# **EAST MIDTOWN** WATERFRONT ESPLANADE **Community Board 6 | Project Update**











#### **November 6, 2013**

## AGENDA

- I. Project Overview
  - a) Project Goals
  - b) Progress Update
  - c) Project Considerations
- II. Concept Design
  - a) Community Working Group Meetings Summary
  - b) **Design Inspiration**
  - c) Responding to Community Aspirations
- **III. Project Timeline and Next Steps**
- **IV. Questions & Answers**



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

EAST MIDTOWN WATERFRONT ESPLANADE

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#### SITE CONTEXT



EAST MIDTOWN WATERFRONT ESPLANADE

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

#### Mandated by State legislation in July 2011:

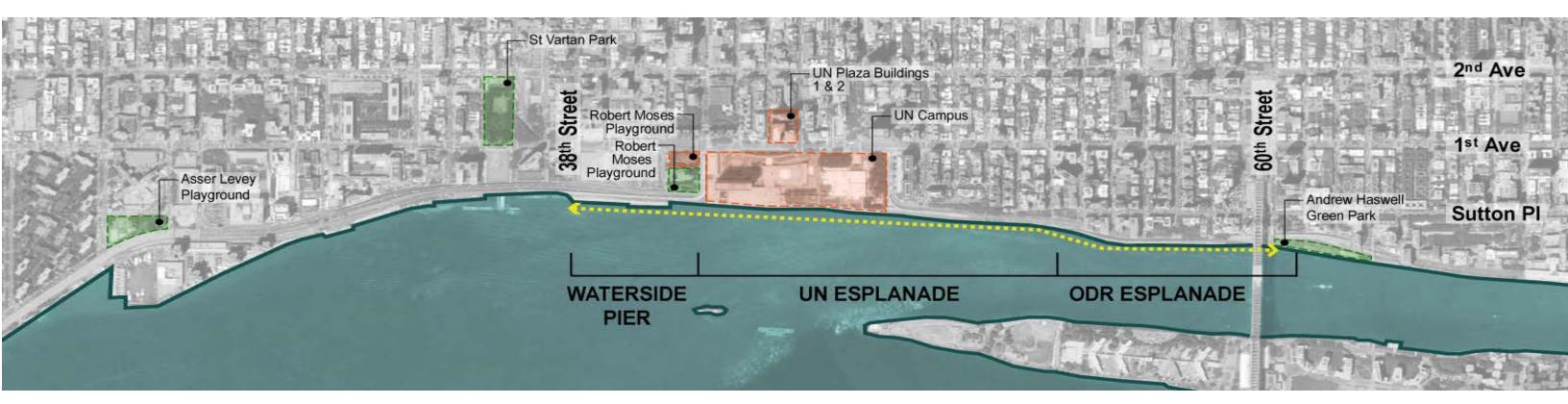
Sponsored by State Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh, State Senator Liz Krueger and Councilmember **Daniel Garodnick** 

#### **Project purpose:**

Construct a continuous greenway from East 38th – 60th Street along the East River to create a critical transportation connection and to provide new open space to alleviate chronic shortage in the immediate area

#### East Midtown Waterfront Esplanade:

- Just over 1-mile long
- Roughly 5 acres of new waterfront coverage



## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

#### **Project Goals:**

- Fill a major gap in the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway and provide a critical transportation route
- Provide waterfront access and new open space for densely populated communities of East Midtown
- Provide a safe recreation area for a wide range of users, including children, the disabled and elderly
- Provide opportunities for water-dependent and water-related uses, and public education

#### **Critical Project Components:**

- Reuse existing waterfront infrastructure
- Improve security and emergency access, enable waterside evacuation
- Enhance quality and diversity of aquatic habitat
- Endure sea level rise and major storms



Gantry Plaza State Park, Queens



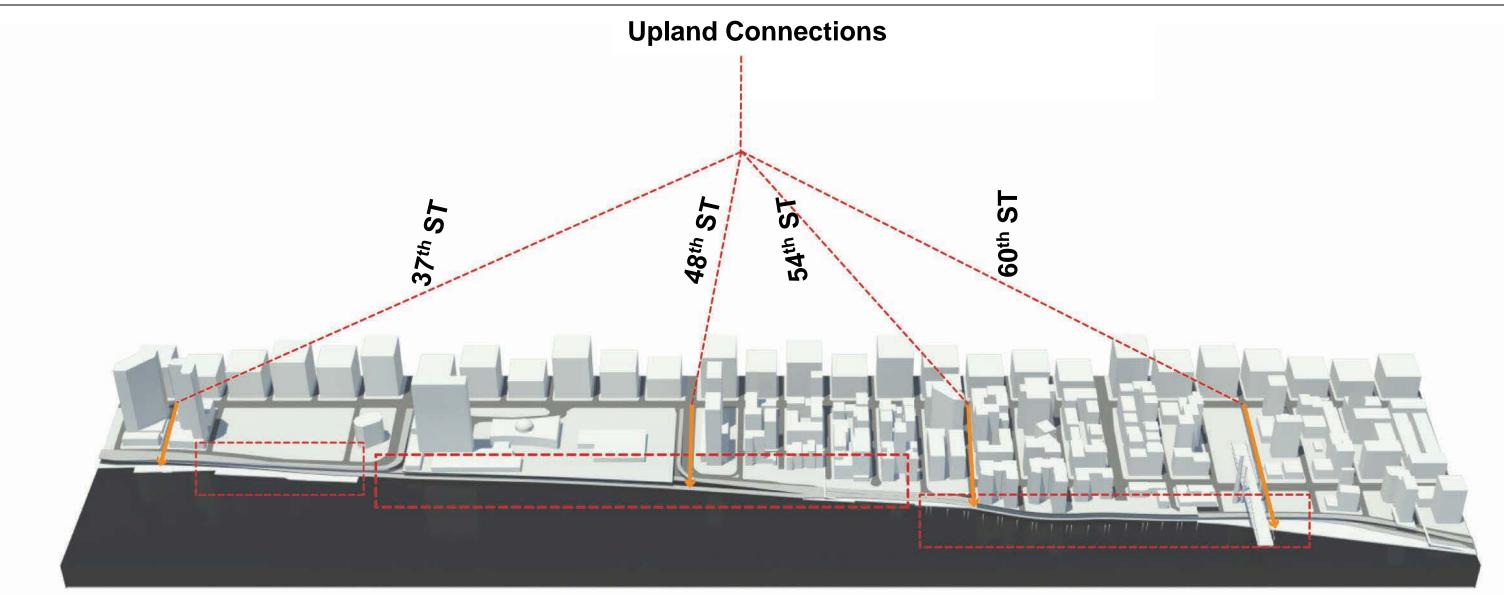
Hudson River Park

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

#### **Initial project milestones**

- State legislation (July 2011) and MOU (October 2011)
- Establishment of Eastside Greenway and Park (EGAP) Board  $\checkmark$
- Establishment of Community Working Group  $\checkmark$
- **Required City milestones**  $\checkmark$ 
  - Conceptual design of future esplanade
  - De-map Asser Levy Place and map as parkland
  - Make Asser Levy Place street bed available for public use for active recreation
- Required UNDC milestones
  - \$3 million payment into EGAP Fund  $\checkmark$
  - Execute a lease with the United Nations for the Consolidation Building
  - ULURP and environmental review approvals

