

THE BIG U FROM CONCEPT TO REALIZATION

VISUAL OVERVIEW OF MANHATTAN'S COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECT



Today's Presenter



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REBUILD BY DESIGN - BIG U Proposal



UNPRECEDENTED IMPACT HURRICANE SANDY

- \$65 BILLION in damages and economic loss
- At least 159 FATALITIES
- 8.5 MILLION customers left without power
- 650,000 HOMES damaged or destroyed
- 25 PERCENT of cell sites out of service in 10 STATES

REBUILD BY DESIGN, COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC - PRIVATE EFFORT

Funders

+

Partners

+

Government



The New
Jersey
Recovery
Fund



VAN ALLEN INSTITUTE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY



AWARDS: \$930M USD

NEW YORK CITY:

- **\$335M:** The BIG U in Manhattan, NY
- **\$20M:** Lifelines in Hunts Point, Bronx, NY

NEW JERSEY:

- **\$230M:** Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge in Hoboken, Weehawken, Jersey City, NJ
- **\$150M:** New Meadowlands in Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro, NJ

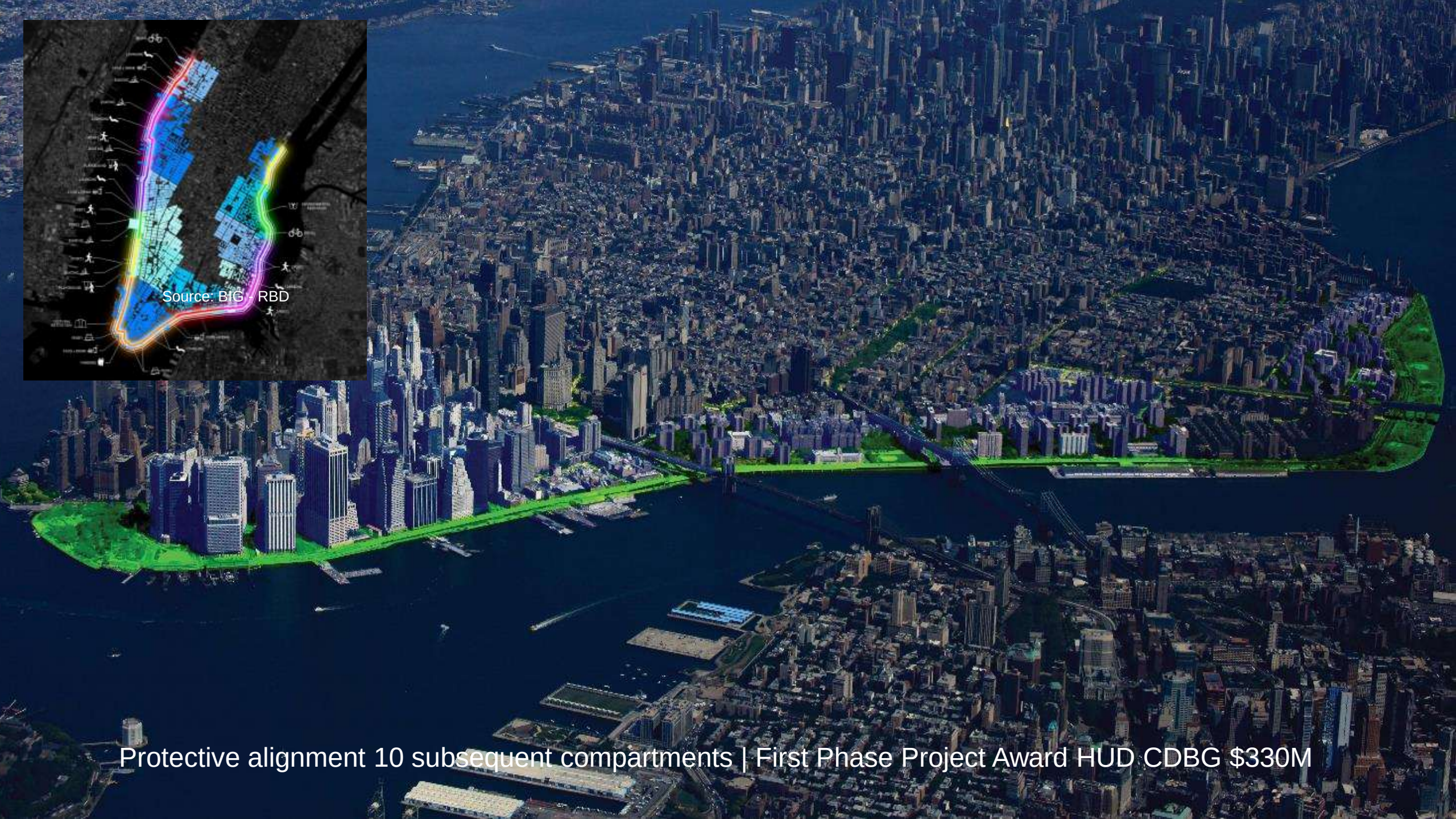
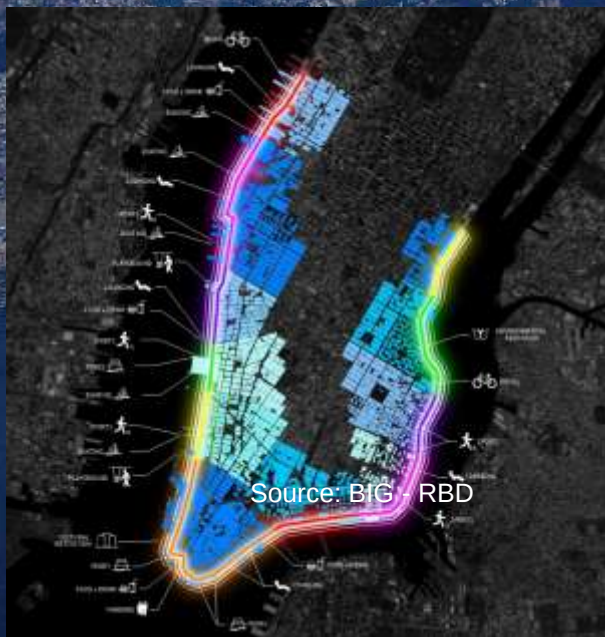
NEW YORK STATE:

- **\$125M:** Living with the Bay in Nassau County, Long Island
- **\$60M:** Living Breakwaters in Tottenville, Staten Island, NY

CONNECTICUT

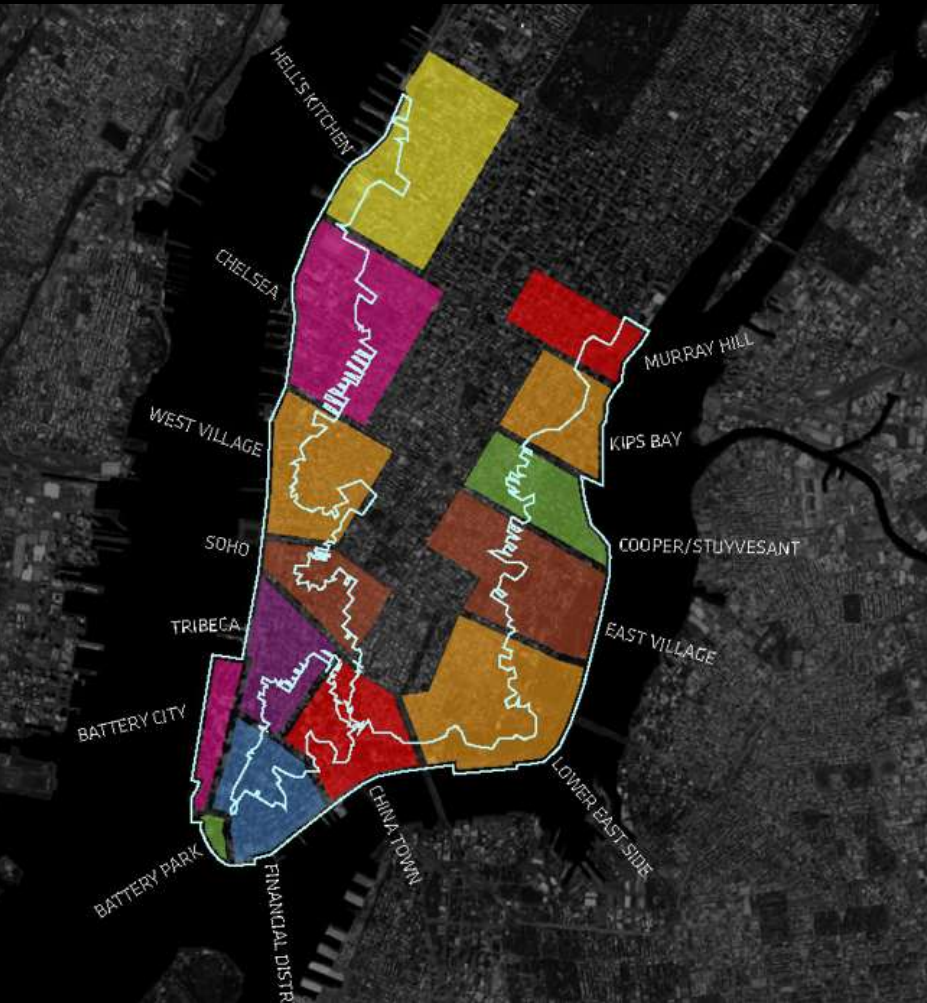
- **\$10M:** Resilient Bridgeport in Bridgeport, CT





Protective alignment 10 subsequent compartments | First Phase Project Award HUD CDBG \$330M

