



Corridor Vision BQE Central

Eric Adams, Mayor | Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner



BQE Central Workshop

October 18, 2022



BQE Central Workshop

Presentation Overview

- Welcome – 10 min
- BQE Central Overview – 20 min
- Q&A – 10 min
- Breakout Rooms – 30 min
- Closing & Next Steps – 10 min



Engagement Goals

Participants will:

- **Gain context** about the BQE Corridor Vision and process
- **Share** your expertise about challenges and opportunities in and around BQE Central
- **Learn** about the history of the BQE, and add to this history with your own stories



Adams Administration Strategy

A Corridor-Wide Approach

Urgency & Resiliency

Take action as necessary to ensure that City section remains safe; prioritize sustainable design



Equity

Invest in communities along the full BQE corridor, not just higher income City section



Fiscal Responsibility

Pursue federal grants; make needed repairs; focus investments on greatest impact



Stakeholder Involvement

Work with elected officials and communities to develop BQE vision and move projects forward



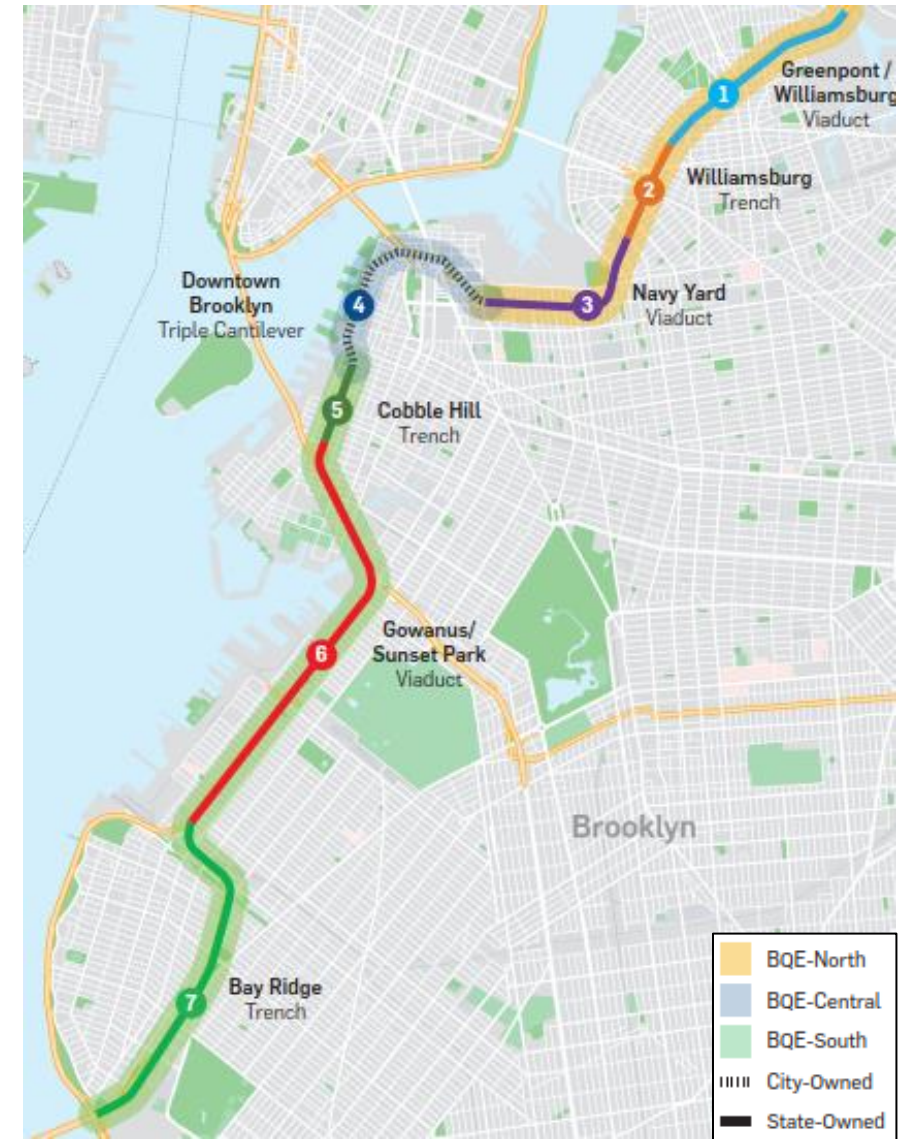
Central & Corridor-Wide Strategy

BQE Central

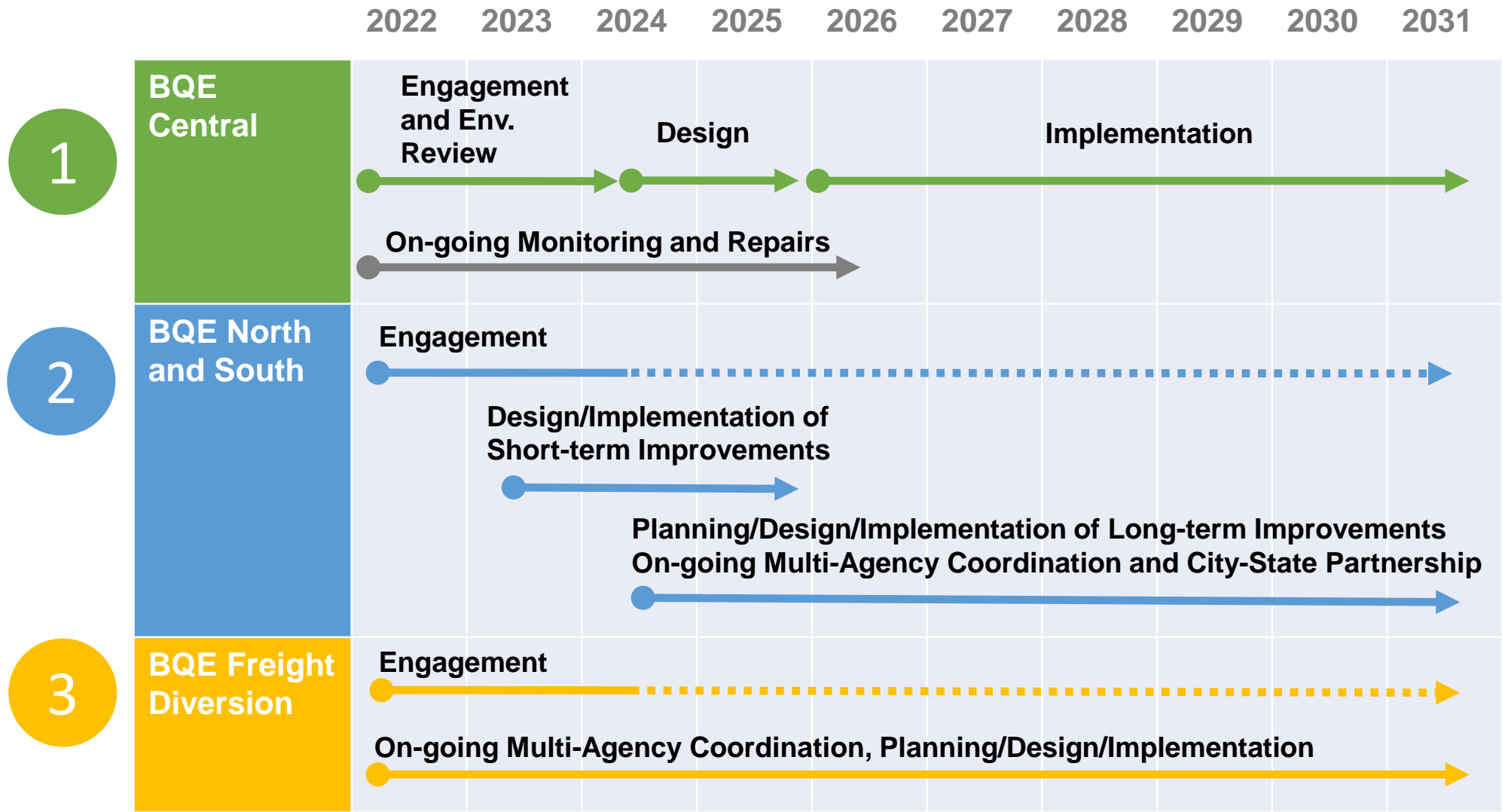
- **Near-term fixes:** continue with interim repairs and monitoring program to maintain safe operation of the BQE
- **Long-term fix:** instead of continuing with on-going repairs to the existing structures, develop design concepts that respond to community input and transportation needs; anticipated start of implementation: 2026
 - Prepare for environmental review process
 - Capitalize on Federal funding opportunities

BQE North and South short-term improvements and longer-term visioning are part of the broader effort

Freight Diversion multi-agency planning



Anticipated Schedule



Engagement Approach

Inclusive, Transparent, Consistent

Community engagement will guide Mayor Adams' and DOT's decisions about the future of the full Brooklyn BQE Corridor.

We'll offer a variety of ways to provide input, both on-line and in-person to accommodate varying schedules and preferences.