#### **PROJECT PHASING & UPLAND CONNECTIONS**



**Waterside Pier** 38<sup>th</sup>-41<sup>st</sup> Streets

> Construction: 2014-2015

**UN Esplanade** 41<sup>st</sup>-53<sup>rd</sup> Streets

> Construction: 2021- 2025

#### **ODR Esplanade** 53<sup>rd</sup>-60<sup>th</sup> Streets > Construction: 2017- 2019

## WATERSIDE PIER

#### **Overview & Recent Progress**

- Formerly used by Con Edison for fuel deliveries
- Approx. 0.8 acre in size,  $\pm 45$  feet wide
- Permit approvals obtained from DEC and Army Corps
- Finalized pier reconstruction approach and evaluating best and final responses

#### Next Steps

- Construction anticipated to begin in 2014
- Completion of concept design for initial pier amenities





## **ODR ESPLANADE & UN ESPLANADE**

#### **Overview & Recent Progress**

- UN Esplanade: 41st 53rd Streets
- ODR Esplanade: 53rd 60th Streets
- **Environmental Review** 
  - Draft Environmental Assessment submitted to NYS DOT at the end of October 2013
  - NYS DOT is representing Federal Highway Administration as lead agency for environmental review
- Design
  - Completion of design work for environmental review and permit applications



#### **US Army Corps** of Engineers<sub>®</sub>

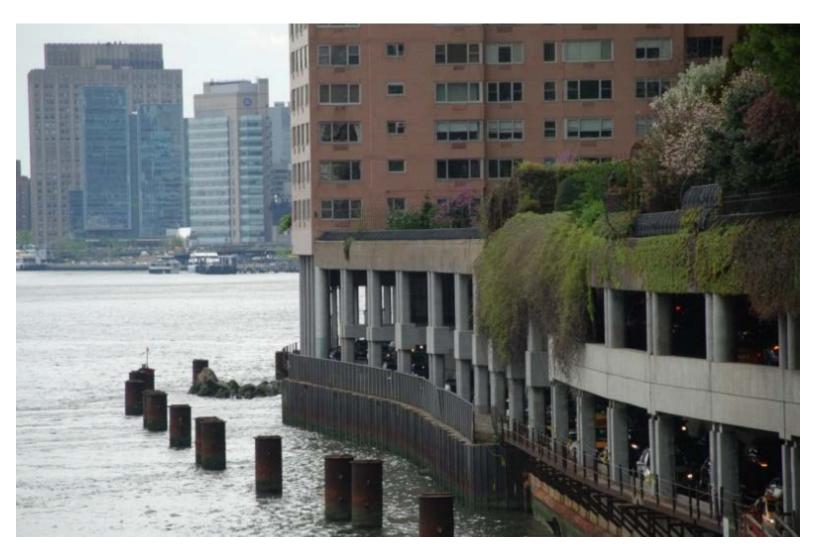


**EAST MIDTOWN WATERFRONT ESPLANADE** 



#### Next Steps

- Completion of all supplemental studies
- and Coast Guard anticipated by end of 2013
- Further engagement with community and agencies



# Submission of permit applications to DEC, Army Corps,

# PROJECT Considerations

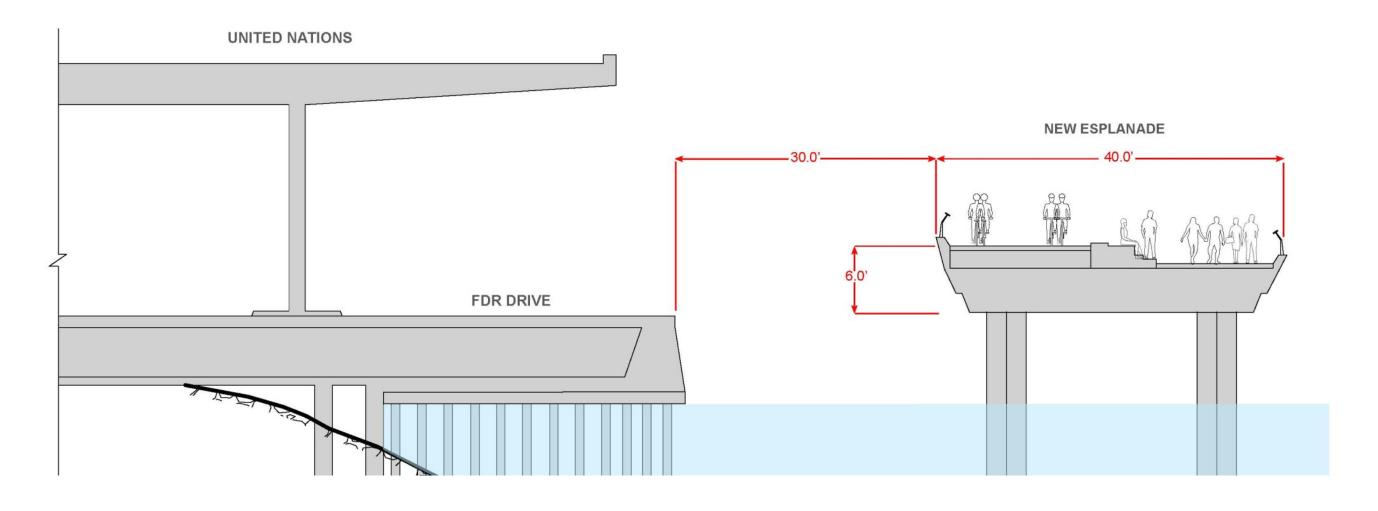
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## **OFFSET FROM BULKHEAD**

#### Esplanade will provide a 30-ft offset between the bulkhead and esplanade

- Reduces traffic noise and air effects on esplanade users from the FDR Drive traffic
- Allows for re-use of ODR caissons
- Provide access for maintenance and repair of the bulkhead
- Allows for improved light distribution to aquatic ecology and protects rock outcropping and habitat



