



OpenPlans

Community Connectivity Score

measuring what
matters

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Bicyclist, 71, killed in crash with truck near Central Park

Reader's Perspective: 'My Son Was Killed on the Upper West Side by a Reckless Taxi Driver'

May 19, 2023 | 9:33 AM in CRIME, HISTORY, NEWS

57



STREET VIEW | JAN. 24, 2023

The Upper West Side's Zone of Pedestrian Death

By Justin Davidson, *New York Magazine's* archi

NYPD

Upper West Side Pedestrian Dies from Injury Caused by Reckless Van Driver

5:04 PM EDT on May 18, 2023



UPPER WEST SIDE & MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS Crime & Mayhem

Elderly Man Hit by Tour Bus on Upper West Side

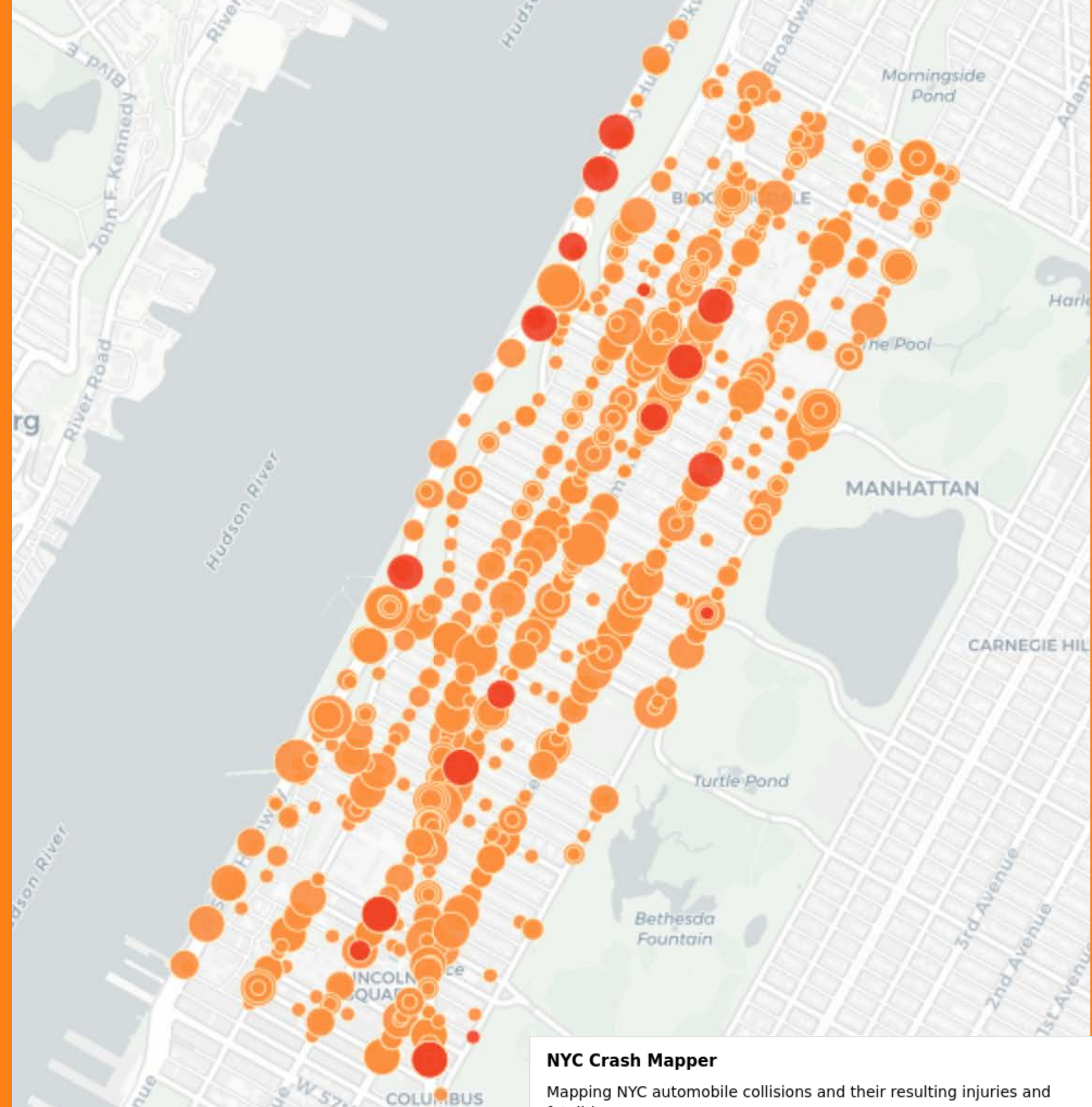
Man Killed in Upper West Side Pedestrian Accident



KSI: Killed or Severely Injured

DOT uses the metric **Killed or Severely Injured (KSI)** to measure street safety. This metric shows planners where the city has **failed** to produce **safe streets**.

The metric is **reactionary** and it's not working.



NYC Crash Mapper

Mapping NYC automobile collisions and their resulting injuries and fatalities

[chekpedz /](#)

KSI isn't working: Upper West Siders are still being harmed & killed by drivers

37 people have been killed

+520 people
have been
injured

2014

2022

2023

2024

Start of Vision
Zero, a promise
to NYers to have
zero traffic-
related deaths by
2024

Benchmark year
to achieve zero
traffic-related
deaths

Stop using KSI: what if a community-centered metric was used instead?

