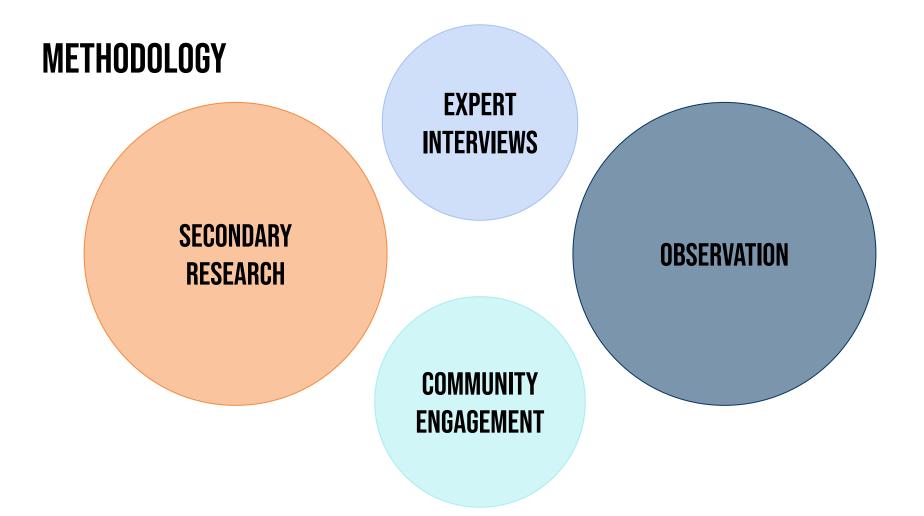
CURBSIDE CHAOS: REFORMING THE CURB, RECLAIMING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY







Walker Johnston — August 4, 2022



WHAT IS THE CURBSIDE LANE?

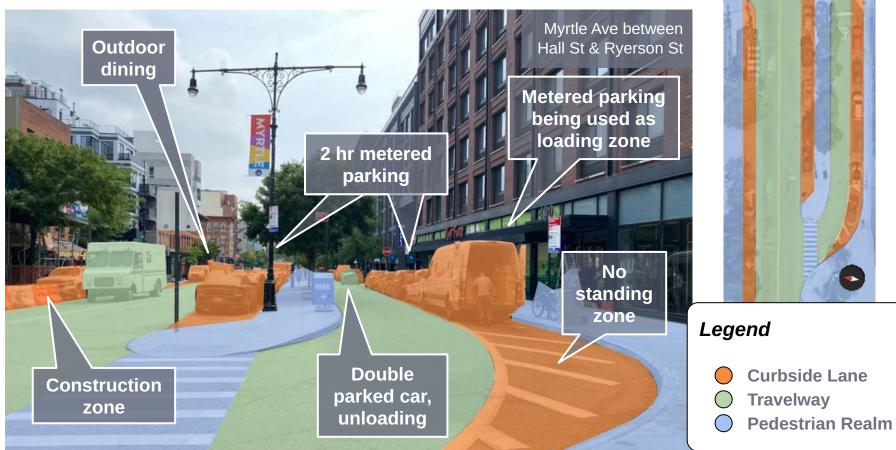




Legend

Curbside LaneTravelwayPedestrian Realm

HOW IS IT USED?



CURBSIDE LANE OBSERVATIONS IN NYC













CURBSIDE LANE OBSERVATIONS IN NYC













CURBSIDE LANE OBSERVATIONS IN SEATTLE & SAN DIEGO

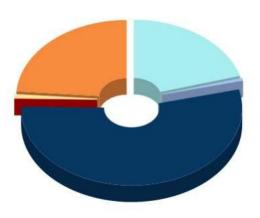






CAR DOMINANCE IN THE STREETSCAPE IN NYC

75% of the shared streetscape is dedicated to the movement and storage of vehicles.



- Free on-street car parking
- Metered on-street car parking
- Vehicle travel lanes
- Bus-only lanes
- Bike lanes
- Sidewalks

Streets and

sidewalks make up

80% of public

spaces in cities.

Source: Transportation Alternatives



METERED PARKING



EV CHARGING STATIONS





Image Source: NYC DOT

CAR SHARE

PARSHARE PARKING ONLY

Image Source: NYC DOT



BIKE SHARE





BUS-ONLY LANES



Image Source: Walker Johnston



TAXI & FHV RELIEF STANDS



NEIGHBORHOOD LOADING ZONES



LOADING ZONES









CURB EXTENSIONS

Image Source: Walker Johnston

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE





OPEN RESTAURANTS









IN-PERSON OUTREACH ON OPEN STREETS

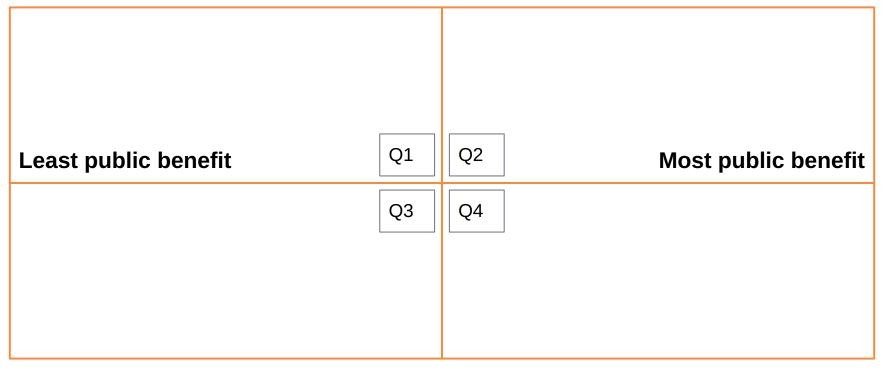




What would you like to see in the curbside lane?