Engagement methods will include, but not be limited to:

- Public Workshops (in-person, virtual options)
First Round: Now through Nov. 10
- Regular Community Visioning Council meetings
Initial meetings in October
- Online Platforms for Community Input
- Community Pop-Up Events
- Collaboration with Community Partners



Select BQE Central History



1936

1943

1946

1960

2016

2022

The Regional Plan Association recommends the construction of a link known as the "Brooklyn-Queens Connecting Highway" between the newly proposed Gowanus Parkway and the Triborough Bridge.

Members of the Brooklyn Heights Association develop a "Citizen Alternative Plan" that proposed a three-decked structure along the Brooklyn Heights waterfront, topped by an extension of residents' private gardens. Moses agrees to the "Citizen Alternative Plan" on the condition that the park and promenade would be open to the public.

Construction of the BQE begins in fall of 1946, demolishing many buildings in its path through North Heights.

The final section of the BQE in Brooklyn is completed along the Brooklyn Navy Yards in 1960.

The New York City Department of Transportation initiates the BQE Triple Cantilever Rehabilitation Project.

Mayor Adams announces public engagement process to accelerate long-term fix for the BQE and reconnect communities throughout Brooklyn corridor.

Past BQE Central Concepts



The Future
of the BQE

The Future of the BQE Report

Designer // The New York City Council

Year of Proposal // January, 2020



BQE Expert Panel Report

Designer // BQE Expert Panel

Year of Proposal // January, 2020



Reimagining the BQE

Policy Options to Reduce Traffic on the
Brooklyn-Queens Expressway

Reimagining the BQE

Designer // Regional Plan Association

Year of Proposal // April, 2019



BQ-Park

Designer // Bjarke Ingels Group

Year of Proposal // April, 2019



Comptroller's Plan

Designer // Scott Stringer with DLANDstudio

Year of Proposal // March, 2019



BHA Alternative Concept

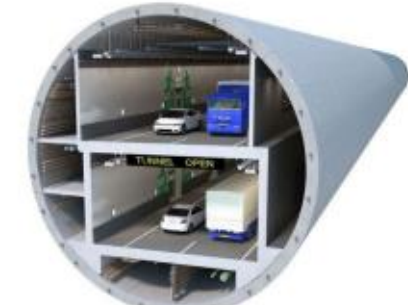
Designer // Brooklyn Heights Association with
Marc Wouters Studio



NYC DOT Triple Cantilever (TER)

Designer // NYC DOT

Year of Proposal // September, 2018

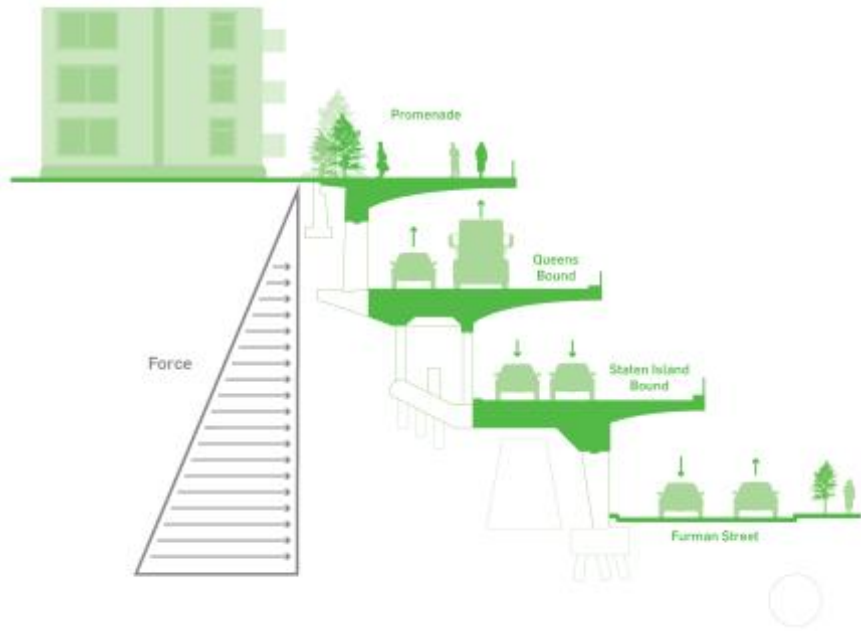


Bypass Tunnel

Designer // NYC DOT with Henningson, Durham
and Richardson Architecture and Engineering, P.C



