

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION
ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 190087 MMX
EAST 175TH STREET BRIDGE REHABILITATION**

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

IN THE MATTER OF an application, submitted by the Department of Transportation, Division of Bridges pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter, for an amendment to the City Map involving:

- The modification of legal grades on East 175th Street between Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West;

In Community District #6, Borough of The Bronx, in accordance with Map No. 13142 dated May 29, 2019, and signed by the Borough President.

BACKGROUND

Approving this application is necessary to facilitate the reconstruction and the resulting change of grades of an existing vehicular and pedestrian bridge located on East 175th Street. It links the northbound travel lanes of Park Avenue on the east with the southbound travel lanes of Park Avenue on the west, spanning over the below-grade, track bed of the Harlem Line of Metro North Railroad's four track right-of-way. The current bridge, was reconstructed in 1938*, is:

- 61.7 feet in length
- 60 feet in width
- 34 feet from curb to curb
- 13 feet wide are concrete sidewalks located on the north and south side of the bridge span
- One way traffic only flowing westbound.

*This crossing was originally constructed in 1889.

Due to deteriorated condition of the existing bridge, The New York City Department of Transportation's Bridge Division proposes to rehabilitate the current bridge either by correcting or improving several non-standard design features. To accomplish this objective there will be an increase in the vertical clearance over the Metro North tracks, increase the stopping sight distance, and utilizing cost effective methods, with disruption to the Metro North and neighboring manufacturing community. The project's time line approximates 25months.

Key community impact considerations for this project include:

- One 13-foot minimum lane of traffic on East 175th Street at all times during construction.
- One 15-foot lane on Park Avenue will be available at all times during construction.
- One sidewalk will be open across East 175th Street Bridge at all times during construction.
- Bike lane on Park Avenue will be diverted into the travel lane.
- On street parking within the construction area will be reduced by approximately 10 spaces to accommodate construction;

- Traffic control agents will be requested and be posted to direct traffic when necessary;
- Night work will take place
- Maintain clearance for railroad operations at all times.

The scope of work associated with this project includes:

- Replace bridge deck;
- Reconstruct approach roadway pavement
- Reconstruct approach sidewalks, curbs, pedestrian ramps and street lights
- Install new bridge railings and pedestrian fencing
- Provide new pavement striping on bridge and approaches
- Relocating of Con Edison deck utilities

Development of the surrounding community is composed of a mix of low-rise and mid-rise manufacturing buildings. Both sides of Park Avenue have manufacturing businesses along their corridor. Metro-North Railroad service is located at Tremont Station approximately two blocks north of the site on East Tremont Avenue. Bus transportation is provided by the BX15 along Third Avenue, BX 41 local/SBS along Webster Avenue, and BX40/42 along East Tremont Avenue. The closest subway access is available by the B and D lines on the Grand Concourse approximately 2/3 mile away from the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION

This application has been reviewed pursuant to CEQR and SEQRA and received a Negative Declaration. The City Planning Commission certified this application as complete on September 18, 2019.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Bronx Community Board #6 did not hold a public hearing on this matter.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was convened by the Bronx Borough President on November 26, 2019. Representatives of the applicant were present and spoke in favor of this application. There being no members of the public in attendance and the hearing was closed.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Maintaining safe bridges and related infrastructure is essential for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. I am therefore pleased to endorse the reconstruction of this bridge. I am also satisfied that the city's Department of Transportation's Bridge Division is taking the necessary steps to assure that traffic congestion and the noise associated with this project are managed and minimized.

I recommend approval of this application.