## WITHSTAND EAST RIVER CONDITIONS

- Currents in this section of East River are strong and can be hazardous
  - Water level rises and falls considerably due to tides and boat wakes
  - Dangerous currents impose limits to potential water dependent uses
- Substantial existing infrastructure present (i.e. utility, subway, sewer)
- Narrow Federal Channel adjacent to Roosevelt Island



#### EAST MIDTOWN WATERFRONT ESPLANADE

#### es es

## **ENDURE SEA LEVEL RISE & MAJOR STORMS**

- Structure will be designed for 75 year minimum service life
  - Base of esplanade will be two feet above projected mean high water line, well above the current and projected 100-year flood elevation
  - 6 to 8-ft above the FDR Drive elevation
- Structure will be designed to withstand storm condition loads (waves, wind, seismic)



## WORK WITHIN PERMITTING RESTRICTIONS

- Submitting permit applications to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Army Corps, and US Coast Guard by the end of this year
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation seeks to limit the coverage of new in-water structures





Construction of Pier 15. East River Waterfront Esplanade Phase I

Construction of Outboard Detour Roadway (ODR)

# Public Outreach

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## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

#### **City-Wide Organizations:**

Municipal Art Society, Transportation Alternatives, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, Bike New York, New Yorkers for Parks & Partnerships for Parks

#### **Neighborhood- Based Organizations:**

- Manhattan Community Board 6
- Manhattan Community Board 8
- Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association
- Stuyvesant Cove Park Association
- East Sixties Neighborhood Association
- East Midtown Coalition for Sensible Development
- Manhattan East Community Association
- Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
- Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
- **Kips Bay Neighborhood Alliance**
- **Beekman Place Association**
- East Midtown Partnership
- Solar One
- Sutton Area Community
- **Tudor City Association**
- **Turtle Bay Association**
- Waterside Tenants Association







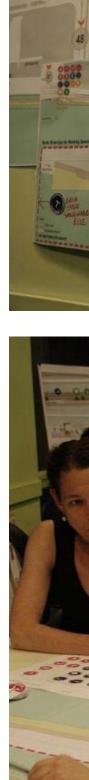
## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

#### First Community Working Group (May 2012)

- Concentrate programming around upland connection locations ("nodes")
- Create separation between bikers and pedestrians
- Desire for active and passive uses serving all ages

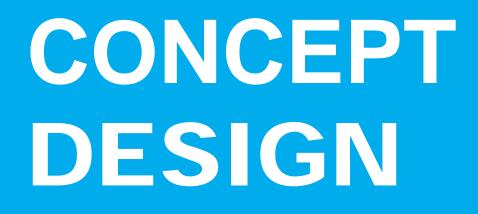
#### Second Community Working Group (June 2013)

- Design should respond to local character and include un-programmed spaces
- Maximize views and programming at nodes
- Develop a diversity of uses and stronger "place-making" through educational signage, programming, and creative design









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## Embrace Uniqueness

Celebrate The East River + The Structure

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### **PROJECT EVOLUTION**

## ✓ Design Whole

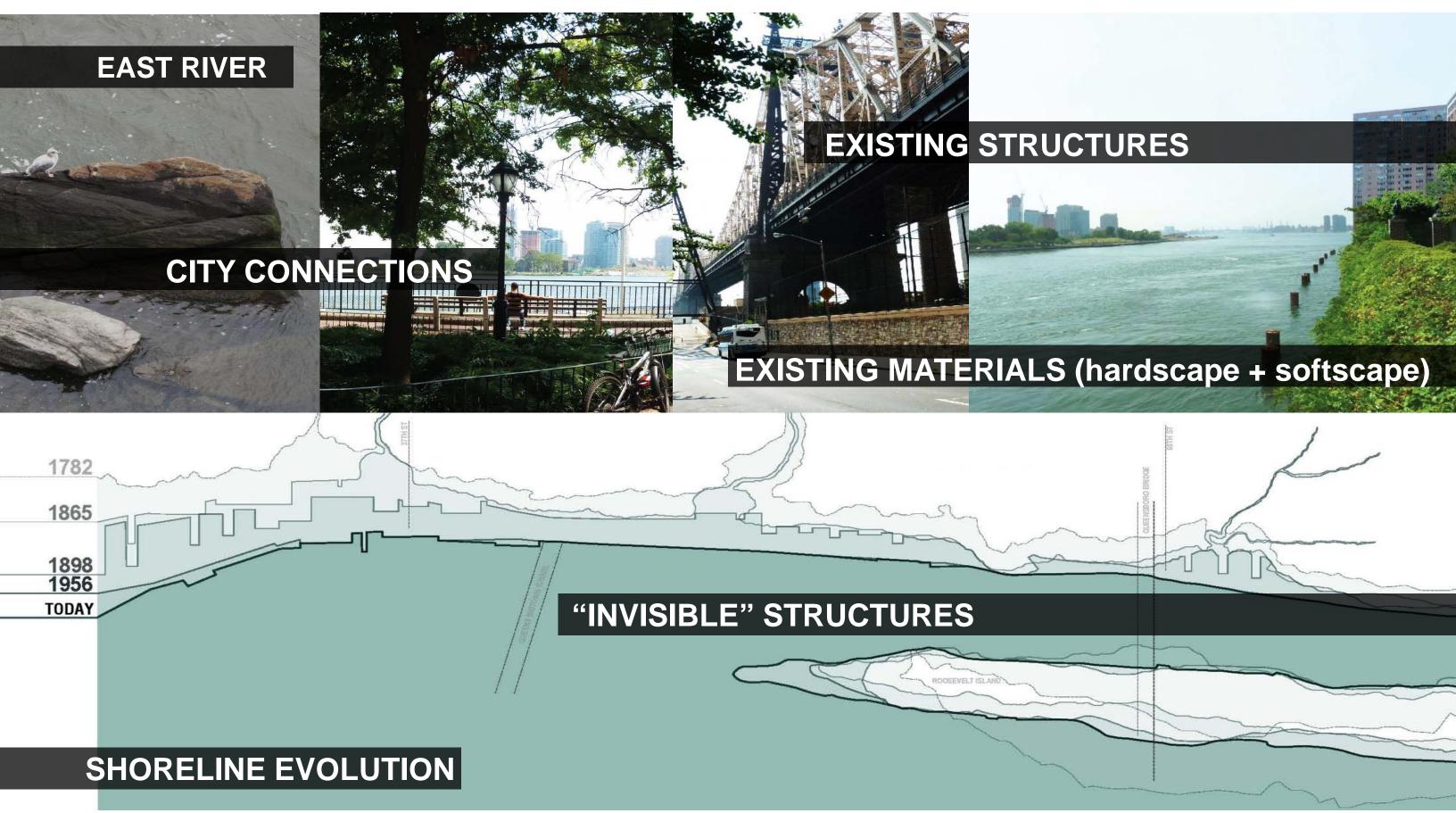
constant + simple

Landscape Design **System** 

interrupted by moments of exception



#### **SITE INSPIRATION : PHYSICAL TRACES**



#### **SITE INSPIRATION : EXPERIENTIAL TRACES**

# WATER MOVEMENT SUN + SHADE + WIND PATTERNS **DRAMATIC VIEWS NAVIGATION PATTERNS**





### **SITE INSPIRATION : POTENTIAL FOCUS + PROGRAM**

## **EXISTING HABITAT**

#### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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#### INFRASTRUCTURE REUSE





