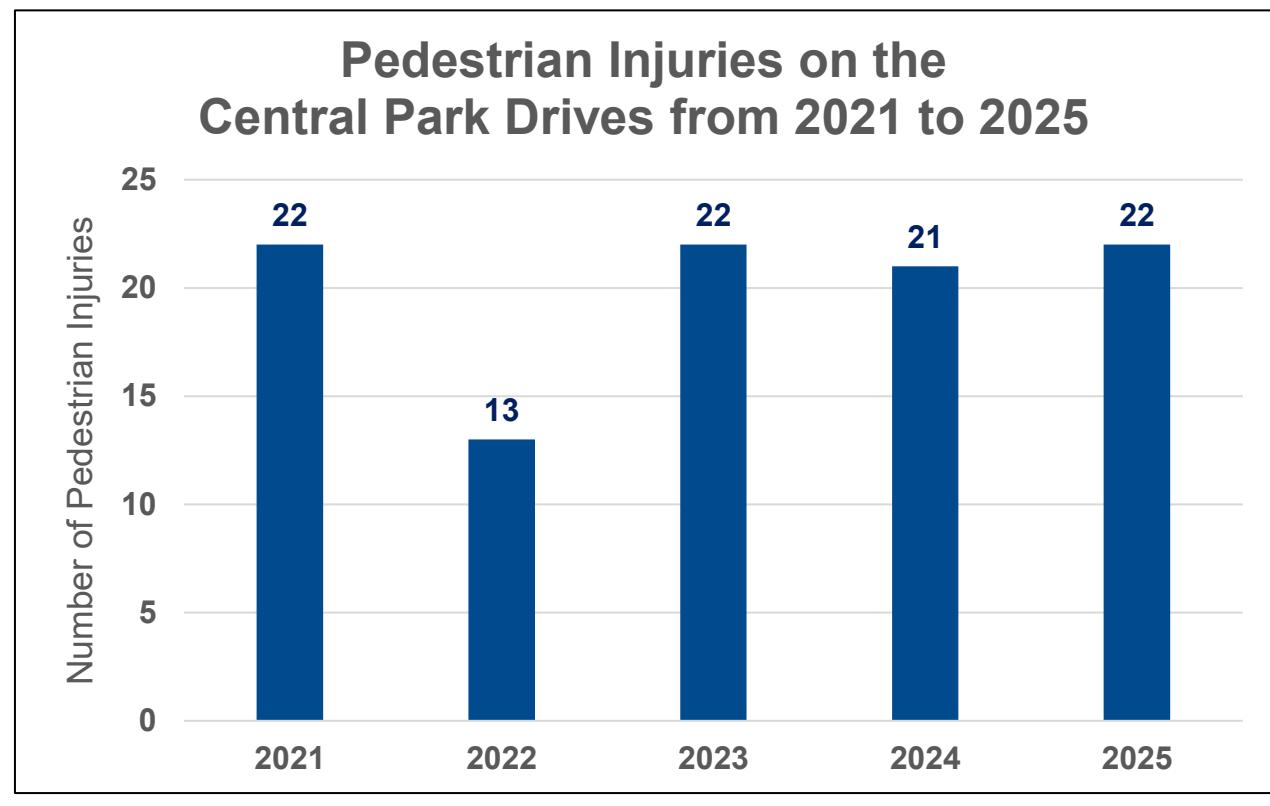
Percentage of Pedestrians Waiting More than 10 Seconds to Cross

Day of the Week	Time of Day	Before Signal Change	After Signal Change	Difference
Weekday	Morning (7-8a)	17%	12%	-5
	Afternoon (12-1p)	23%	8%	-15
	Evening (5-6p)	14%	8%	-6
Saturday	Morning (7-8a)	10%	3%	-7
	Afternoon (12-1p)	14%	9%	-5
	Evening (5-6p)	14%	8%	-6

Project Evaluation

Pedestrian Safety

- Pedestrian injuries have remained at similar numbers over the past five years
- Project started in early 2025 and is still in implementation. DOT will continue to monitor safety data on the Drives



Central Park Drives

Implementation Schedule

2025	March	Begin Resurfacing Phase 1 Extents
	May	Begin Installing Pavement Markings
	August	Start Updating Signals and Install New Signs
	December	Complete Phase 1
	February	15 MPH goes into Effect
2026	March	Resurface Phase 2 Extents
	Spring - Summer	Install Pavement Markings, New Signs, and Update Signal Infrastructure
	Ongoing	Project Evaluation



Phase 2
(2026)

Phase 1
(2025)

Thank You Questions?