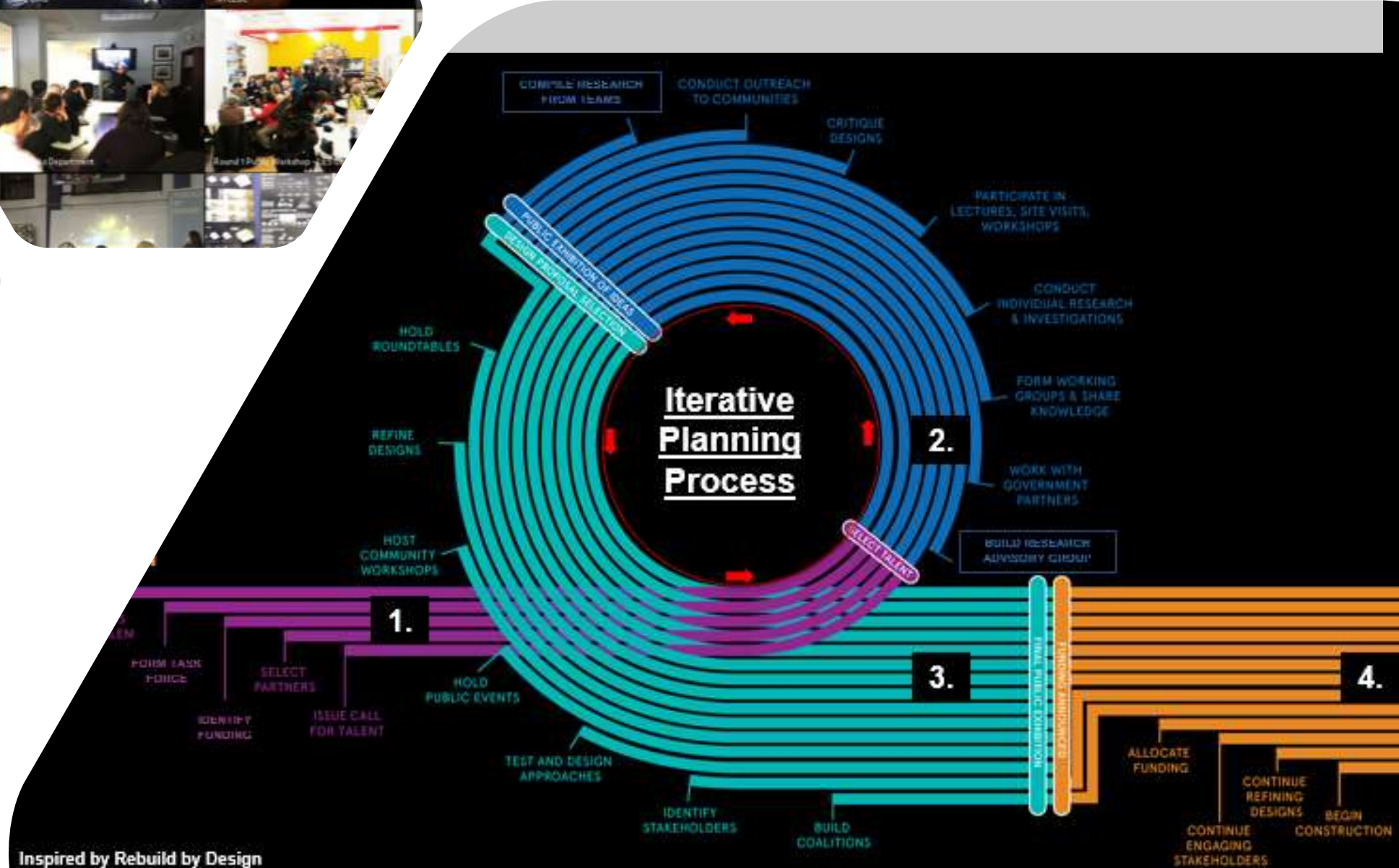
Community Engagement

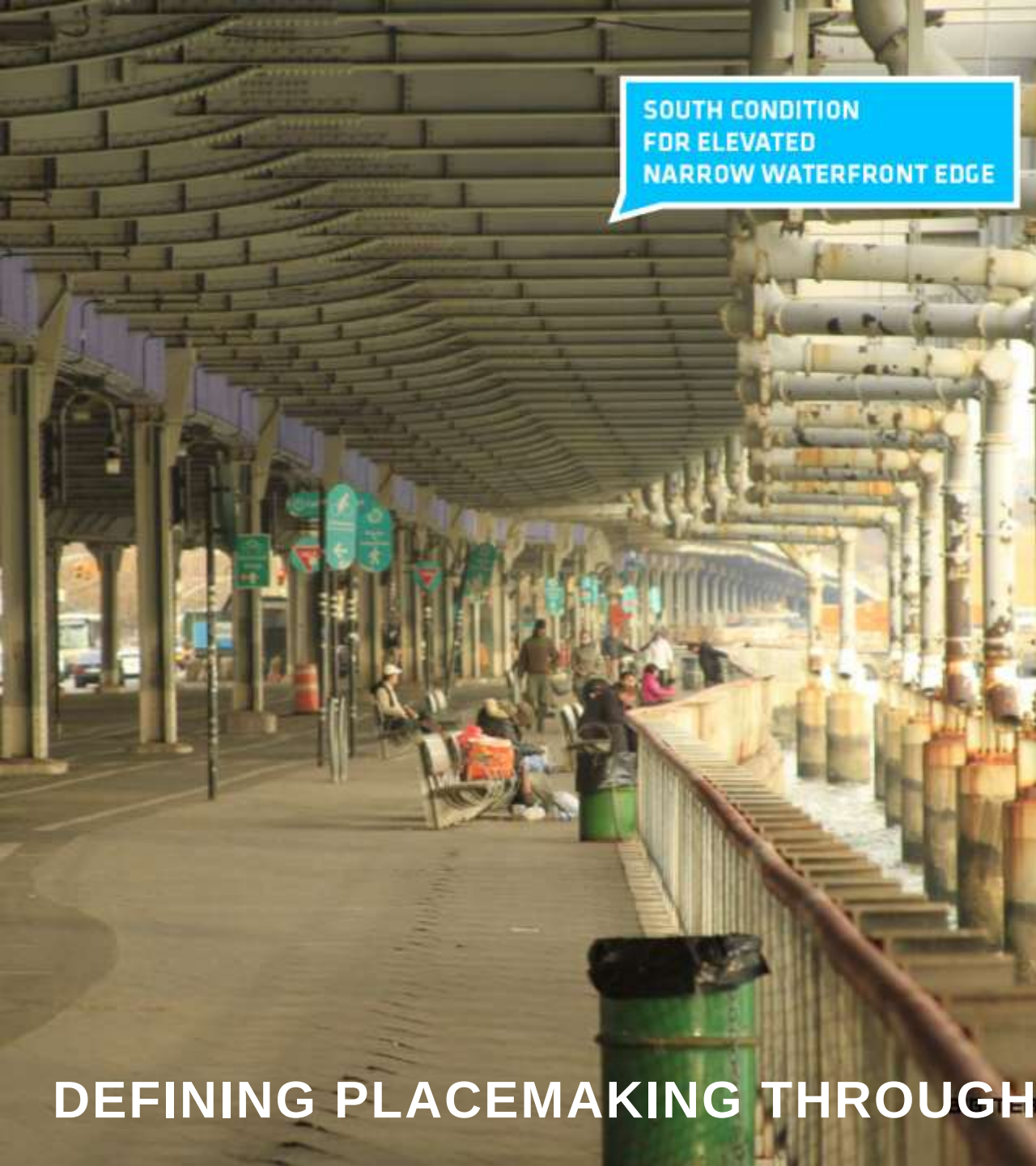




Rebuild by Design – Planning Process

Defining and mitigating obstacles while leveraging opportunities



A photograph of a waterfront promenade under a bridge. The bridge has a complex steel structure with many horizontal beams. The promenade is paved with light-colored bricks and has a metal railing. People are walking and sitting on the promenade. A blue text box is overlaid on the top right of the image.

**SOUTH CONDITION
FOR ELEVATED
NARROW WATERFRONT EDGE**



DEFINING PLACEMAKING THROUGH COMMUNITY PLANNING

Credit Rebuild by Design BIG Team

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Integrating flood protection with improved access and open spaces throughout East River Park and Stuyvesant Cove.