#### **SITE INSPIRATION : DISTINCT URBAN CHARACTERS**

#### UN BALCONY

#### **RIVER GREEN EDGE**

#### EAST RIVER DECK AT ODR ESPLANADE

**EAST MIDTOWN WATERFRONT ESPLANADE** 

WATERSIDE PIER



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH : PROJECT ASPIRATIONS**

#### **CONNECTIONS**

- **Access Points**
- **Circulation To/From The City**
- **MOVEMENT** 
  - **Circulation Within Esplanade**
  - **Physical Dimensions**
- **ACTIVITIES** 
  - **Outdoor Program**
  - **Activity Nodes/Synergies**
- **PLACE-MAKING** 
  - Character
  - **Signature Features**



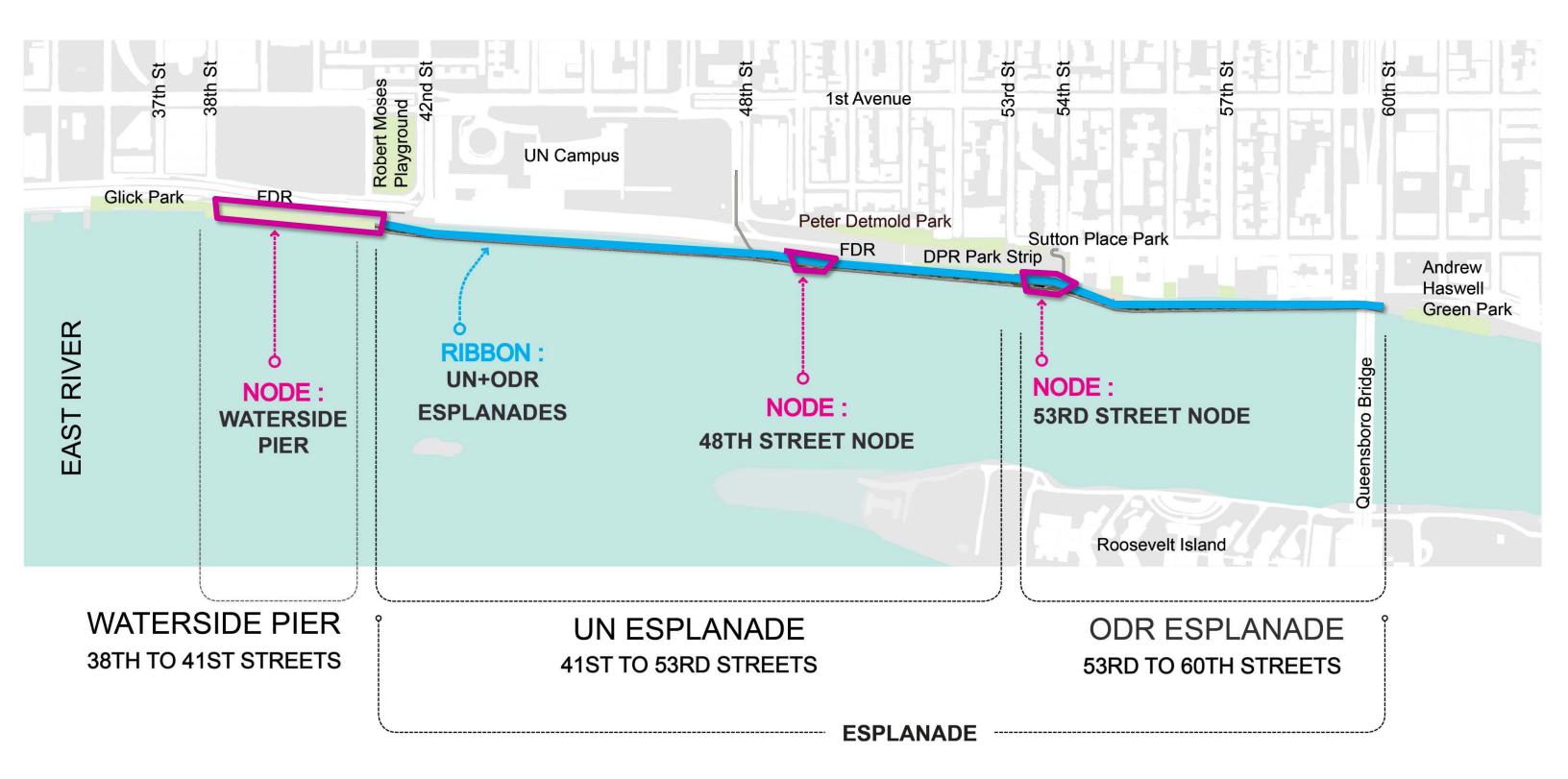




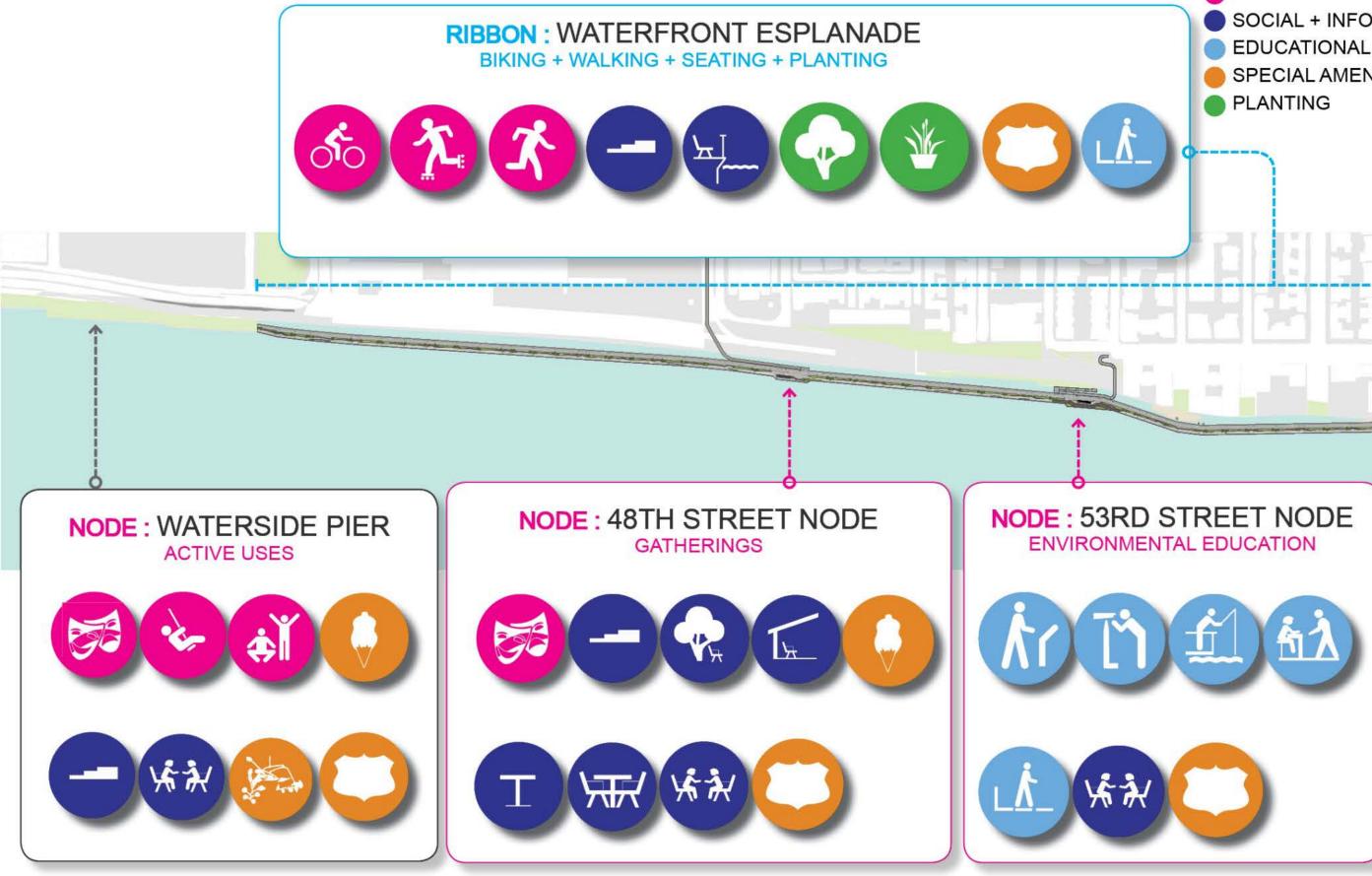




### **DESIGN FRAMEWORK**



#### **DIVERSE PROGRAM**



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#### LEGEND

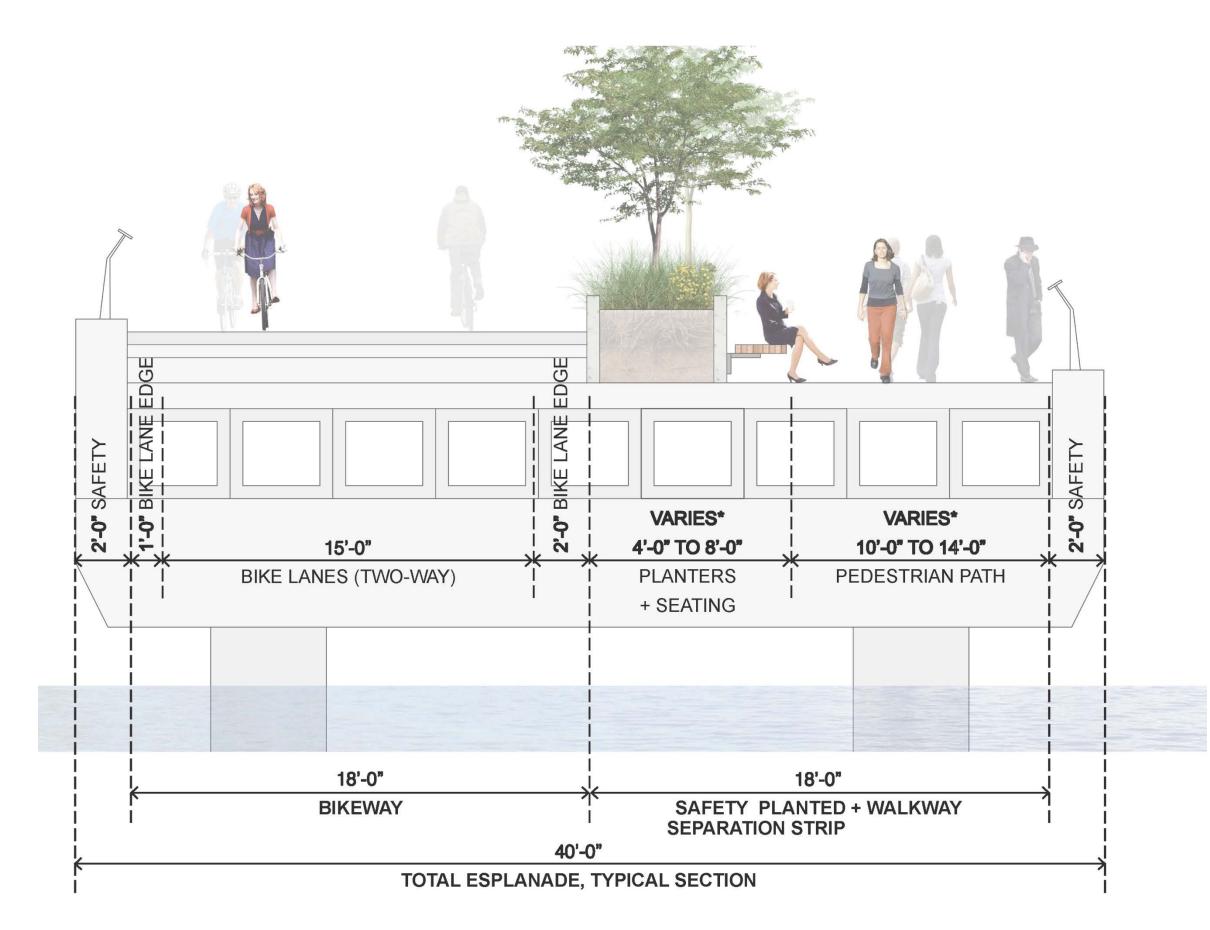
ACTIVE + FORMAL PROGRAMS SOCIAL + INFORMAL PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