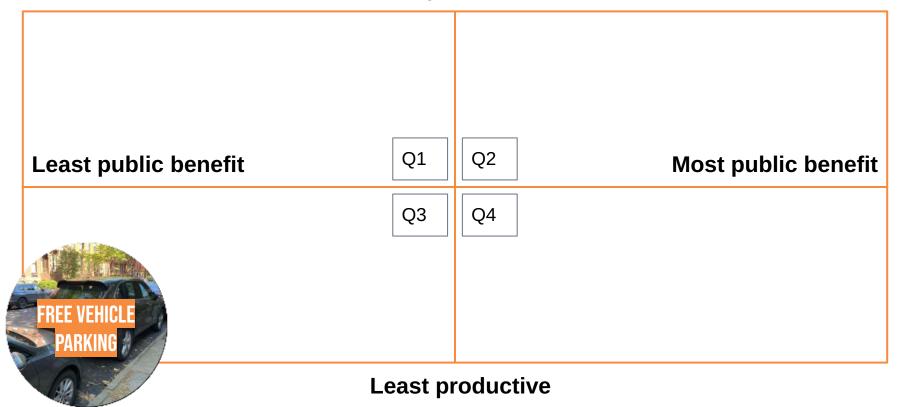
Responses: public pool — a place to chit-chat, gossip, and people-watch — community garden — live music — dj — dancing — moving walkway — bidirectional bike lane — public restrooms — parklet (small public space) — restaurants — a place to eat without paying or going to a restaurant — English Country Dance — CitiBike stations

Most productive

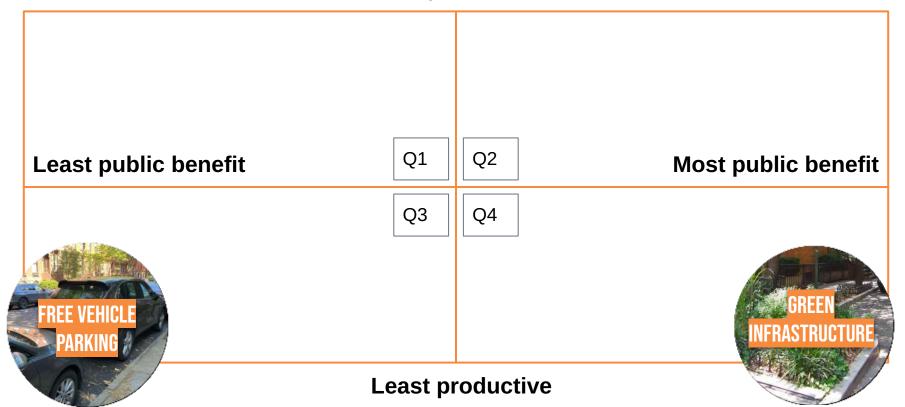


Least productive

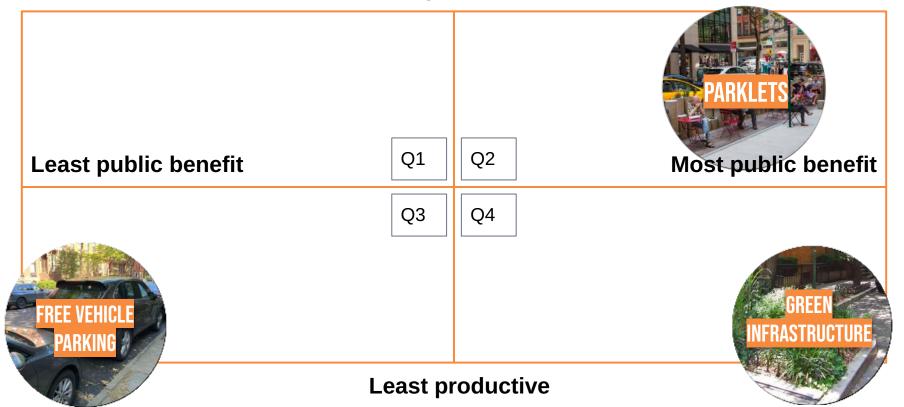
Most productive



Most productive



Most productive







GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The curbside should be managed, designed, and used for the **community's benefit.**

The curbside must play a role in **climate change adaptation** and neighborhood **livability.** Communities should have equitable access to resources that give them agency in initiating changes at the curb.

Curb reform should support **safety** of all community members & move toward **self-enforcing street design.** Curb regulations and usage should be transparent and accessible by the public.