EVERYONE
♥
SPACE



CONCEPT BRANDING

Image Source: YouTube

LOWER MANHATTAN CONCEPT







THE BIG U

PHASE 1: EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY



Mayor's Office of
Recovery and Resiliency



Department of
Design and
Construction



NYC Parks

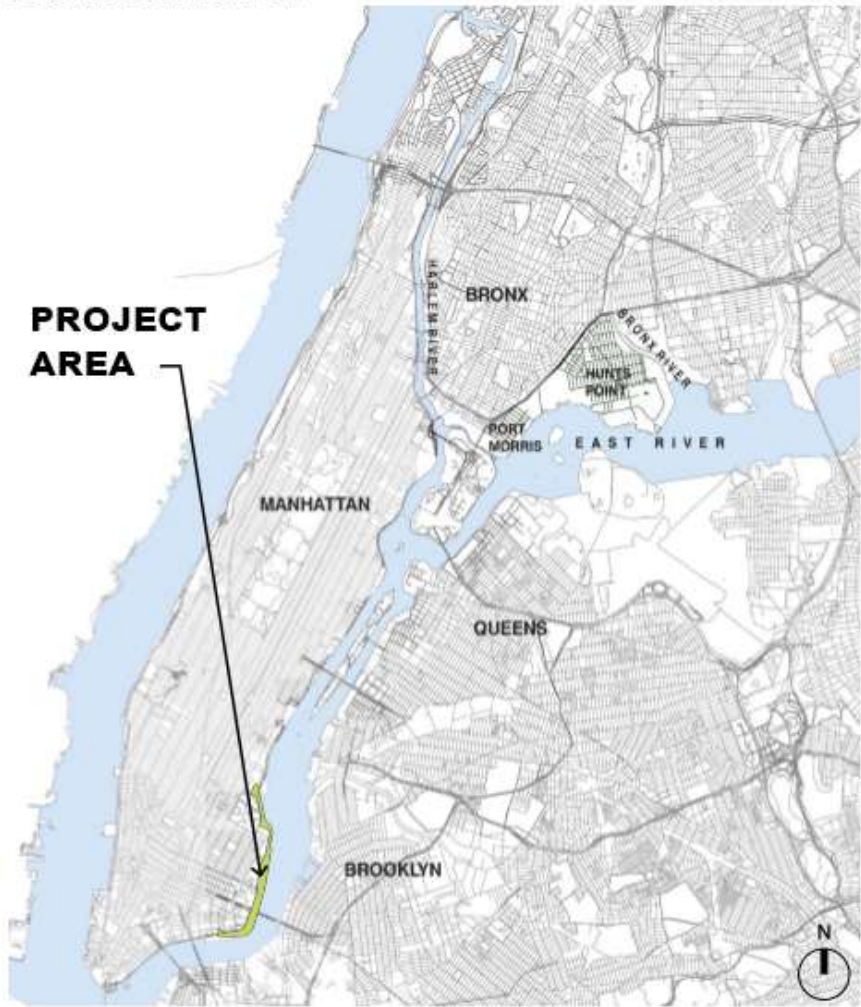


EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECT

SITE STRATEGY LOCATIONS

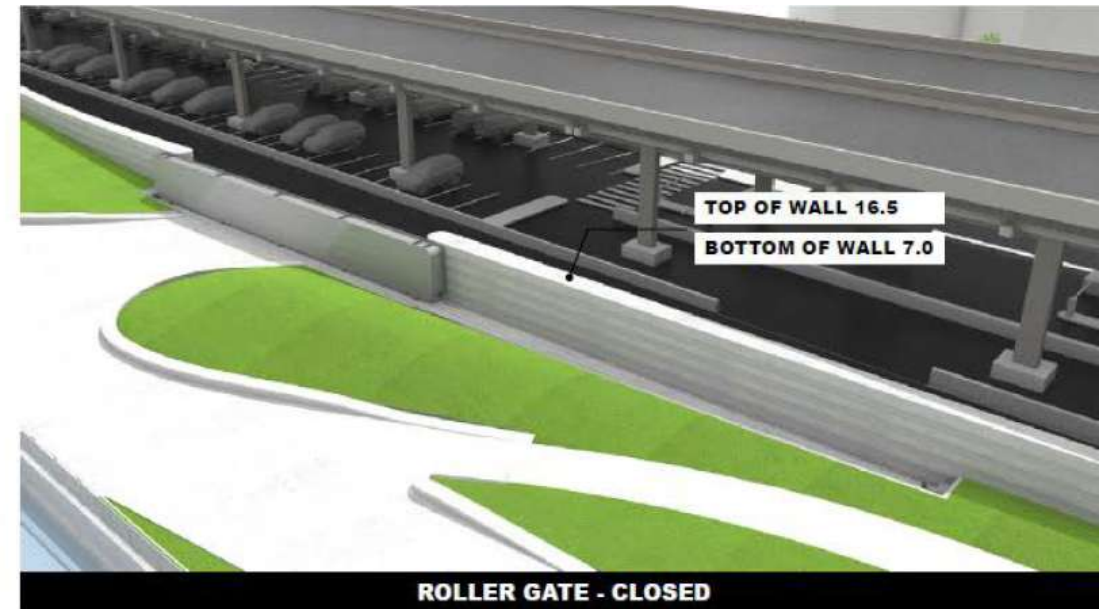
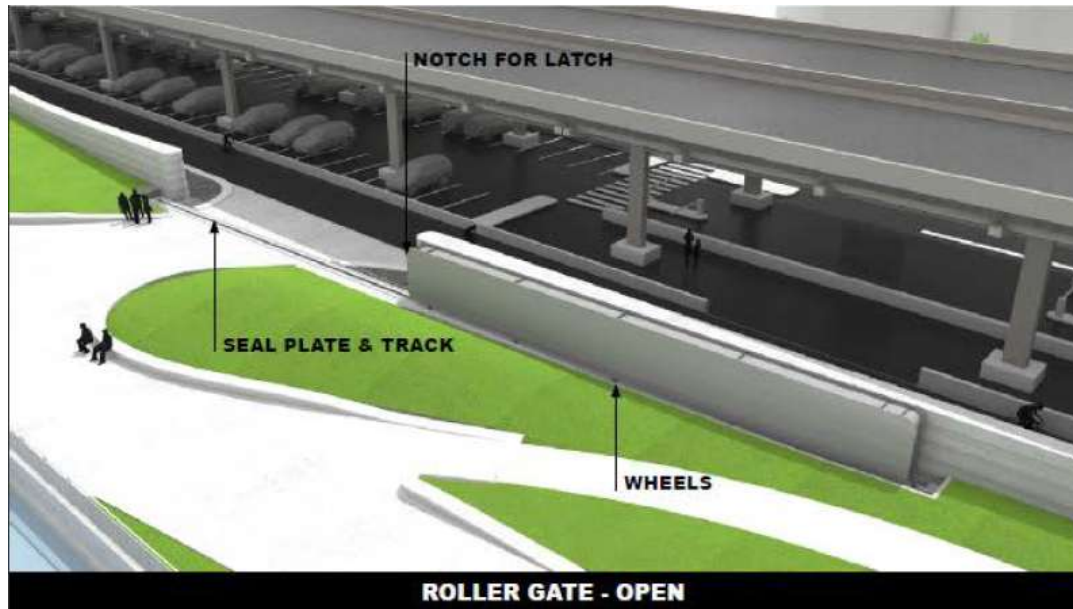
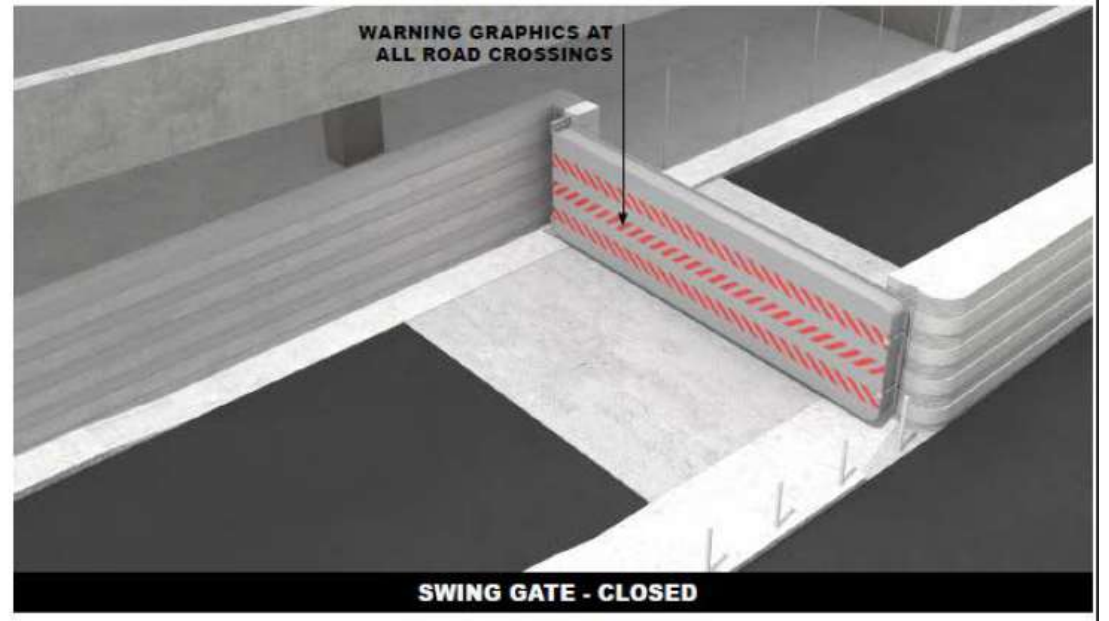
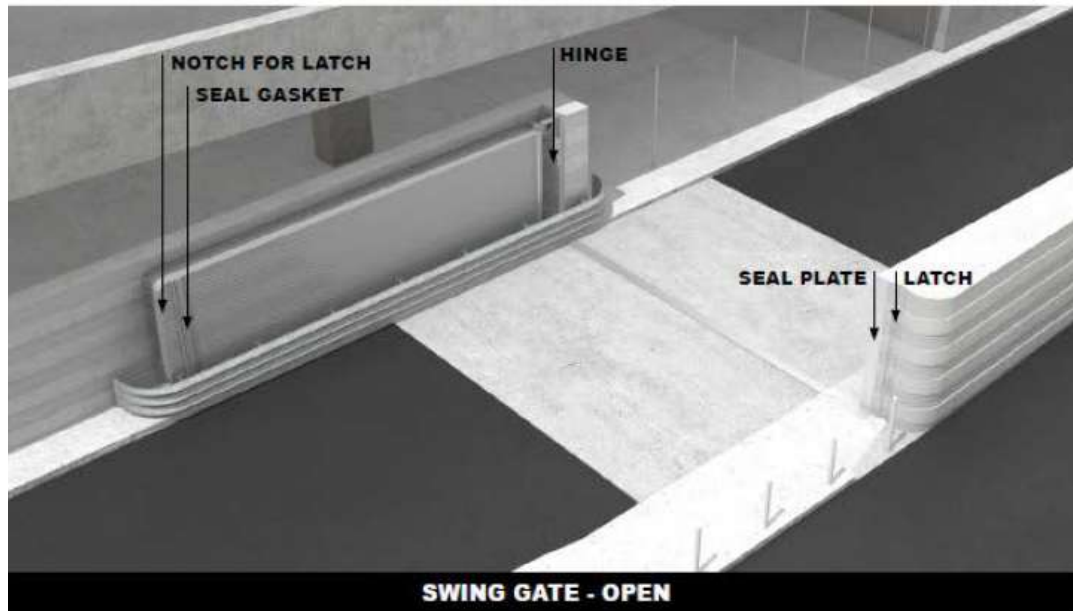