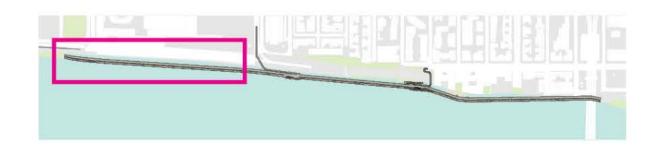
SPECIAL AMENITIES AND FEATURES

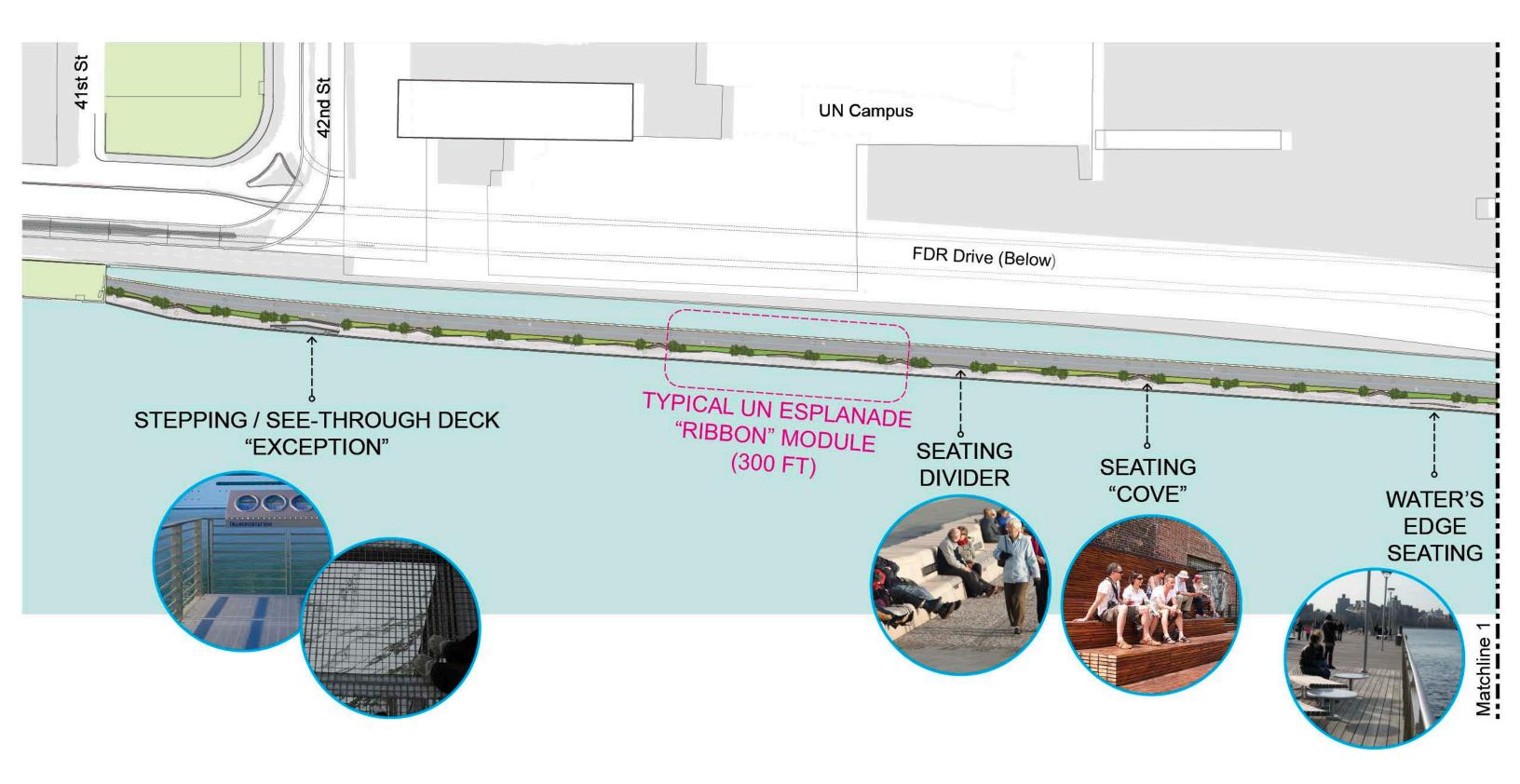
# DESIGN METHODOLOGY

#### **TYPICAL SECTION**

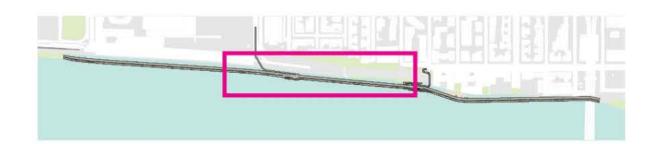


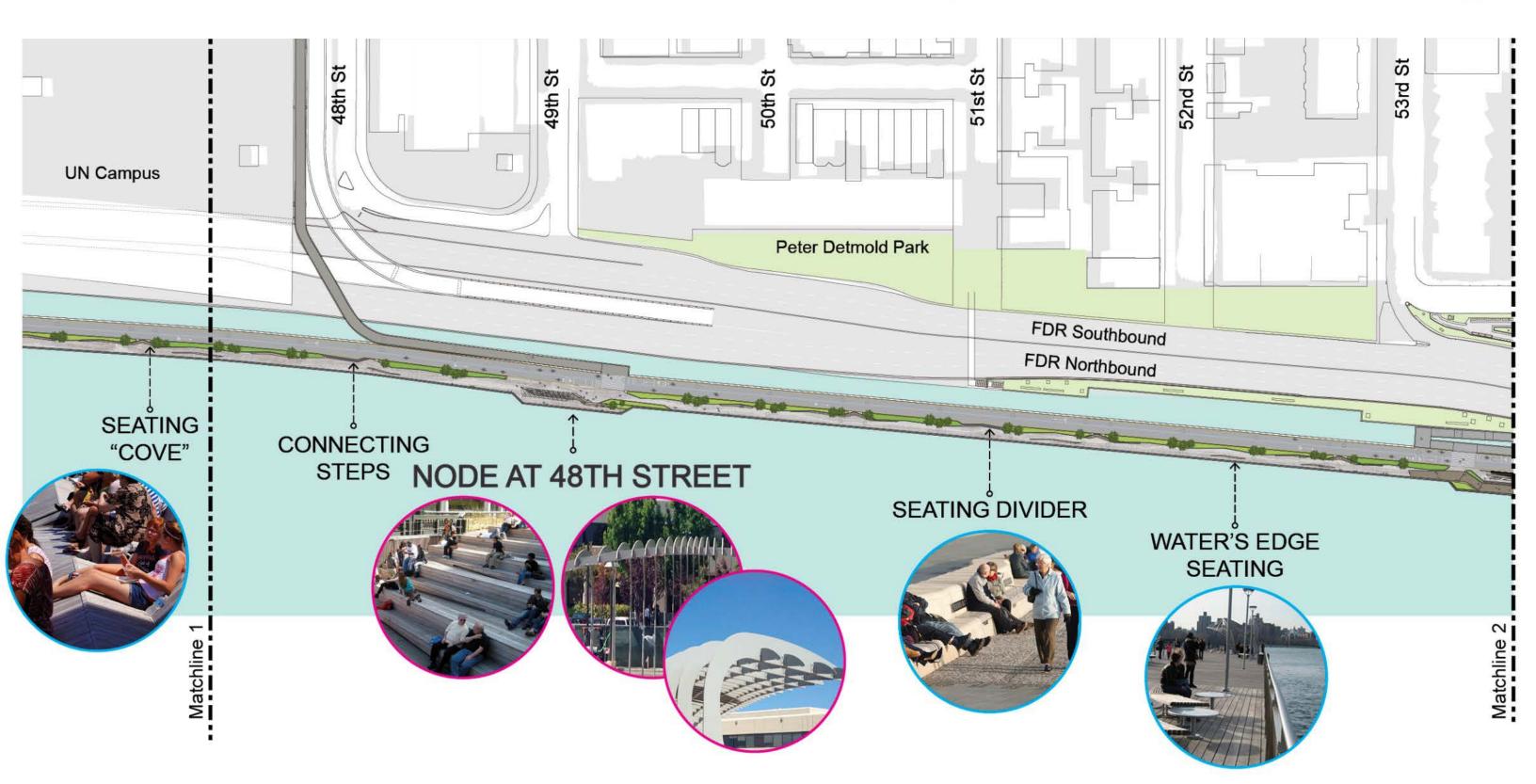






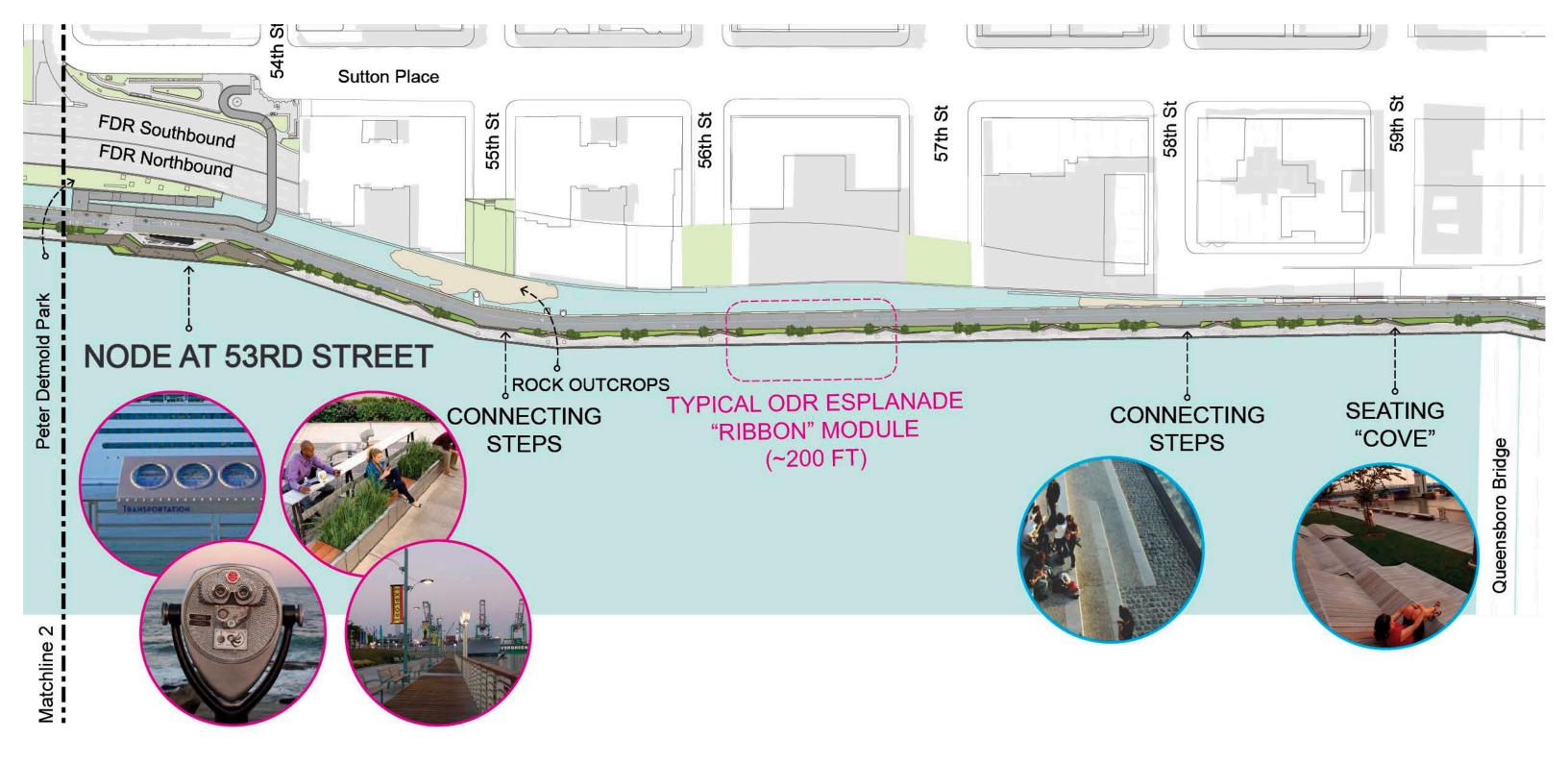
#### **UN ESPLANADE**





#### **ODR ESPLANADE**







# PROPOSED PROJECT CHARACTER

#### **ODR ESPLANADE LOOKING SOUTH**



# **ODR + UN ESPLANADES FROM SUTTON PLACE LOOKING SOUTH**





## **ODR ESPLANADE LOOKING NORTH**



# **53<sup>RD</sup> STREET NODE LOOKING NORTH**



# VIEW FROM EXISTING PARK STRIP LOOKING NORTH



# UN ESPLANADE FROM 