The Triple Cantilever



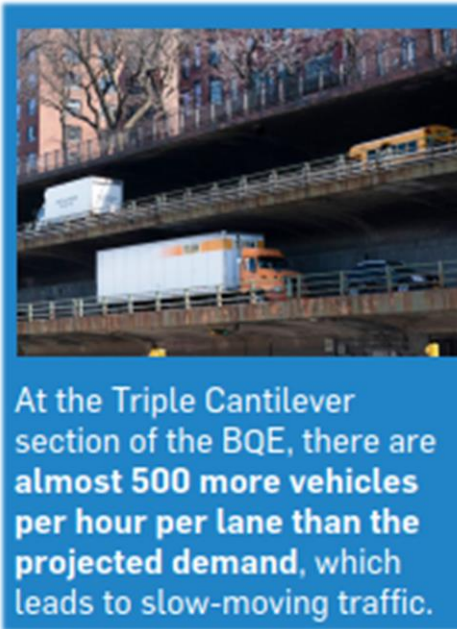
A unique cantilever structure constructed during the 1940s, the Triple Cantilever masks a web of utilities, sub-grade infrastructure, and retaining walls.



Structural Pinchpoints



Traffic & Freight



Q&A

- Please place questions in the chat section of the Zoom



Ideas from Other Cities



Seattle Olympic Sculpture Park (Seattle, WA)
A public park spanning over a highway to connect to the waterfront



Vancouver Land Bridge (Vancouver, Canada)
An earth-covered pedestrian bridge linking trail to parkland and waterfront



Rose Kennedy Greenway (Boston, MA)
An elevated highway converted into parkland, below grade highway, and local roads



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Breakout Groups Agenda

- We will:
 - Identify key issues and opportunities in the BQE Central project area
 - Respond to project ideas from other cities
 - Provide other general comments and questions based on what you have heard tonight



Workshop Community Agreements

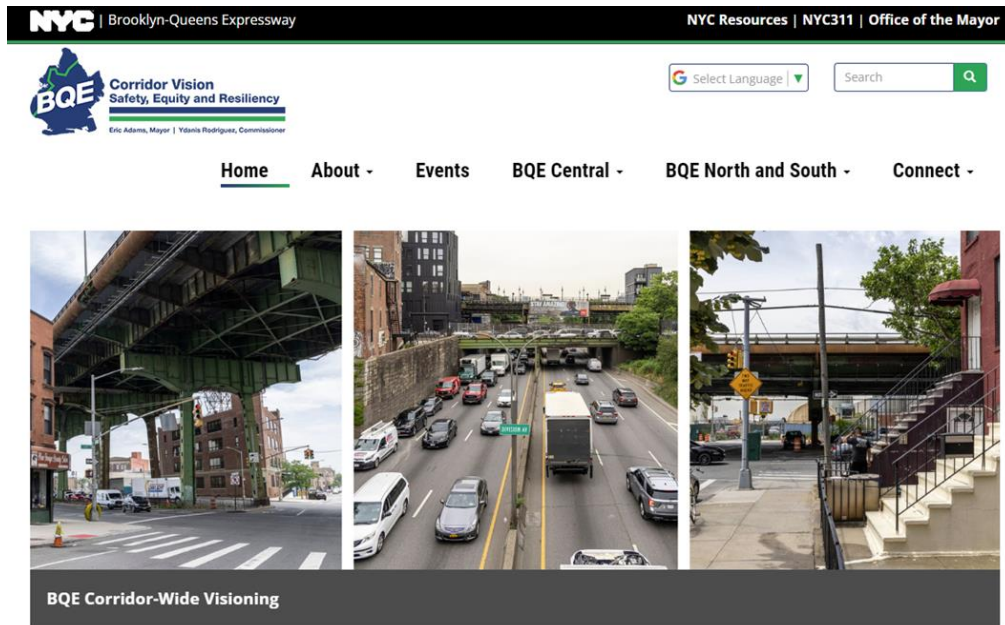
- Come off camera if possible
- Mute when you aren't speaking
- Share the air-time – make room for everyone to participate
- Respect the diverse viewpoints and experiences in the group — together, we know a lot; alone, we won't know it all



Thank you!

Questions?

Visit www.nyc.gov/bqe for updates or to share additional feedback



The City will pursue two initiatives, addressing immediate repairs while visioning the future of the highway and neighborhoods.

Other Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

BQE Central

Tuesday, December 13: BQE Central Workshop 2 (in-person)

Thursday December 15: BQE Central Workshop 2 (virtual)

BQE North and South

Thursday, November 3: BQE North and South Workshop 1 (virtual)

Monday, November 7: BQE South Workshop 1 (in-person)

Thursday, November 10: BQE North Workshop 1 (in-person)

**All workshops will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.*



nyc.gov/bqe