BOROUGH CONTEXT

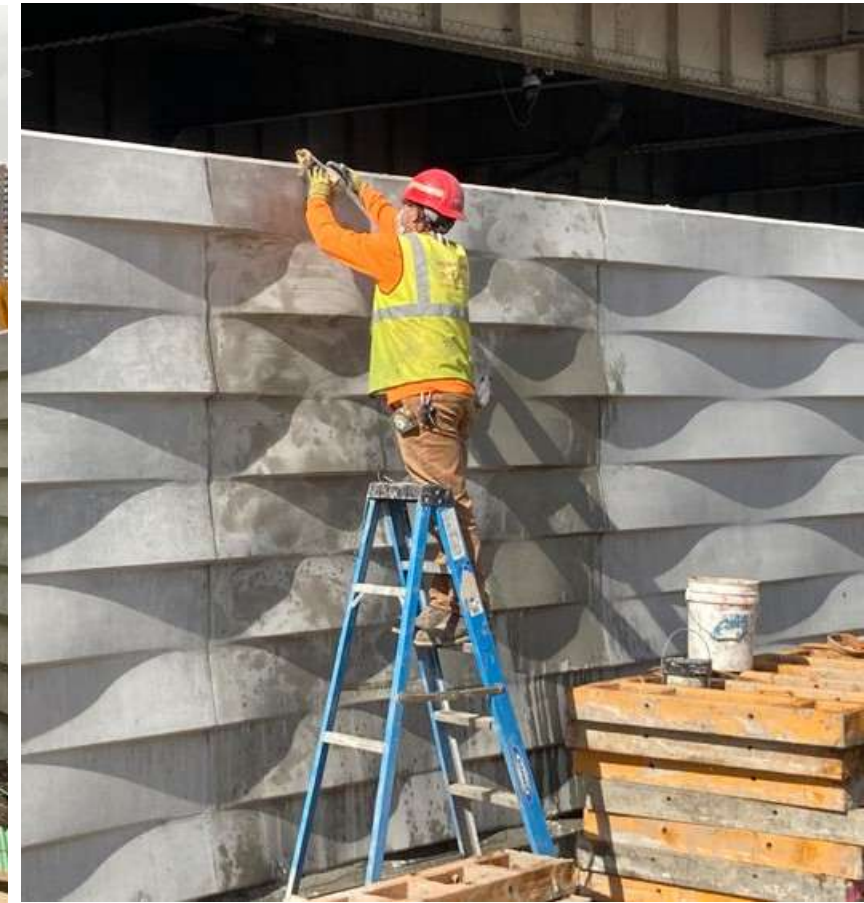
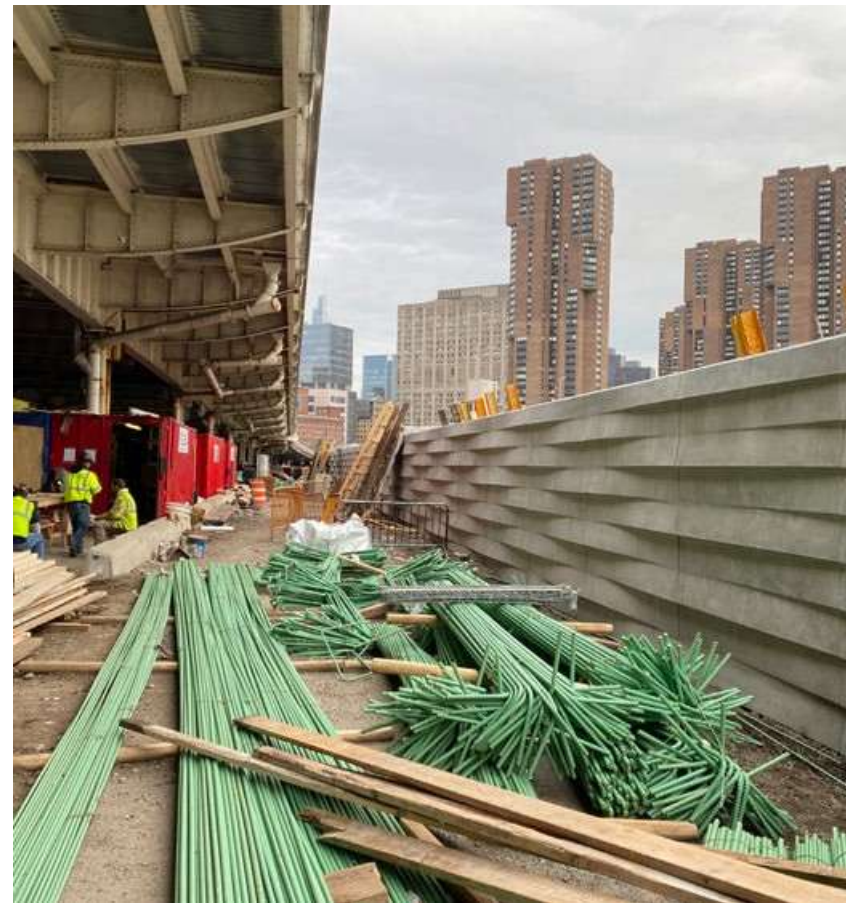


NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT









- Flood walls typically supported by deep foundations.
- Foundations were designed for scalability: Wall stem can be raised 2 feet for future adaptability.
- Epoxy coated reinforcement for enhancing the design life.
- Formliners used to provide aesthetic wall finish.



ESCR construction (photo by Dean Moses)

Typical Swing Gate

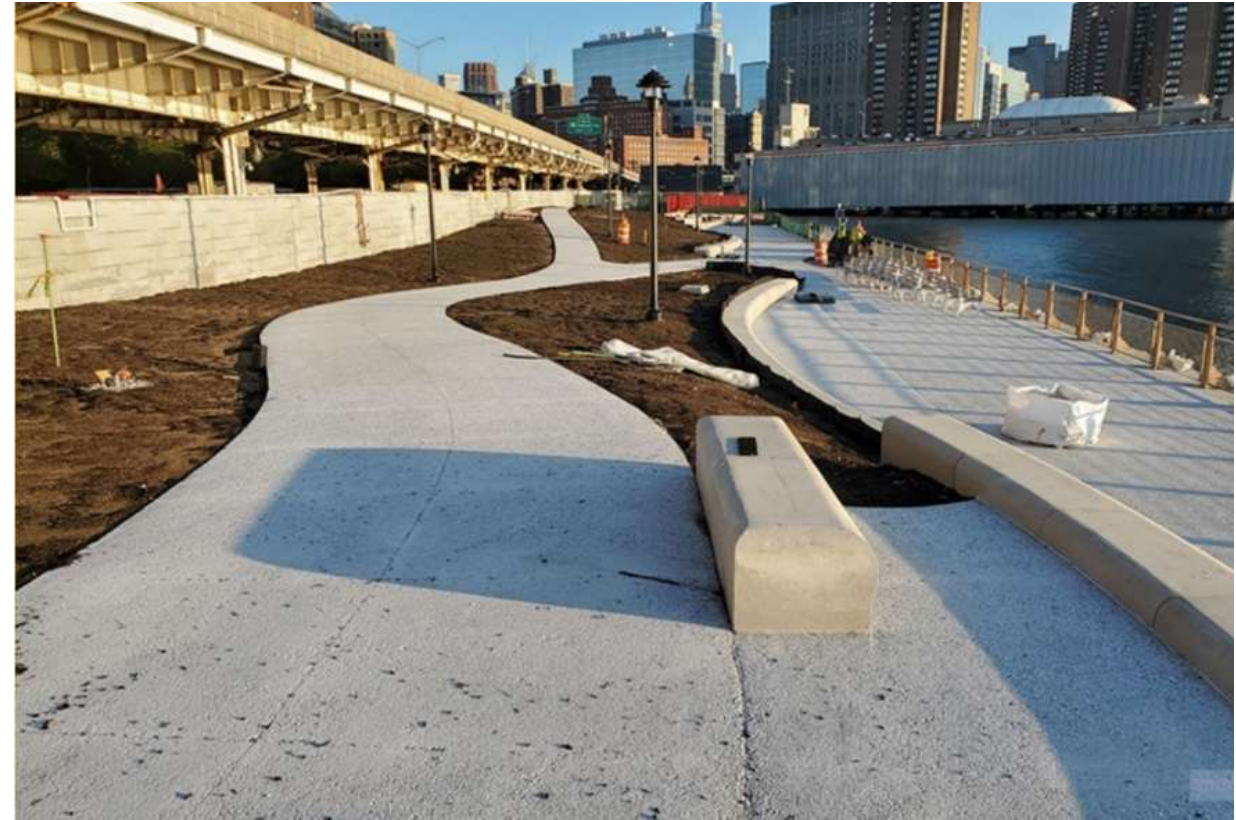
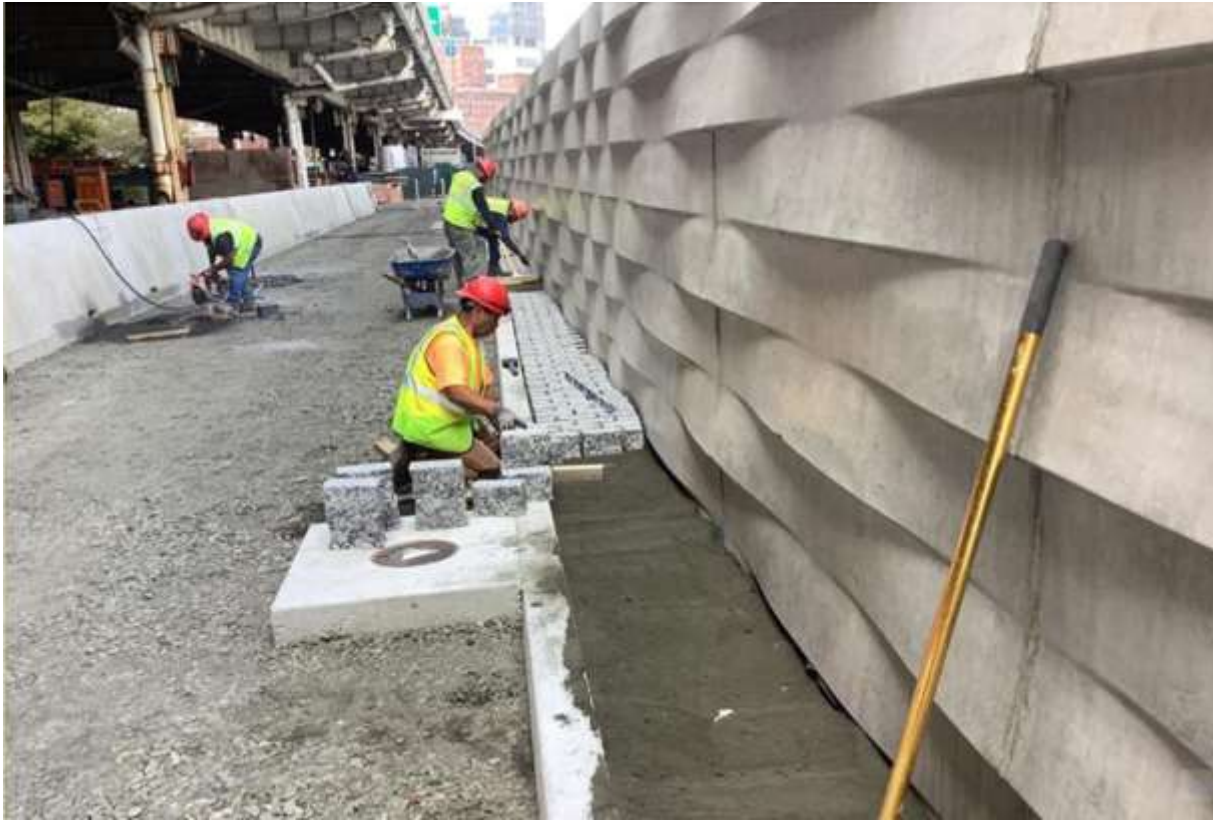


- Hinge-bolts were standardized in size and material type.
- Provided easily operable mechanical cranks for adjusting the bottom seal.
- Designed for 2ft of Sea Level Rise

INSTALLATION OF NORTHERN CLOSURE GATE



WALL ALIGNMENT AND NEW PARK AT EAST 23RD STREET





FiDi and Seaport

Climate
Resilience
Plan



Through Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency efforts, over \$1.7B of capital investments in climate adaptation projects have been committed. **The Financial District and Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan** will fill a missing link in comprehensive flood defense infrastructure.