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE LOOKING SOUTH



# UN ESPLANADE AT 48<sup>TH</sup> STREET CONNECTION LOOKING NORTH

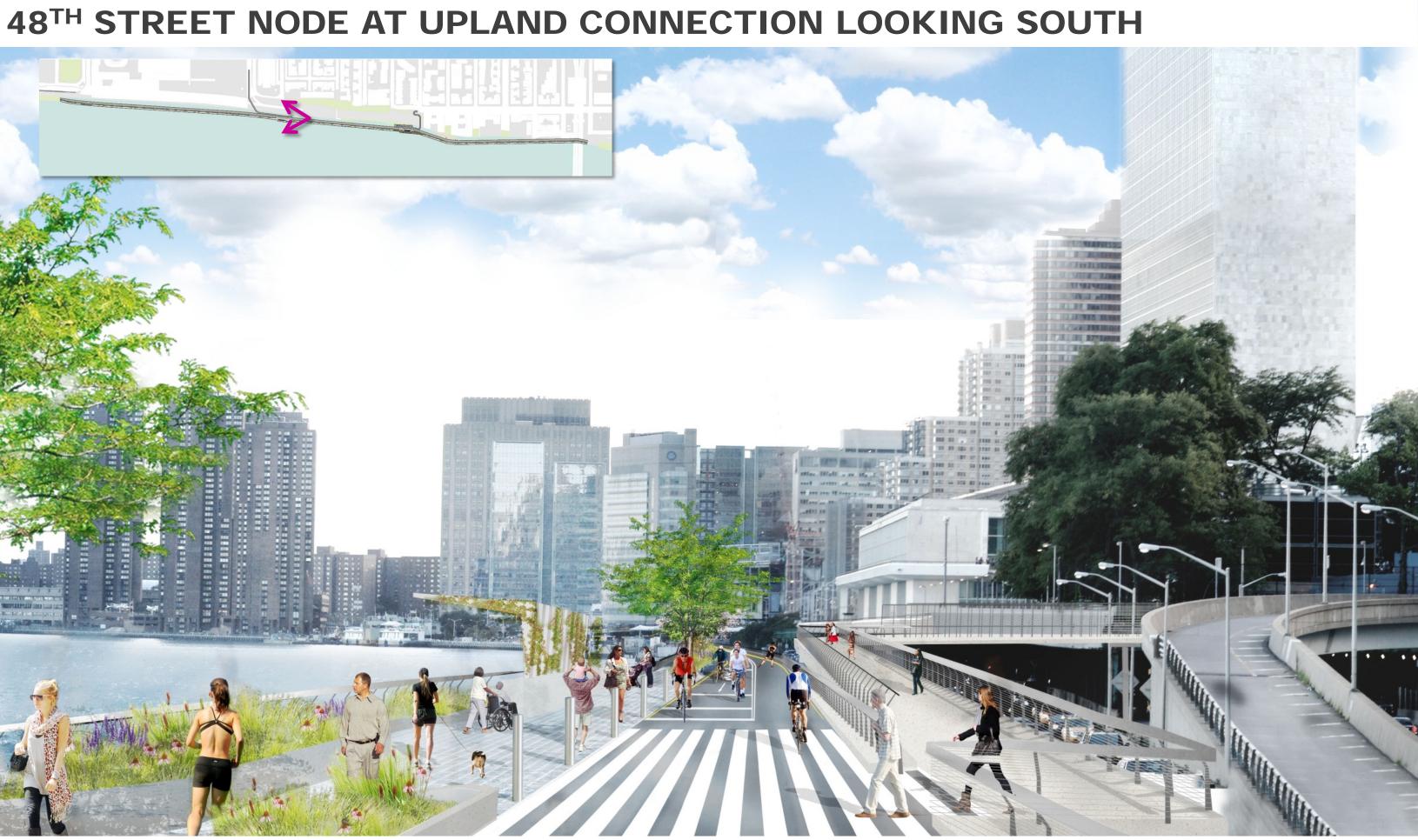


# **48<sup>TH</sup> STREET NODE LOOKING NORTH**



# **48<sup>TH</sup> STREET NODE + UPLAND CONNECTION LOOKING SOUTH**





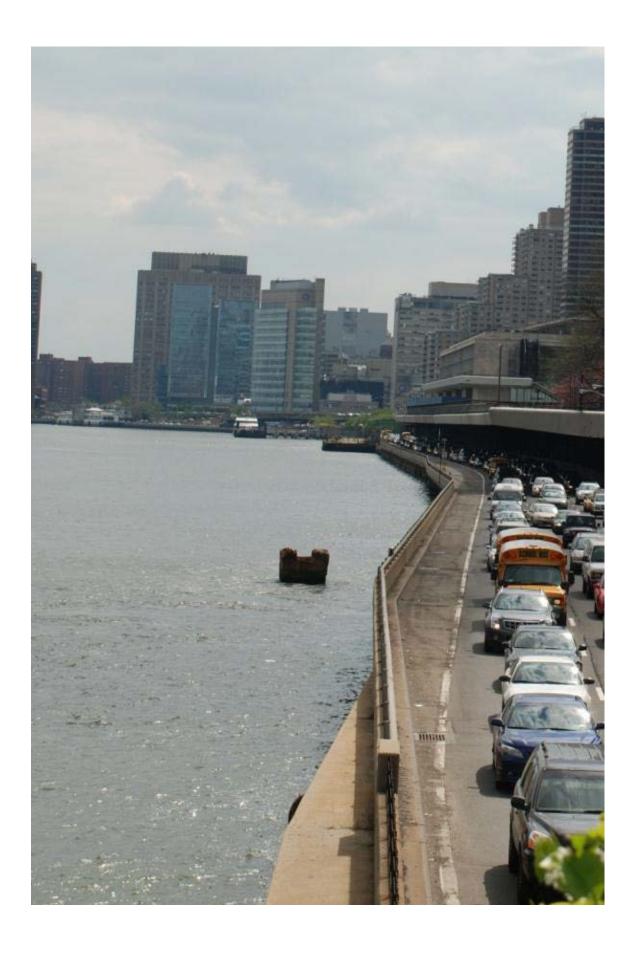
# NEXT STEPS

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# **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue to refine design incorporating input received
- File permit applications with DEC, Army Corps, and Coast Guard



# **ANTICIPATED TIMELINE**

2013	<ul> <li>Commence Asser Levy Place open space improvements (completed)</li> <li>Submit environmental review for Waterside Pier, ODR &amp; UN Esplanades</li> <li>File permit applications with DEC, Army Corps, and Coast Guard</li> </ul>
2014	<ul> <li>Asser Levy Place open to public for recreation</li> </ul>
2015	<ul> <li>Waterside Pier restoration complete, opens to public</li> </ul>
2017	<ul> <li>Commence construction of ODR Esplanade*</li> </ul>
2019	<ul> <li>Complete ODR Esplanade*</li> </ul>
2021-25	<ul> <li>Complete UN Esplanade**</li> </ul>

\* Contingent on UNDC bond issuance



# \*\* Contingent on sale/refinancing of UN Plaza 1 & 2



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