

A BETTER WAY THRU ROCKAWAY



Project Underway is a community redevelopment initiative focused on converting a neglected and underutilized roadway that spans five linear miles along the Rockaway Peninsula into a safer place for the community to walk, bike and to enjoy open public space.



The Need for a Safer Way

The Rockaways need more green space and better, safer opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists and families.

Project Underway is a new vision to convert this space into bike and footpaths, green space and public areas spanning the length of the Peninsula.

Also known as the Rockaway Freeway, the Underway is an underutilized space that should be planned and designed in a way that benefits the community, connects the east and west ends of the Peninsula and provides a safer and more equitable route that people of all ages can use to get to school, work and home.

Though much of the road is blocked off to traffic, motorists continue to make illegal turns on and off the road increasing the potential for pedestrian hazards.

560 vehicle crashes/
pedestrian injuries

DOCUMENTED SINCE 2011, THIS INCLUDES FIVE AUTO-RELATED FATALITIES.

The Rockaways have the

2ND highest rate of obesity in New York City
35.2% rate of obesity as of 2012. (Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)

Annually, there is an average of



pedestrian/cyclist injury per month due to auto collisions or poor road conditions.

(NYSDOT, 1995-2005) For more information on pedestrian, cyclist and auto collisions visit Vision Zero Map at <http://www.vzv.nyc/>.

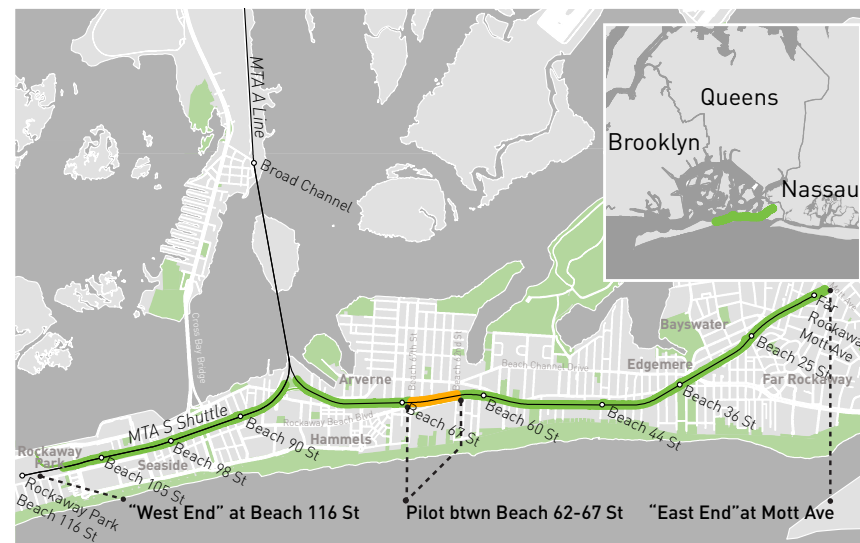
Benefits: The average protected bike lane sees increased bike/pedestrian usage in its first year alone.

Increased local economic growth through increased bike/pedestrian foot traffic for local, small businesses

Healthier lifestyles that encourage cycling and walking as a part of their daily activities for individuals and families

Sustainable transit options that local residents can use for walking, cycling and increased access to public transportation.

The Way Forward



Phase I: Pilot

RISE is working in partnership with private landowners and government agencies to install a temporary pilot project between Beach 62nd to 67th Streets. Piloted measures will include reducing storm water run off through green infrastructure, installing trash receptacles for cleaner streets, hiring locals to maintain the property and programming the space to bring economic development to the area through cultural events, the arts and food concessions. RISE will monitor the implemented measures to provide insight into their success.

Phase II: Revise

RISE will work with the community to assess the pilot, revise implemented measures and develop long term goals for Project Underway informed by community input and pilot data. Goals may include improved street crossings, landscaping, solar lighting, public plazas and ADA accessibility.

Phase III: Implement

RISE will develop a strategic plan with stakeholders and landowners to connect the entire stretch of the Underway from Mott Ave. to Beach 116th St. This will require establishing a governance structure to address oversight and management of the property. The full plan will reconnect the Rockaways with improved access to transportation and recreation.



A Better Way



Currently owned and managed by a fragmented group of private and public organizations, Project Underway would unify design and management to create a cohesive connection throughout the 5-mile stretch.



Areas adjacent to the subway stations can be better planned to provide safer public areas for people with seating, ADA access, bike racks and wayfinding signage.

Project Underway is the result of a community visioning process, which included collaborative listening sessions held throughout the Rockaways as well as meetings with local residents, planners and city agencies to develop a plan for a safer transportation corridor under the elevated MTA A-line track.

Project Underway is led by RISE Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity:

RISE is a community-based organization dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding, respect and connection between our communities and their waterfront. RISE provides enriching educational and community programming that instill both individual and civic respect for nature and empowers residents of the Rockaways' under-served communities to play a role in the determination of their neighborhoods to advance the physical, economic and social sustainability of the Rockaway Peninsula.

Project partners include: The Partnership for a Healthier Queens at Make the Road New York, the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, Jamaica Bay Greenway Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association, Southern Queens Greenway, New York League of Conservation Voters, Design Trust for Public Space and Sam Schwartz Engineering who have provided professional engineering services for the project

For more information about RISE Initiative for Sustainability & Equity, visit us at: www.riserockaway.org