Lessons Learned:

Navigating Complex Infrastructure:

Worked around dense underground utilities, transportation systems, and critical infrastructure, requiring careful coordination to design resilient flood protection without disrupting essential city operations.

Extending the Shoreline:

Faced with limited space on-land in which to site flood protection, we balanced engineering feasibility, maritime navigation, constructability, and regulatory considerations to develop an integrated design approach.

Steering Ecological Assessments through ARAC:

Established the Aquatic Resources Advisory Committee (ARAC) to guide biological and habitat sampling, ensuring ecological impacts were understood and incorporated into environmentally sensitive design solutions.

Hurricane Sandy – October 2012 – Battery Park Underpass



Sunny Day Conditions



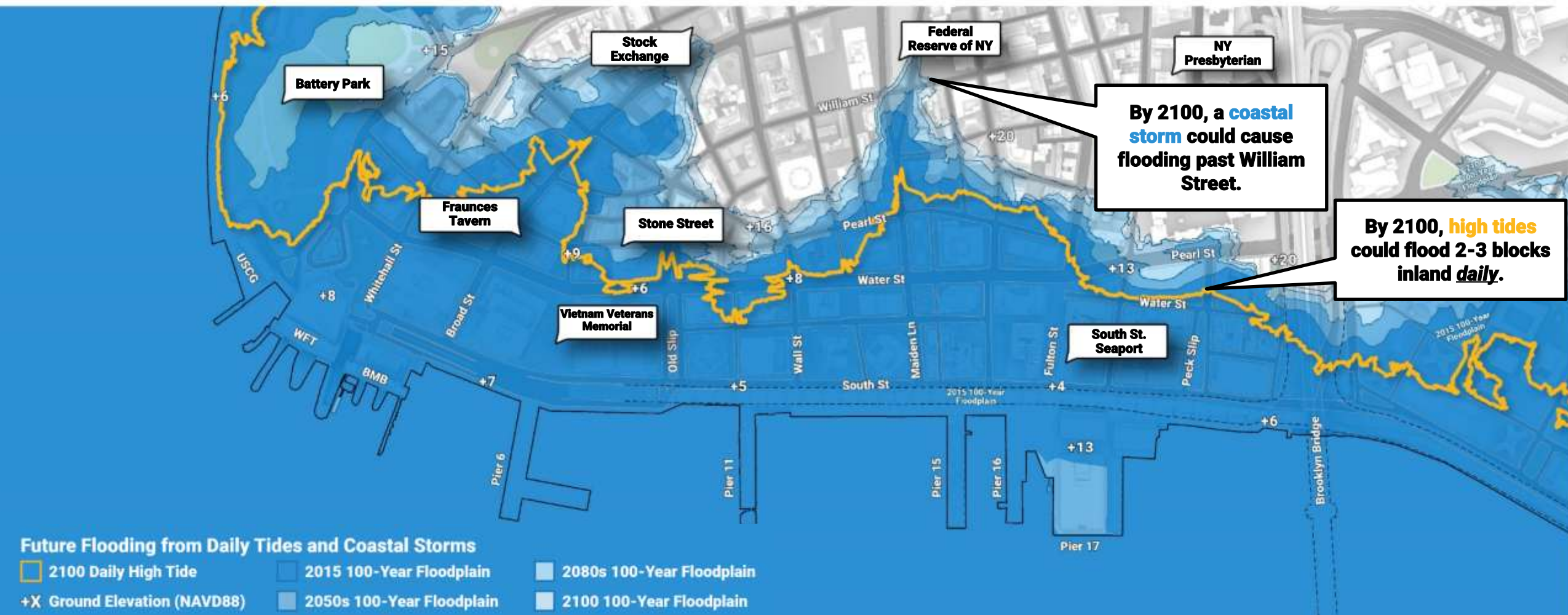
**Rainfall Event – Sept 2023 –
FDR Drive in Manhattan near
the Williamsburg Bridge**



Highly-Urban Area with Numerous Shoreline Uses – Space-limited



The Master Plan will protect the Financial District & Seaport from two types of flood hazards – **daily tidal flooding** and **coastal storms**.



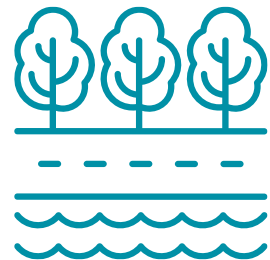
The master plan aimed to establish a resilience strategy for Lower Manhattan, designed to achieve the following goals:



Protect Lower Manhattan from daily tidal flooding and coastal storms



Integrate our climate resilience infrastructure into the city



Enhance the public waterfront experience

Ingredients



Flood Defense



Stormwater Management



Resilient Maritime Infrastructure



Access and Circulation



Energy & Sustainability



Existing Public Destinations

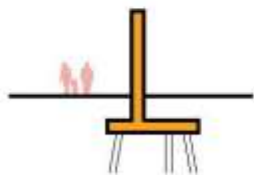


Multi-level Waterfront Experiences



New Community Amenities

Siting Coastal Defense Infrastructure



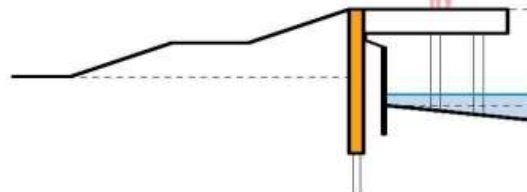
Floodwall

Dimensions: 10-15 feet foundation width; approximately 18-20 feet clearance to construct. 15 feet on each side of the floodwall is recommended for access, maintenance & inspections, with exceptions for short stretches.



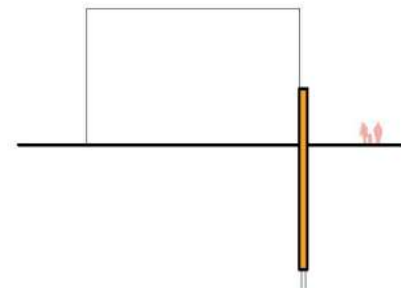
Buried Floodwall

Dimensions: Approximately 50 feet width based on average shoreline elevation (10-foot crown [top on levee] with 3:1 (H:V) slopes recommended). 15 feet on each side of the floodwall is recommended for access, maintenance & inspections, with exceptions for short stretches.



Bulkhead (or Caisson)

Dimensions: Approximately 35 feet width when including sheet pile at water's edge and anchors and tiebacks to stabilize the structure. Recommend maintaining access across the whole tieback system and with option for visual inspection and maintenance from waterside.

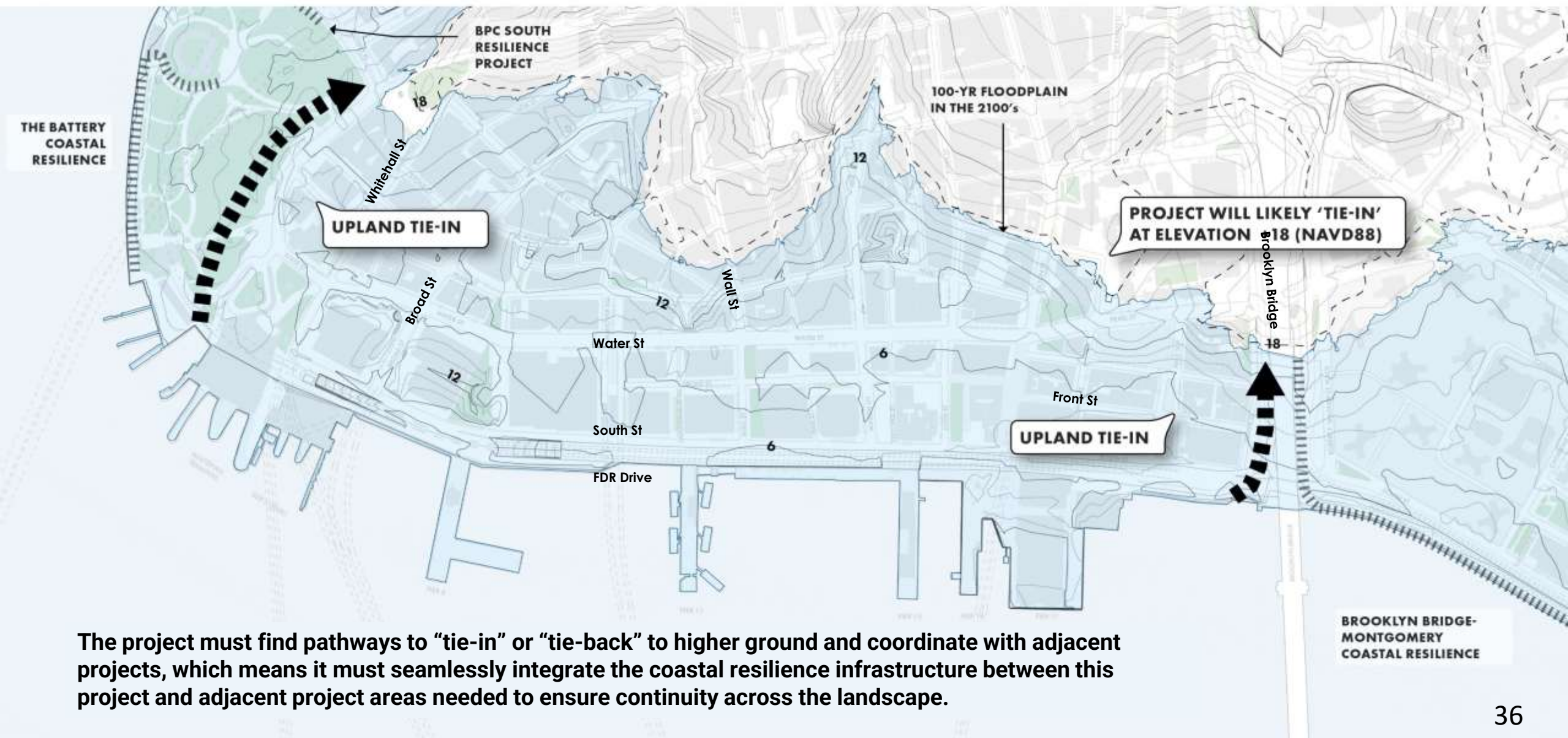


Integrated with Buildings / Infrastructure

Dimensions: assumes either floodwall or buried floodwall type system. Challenges with maintaining 15 feet on each side for maintenance, but access on at least one side (15 feet) would be required.