Curbside management should prioritize productivity and flexibility over fixed uses.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

STREAMLINE INFORMATION ABOUT CURB USAGE AND PROGRAMS ON DOT WEBSITE UNDER ONE BRANCH DEVOTED TO CURBSIDE MANAGEMENT.

NVC



Home

About NYC DOT

Pedestrians

Bicyclists

Ferries & Buses

Motorists & Parking

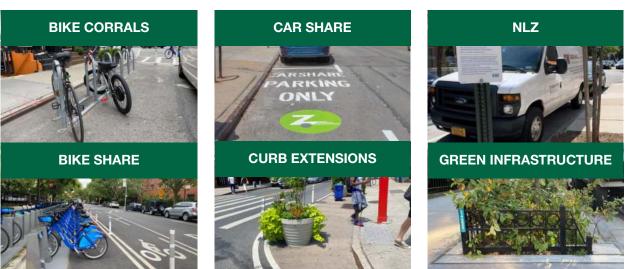
Infrastructure

Curb Management

Contact NYC DOT

Curb Management

NYC DOT is responsible for managing the curbside lane, which is part of the public right-of-way. While car parking is currently the dominant use, the curb is home to a variety of programs that benefit all New Yorkers. Learn more about alternate uses of the curb and how to request them!

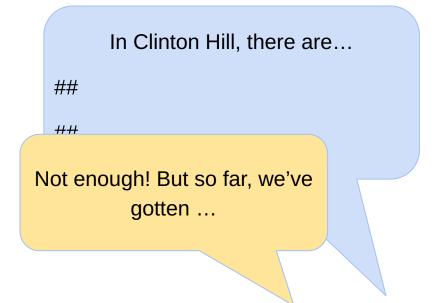


RECOMMENDATION 2:

HOUSE CURB USAGE DATA WITH COMMUNITY BOARDS OR COUNCIL DISTRICTS So that it is more accessible for public use.

I wonder how much space is devoted to (free car parking, loading zones, etc.) in my neighborhood...?

> How many curb extensions have been installed in the last 5 years in Jackson Heights?



RECOMMENDATION 3:

CREATE PAID PUBLIC SPACE MANAGER POSITIONS TO HELP COMMUNITIES REPURPOSE THE CURBSIDE.

Main Policy Recommendations

- Create the Office of Public Space Management led by a commissioner appointed by the Mayor
- 2 Define sectors per community board district, each to be managed by a paid, full-time, public space manager as an adjunct to the community board
- 3 DOT to create a street hierarchy, classifying every street according to its value to the transportation network

NYC agencies create a toolkit, setting clear guidelines defining which street treatments and uses are allowed on specific types of streets. Sample Responsibilities and Impacts:

- Help community members plan and design curbside projects (in addition to other public spaces)
- Help solicit ideas surrounding the curbside and gather feedback about new curb designs and installations
- Communities feel more ownership of their public spaces and more engaged

RECOMMENDATION 4:

CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A HIERARCHY OF CURBSIDE PRIORITIES THAT ARE DEPENDENT ON LAND USE.



Flex zone functions are prioritized based on surrounding land use

HOW WE USE THE STREET



Precedent: The City of Seattle's Flex Zone/Curb Use Priorities Model

	Residential	Commercial & Mixed Use	Industrial
1	Support for Modal Plan Priorities	Support for Modal Plan Priorities	Support for Modal Plan Priorities
2	Access for People	Access for Commerce	Access for Commerce
3	Access for Commerce	Access for People	Access for People
4	Greening	Activation	Storage
5	Storage	Greening	Activation
6	Activation	Storage	Greening

Source: City of Seattle

RECOMMENDATION 5:

IMPLEMENT DAYLIGHTING CITYWIDE. DESIGN THE STREETS WITHOUT NEED TO ENFORCE NY STATE LAW PROHIBITING PARKING WITHIN 20 FT OF CROSSWALK.



SECTION 1202

Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places

Vehicle & Traffic (VAT) CHAPTER 71, TITLE 7, ARTICLE 32

No person shall: Stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger or passengers: b. Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection, unless a different distance is indicated by official signs, markings or parking meters.

Image Source: Curbed. Photo: Chris Robbins

RECOMMENDATION 6:

INCORPORATE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ON EVERY CITY STREET THAT SUPPORTS IT, PRIORITIZING NEIGHBORHOODS IN HIGH RISK OF FLOODING.

MOST OF THIS SPACE IS TAKEN UP BY CARS AND IT'S FREE PARKING ... IF WE WANT TO PRIORITIZE OUR NEEDS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION, WE NEED TO BE MORE CREATIVE IN USING THIS VERY IMPORTANT SPACE.



Washington Street in Hoboken, New Jersey. Image Source: NJ Future.

Marcel Negret, senior planner at the RPA

RECOMMENDATION 7:

EXPAND TRASH CONTAINERIZATION PROGRAM CITYWIDE AND ENSURE MANDATORY PARTICIPATION.



Clean Curbs Residential Bin Pilot in Hell's Kitchen. Image Source: Streetsblog. Source: Noah Martz Containerized trash and recycling in the curbside lane in Barcelona. Photo: Zarateman

REIMAGINING THE CURBSIDE