The Project Area is not conducive to these traditional coastal defense infrastructure solutions due to both above and below ground infrastructure conflicts and the need to provide access to the waterfront.

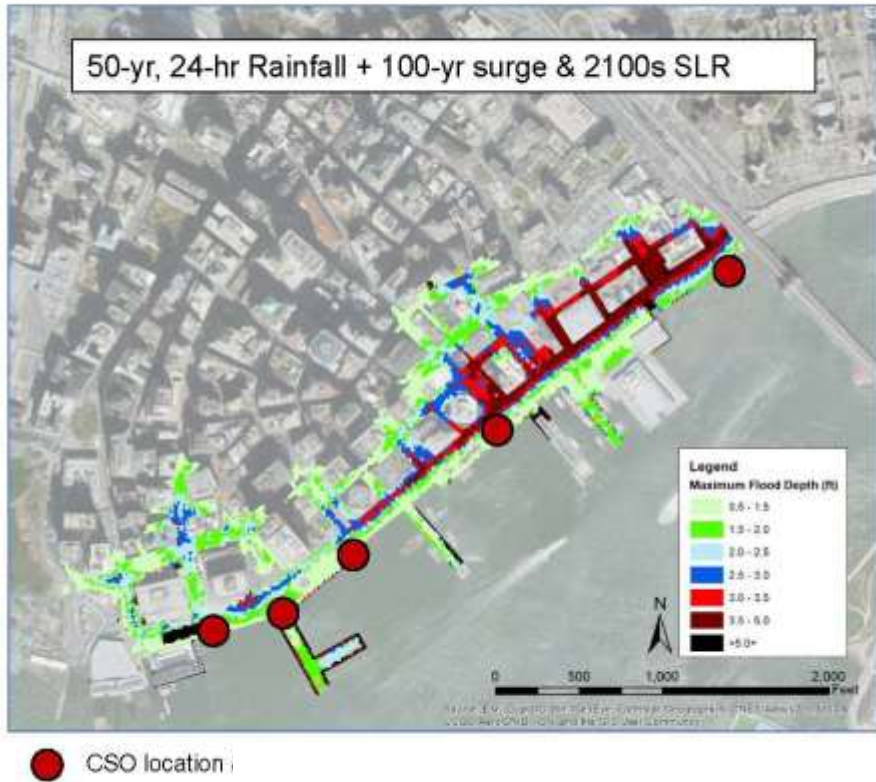
Tie-Ins to Higher Ground



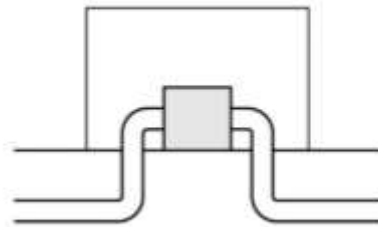
The project must find pathways to “tie-in” or “tie-back” to higher ground and coordinate with adjacent projects, which means it must seamlessly integrate the coastal resilience infrastructure between this project and adjacent project areas needed to ensure continuity across the landscape.

Drainage

Large scale drainage infrastructure will be required for our flood protection system to work. This will likely include a combination of pumping and storage to manage stormwater volumes.



Additional study is underway to optimize the use of both pumps and storage features, as well as site drainage infrastructure.



Water to be Managed:

- 47 MG of water must be managed across the study area across the six CSO outfall locations (50-year, 24-hour rainfall + 100-year surge and 2100s SLR)

Drainage Infrastructure Options

- A pump station footprint may vary in size from 15,000 SF to up to 100,000 SF (a full city block) and is largely above ground
- One centralized pump station or multiple smaller pump stations are being considered based on feedback and coordination with NYC DEP
- A storage tank would be sized in direct proportion to the amount of water to be stored, requiring significant above or below ground space
- There is limited space available to site the facilities that would be required

The Master Plan

3

A floodwall, 15 to 18 feet higher than the waterfront today, provides protection from coastal storms

5

A new pump station manages stormwater to prevent flooding behind the line of flood defense

4

Limited floodgates are stored along the shoreline during normal weather conditions and closed during coastal storms

Community-serving uses – from lawns to playgrounds to indoor spaces – are integrated throughout

The master plan is compatible with the FDR Drive viaduct as it is today or a future replacement, such as a surface-level boulevard

2

Shoreline is raised three to five feet higher than today in response to future tidal flooding

1

The shoreline is extended into the East River approximately 90 to 200 feet to make space for flood defense infrastructure

A public esplanade provides continuous connections along the shoreline

Resilient ferry terminals and maritime facilities are reconstructed along the shoreline

Opportunities to enhance habitats for fish and other aquatic organisms line the shore

Proposed Waterfront - Sunny Day

COVES

New coves, with wave screening and habitat enhancements, support the health of the river's aquatic ecosystems and provide educational opportunities for New Yorkers to learn about harbor ecosystems.

GATEWAYS

During normal weather conditions, gateways provide openings in the ridges for people to walk directly to the esplanade, providing views of the river from the city. Floodgates will be closed ahead of a coastal storm.

ESPLANADE

A raised esplanade protects against tidal flooding and provides access along the entire waterfront for people to connect to the water's edge and the ferries, boats, and piers located here.

RIDGES

Floodwalls buried under the landscape create a line of ridges along this waterfront, permanently protecting Lower Manhattan from coastal storm flooding and creating new open spaces with expansive views of the harbor.

SLOPES

Universally accessible pathways sloping up and down the ridges create connections between the city and the water's edge.

Proposed Waterfront - Storm Event

BOATS

Ferries, boats, and ships are safely moved outside the area.

FLOODGATES

Ahead of a coastal storm, floodgates that are stored out of view along the shoreline are closed, completing a continuous line of flood defense.

PUBLIC-SERVING USES

Behind the flood defense infrastructure, open space, playgrounds, and community-serving buildings are protected.

ESPLANADE

To provide protection from future tides while remaining at the water's edge, the esplanade is designed using materials and plantings that can withstand flooding.

Implementation Roadmap

Implementing this project will require securing approvals, seeking multiple funding sources, and timely construction.



Regulatory

- Coordinating with key agencies through the Aquatic Resources Advisory Committee
- Estimating potential in-water footprint and mitigation needs



Construction

- Development of technically feasible and constructable project design
- Estimating project timeline and development of phasing strategy



Funding and Financing

- Exploring wide range of new and existing funding sources
- Identification of implementation pathways for prioritized sources
- Ongoing delivery coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project

US Army Corps New England District Lessons Learned

April 30, 2025



A Piece of a Connected & Resilient Waterfront



Flood Barrier System Alignment



Future Flood Risk

LEGEND

- SWEL* DURING A 100-YEAR STORM EVENT WITH 2.5 FT OF SLR
- PROJECT AREA
- FERRY ROUTE

STILL WATER ELEVATION (SWEL) DOES NOT INCLUDE WAVE ACTION



Project Site



Delivery Method

- Progressive Design Build
 - Client: Battery Park City Authority (NY State Authority)
 - Turner EE Cruz JV prime contractor
 - Arcadis – lead designer
- Phase 1 Design / Phase 2 Construction
- Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be at 90% design
- Design kick-off fall of 2022
- Currently in the 90% Design Phase
- Environmental approvals expected summer 2025
- GMP Fall of 2025
- Construction:
 - Early / Prep Work Late Fall 2025
 - Main Project Winter 2026

Project Team

CLIENT TEAM:

CLIENT:



ADVISORS:



CONSULTANTS:



DESIGN-BUILD TEAM:

PRIMARY CONTRACT:



CONSULTANT:



SUB-CONSULTANTS:



Delivery Method – Lessons Learned

- From Design Perspective
- Schedule Driven
 - Good for fast track
 - Some rework has been needed due to late stakeholder input
 - Keeping stakeholders / agencies “on schedule” is challenging
- Owner was not sure what they wanted – PDB was the right choice
- Owner retained environmental approvals – might not be the most efficient split of responsibilities
- Shared responsibility (owner / contractor / designer) to manage costs

Lessons Learned – Urban Integration

- Stakeholder Input will be mixed
- Need for flood protection will be questioned
- Desire to maintain everything as is
- Invisible, Inexpensive, Instant solutions are preferred (😊)

Existing



South Cove | View of Lower Ramp

Proposed

NORTHWEST BATTERY PARK CITY RESILIENCY PROJECT



Existing Wood Deck to Remain

New Planting along Edge

Textured Wall with Storm Elevation Markers Sign

Wall height varies 6'-10' from esplanade (DFE +19.5')

FBS Wall

+ 9.50'

+ 5.75'

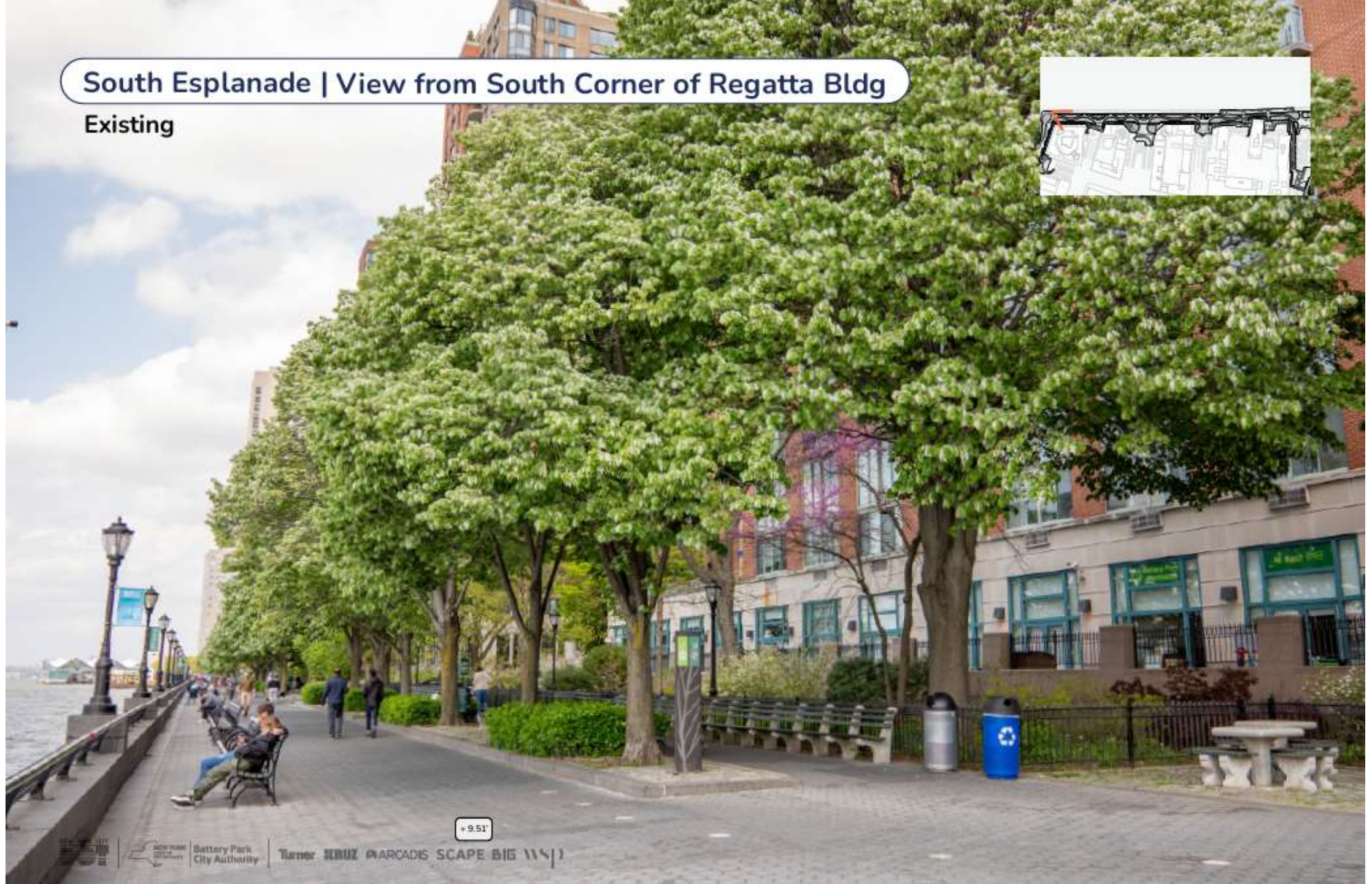
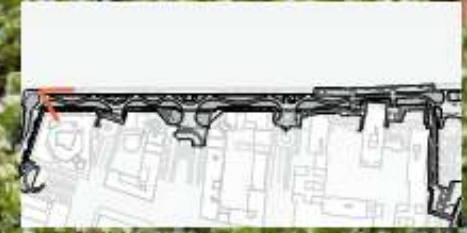
+ 7.00'

+ 13.00'



South Esplanade | View from South Corner of Regatta Bldg

Existing



+9.51'

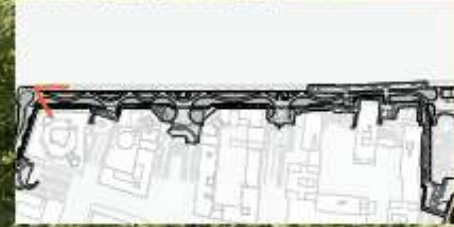


Battery Park
City Authority

Turner ERUZ MARCADIS SCAPES BIG WS |

South Esplanade | View from South Corner of Regatta Bldg

Proposed



Existing Esplanade
Preserved

Existing Trees
(Preserved)

Meandering
Forest Walk

Enlarged
Planting Buffer

FBS Wall

Wall Height:
9.5' from Forest Walk
(DFE +19.7')

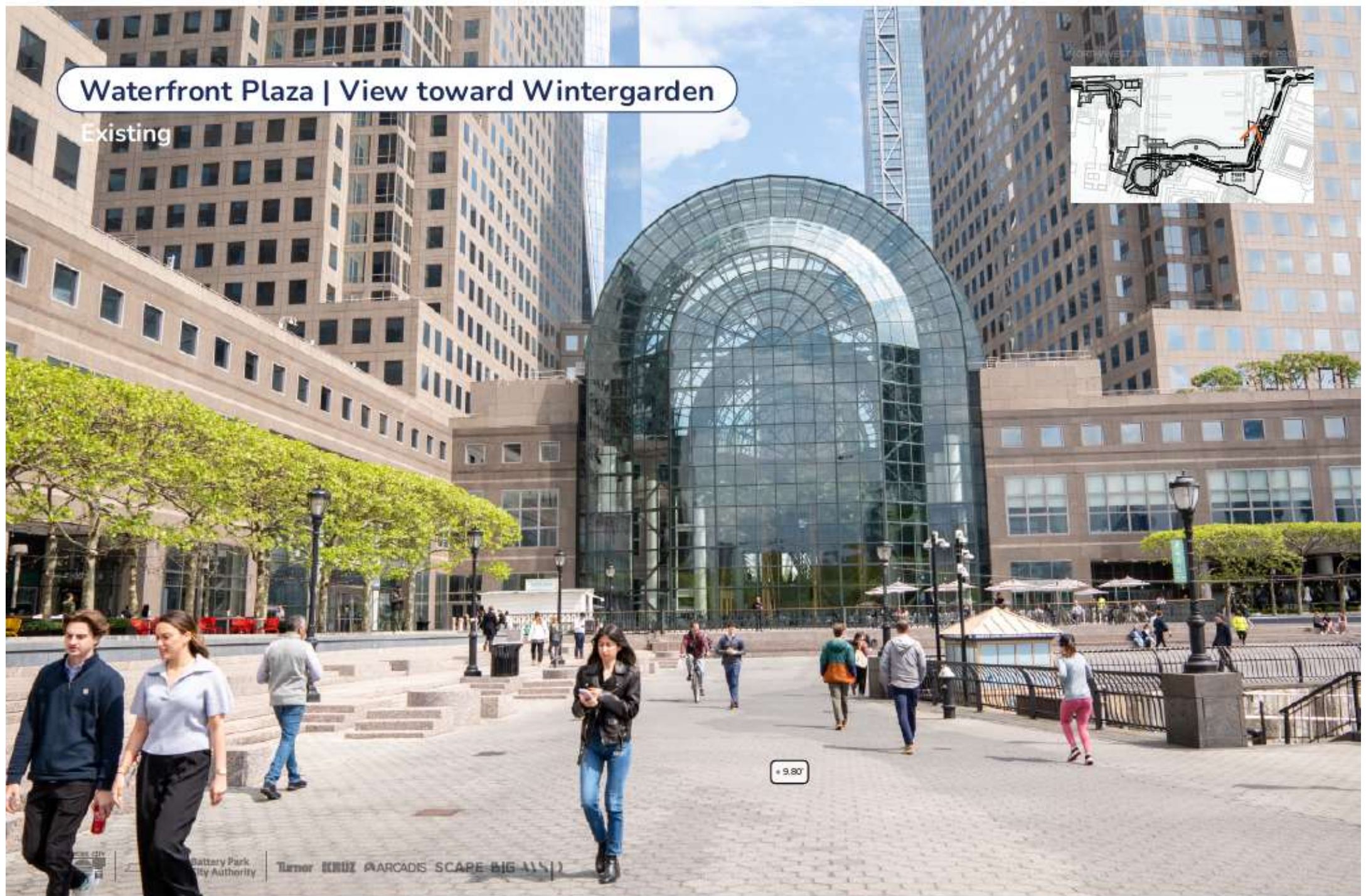
9.7'

+ 10'

+ 9.51'

Waterfront Plaza | View toward Wintergarden

Existing



Waterfront Plaza | View toward Wintergarden

Proposed

New Trees and
Planting and Shade

Integrated
Wheelchair Spaces

Integrated Planter
and Seating

Universal Access
Throughout

New Access From Upper
to Lower Esplanade

FBS Wall

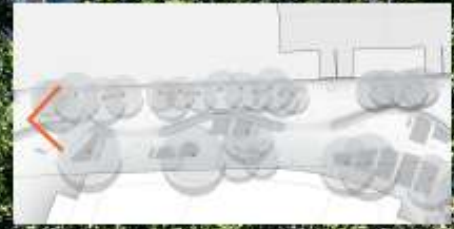
+ 9.80'

Esplanade Circulation
Maintains 20' Clear Minimum



Esplanade and Ferry Terminal | View to North

Existing



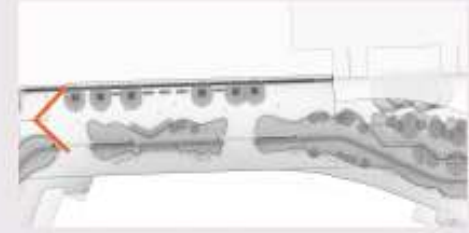
Wall height 4.5' from
esplanade (el. +14')

+9.50'

Esplanade and Ferry Terminal | View to North

Proposed

NORTHWEST BATTERY PARK CITY RESILIENCY PROJECT



Custom Lounge Seating

FBS Wall

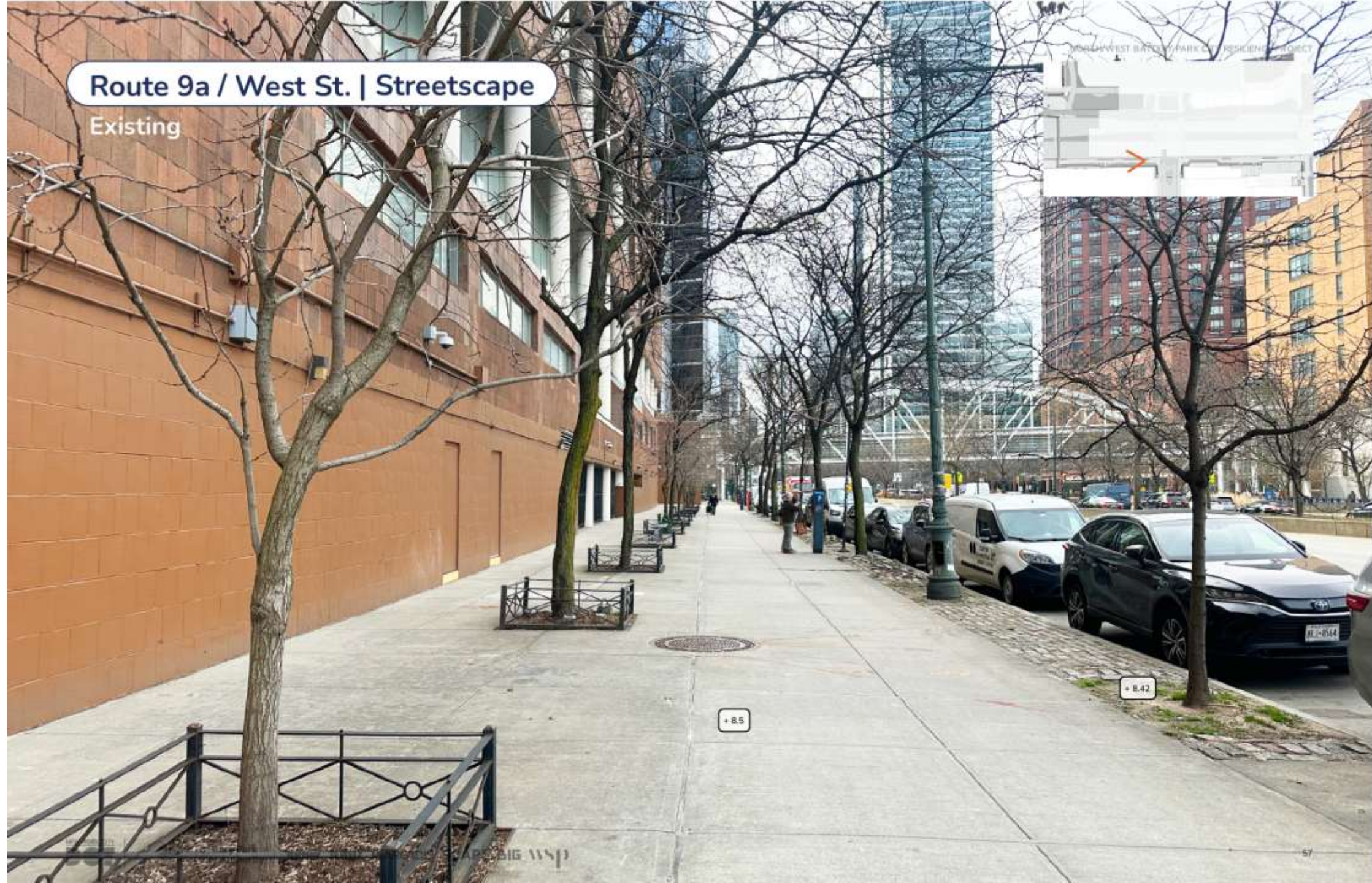
Wall height 4' from esplanade (DFE +16.5')

+12.50'

+12.50'

Route 9a / West St. | Streetscape

Existing



+ 8.5

+ 8.42

Route 9a / West St. | Streetscape

Proposed (Preliminary Submittal)

FBS Wall

Top of Wall:
+18'

FBS Offset
8 Ft Off of
BMCC Facade

New BMCC
Egress Stair

Trees and Planting Along
Street Edge Provides Protected
Pedestrian Experience

NYCDOT Bench and
Companion Seating

9.5'

+ 8.5



Integrated Flood Wall / Platform / Esplanade

- Replace Existing Esplanade / Waterfront Platform with an Integrated Floodwall Structure
- Looked at this for several Boston locations



Reach 2 | Section

Proposed

ORIGINAL PLATFORM

NEW PLATFORM

UNIT OF WORK

FBS UPPER PROMENADE STAIR MAIN CIRCULATION PLANTING BED EXPANDED WATERFRONT
8'-8" 4'-0" 20'-8" 5'-1" 7'-3"

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

+14.8'

+12.0'

+12.0'

+17.0' FBS COLUMN

+13.8' (100 YEAR FLOOD
+2.5' SLR, DESIGN STILL
WATER ELEVATION)

+2.28 (MHHW)

-2.77 (MLLW)

NORTH/WEST BATTERY PARK CITY RESILIENCY PROJECT



UNIT OF WORK

North Esplanade | View from Esplanade

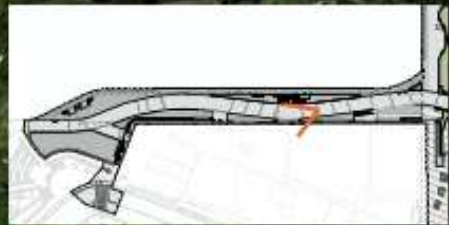
Existing



North Esplanade | View from Esplanade

Proposed

NORTHWEST BATTERY PARK CITY RESIDENCY PROJECT



Deployable Location

Enhanced Privacy Buffer

FBS Wall

Wall Height:
1.5' from path
(DFE +16.5')

1.5'

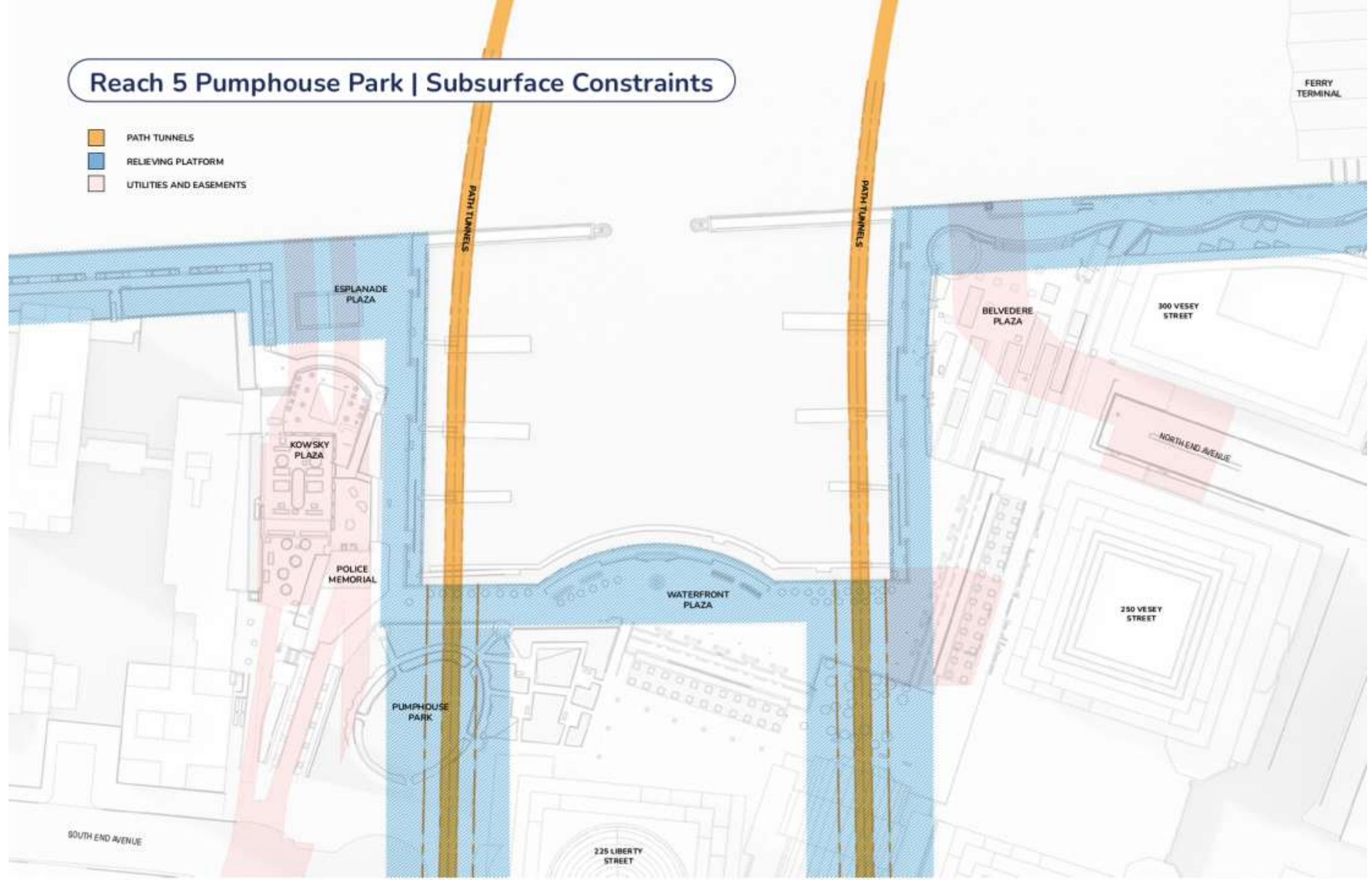
Overlook and
Access to Waterfront

+ 15.00'

Widened
Pedestrian Path

Reach 5 Pumphouse Park | Subsurface Constraints

-  PATH TUNNELS
-  RELIEVING PLATFORM
-  UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS



Reach 5 | COMBINED

Move FBS 18'3.5" West

- 15' Offset
- Current FBS alignment



TIES BACK INTO EXISTING FBS

DINING AREA REDUCED BY 360 SQ FT

3 TREES IMPACTED

CIRCULATION REDUCED 12.5'

FBS MOVED WEST 18'3.5"

TIES BACK INTO FBS

NO TREES IMPACTED

Bridging Structure Schematic