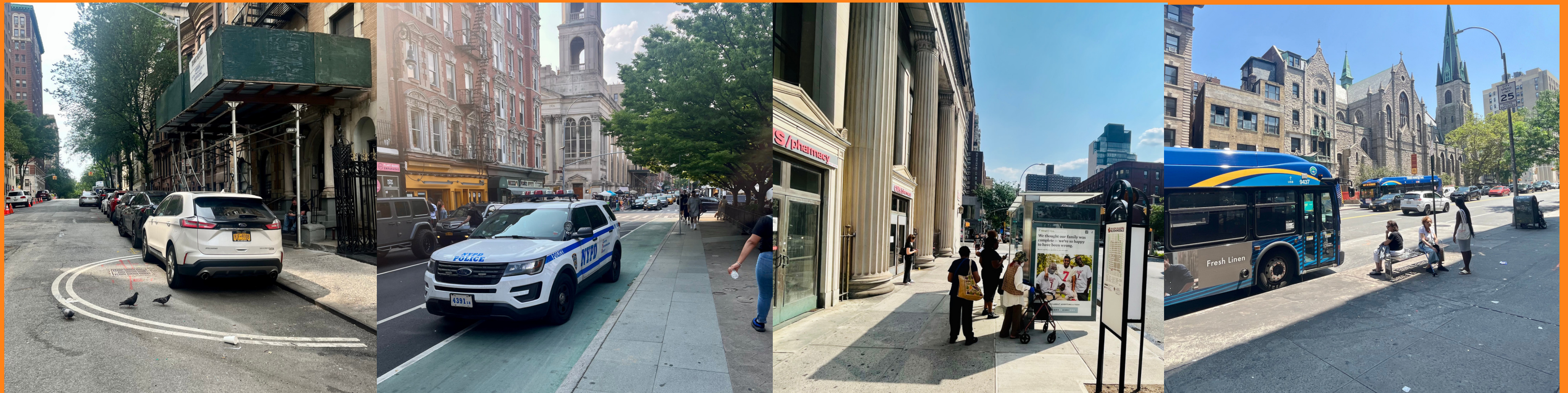
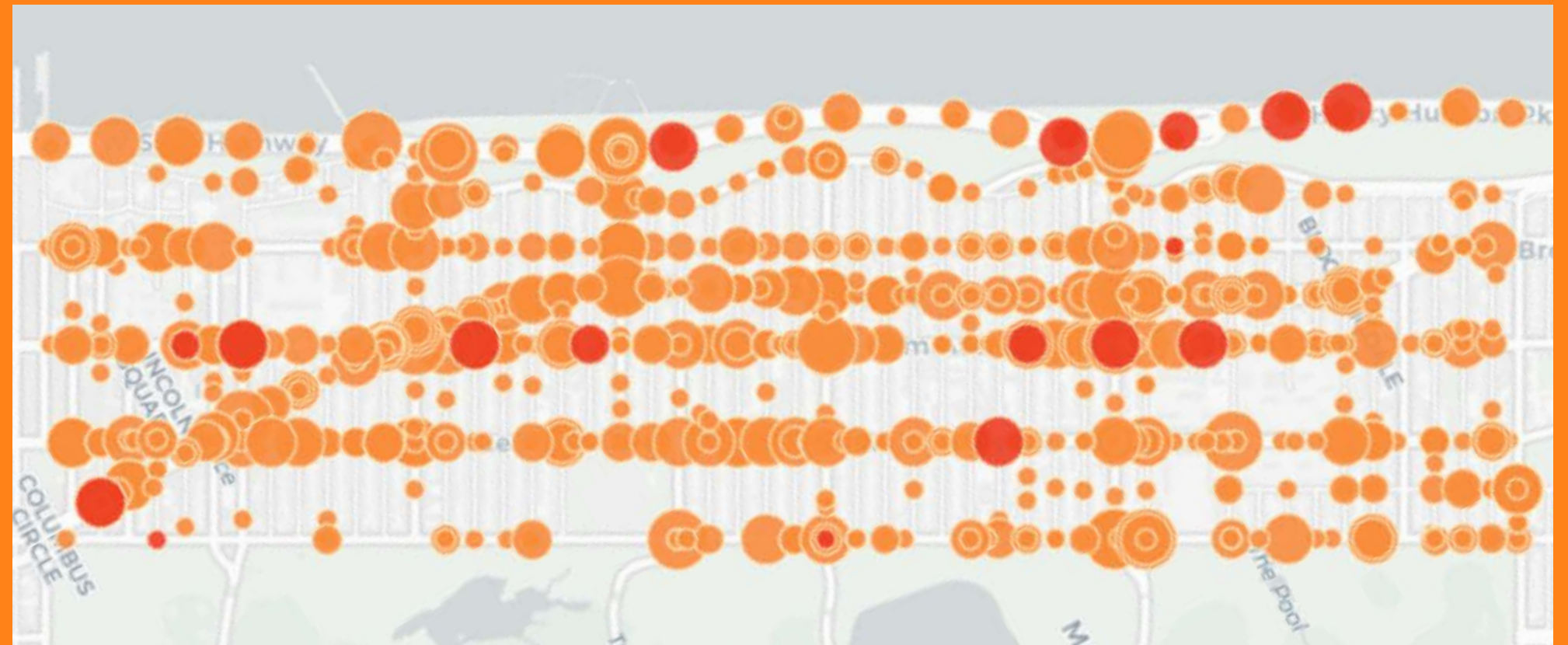
DOT has the ability to pay particular attention to each neighborhood's unique **physical and social identities**, such as quieter, tree-lined streets and neighbors knowing one another. These elements can be reinforced through **better street design**.

- **accessibility**
- **functionality**
- **safety**
- **death**
- **injury**

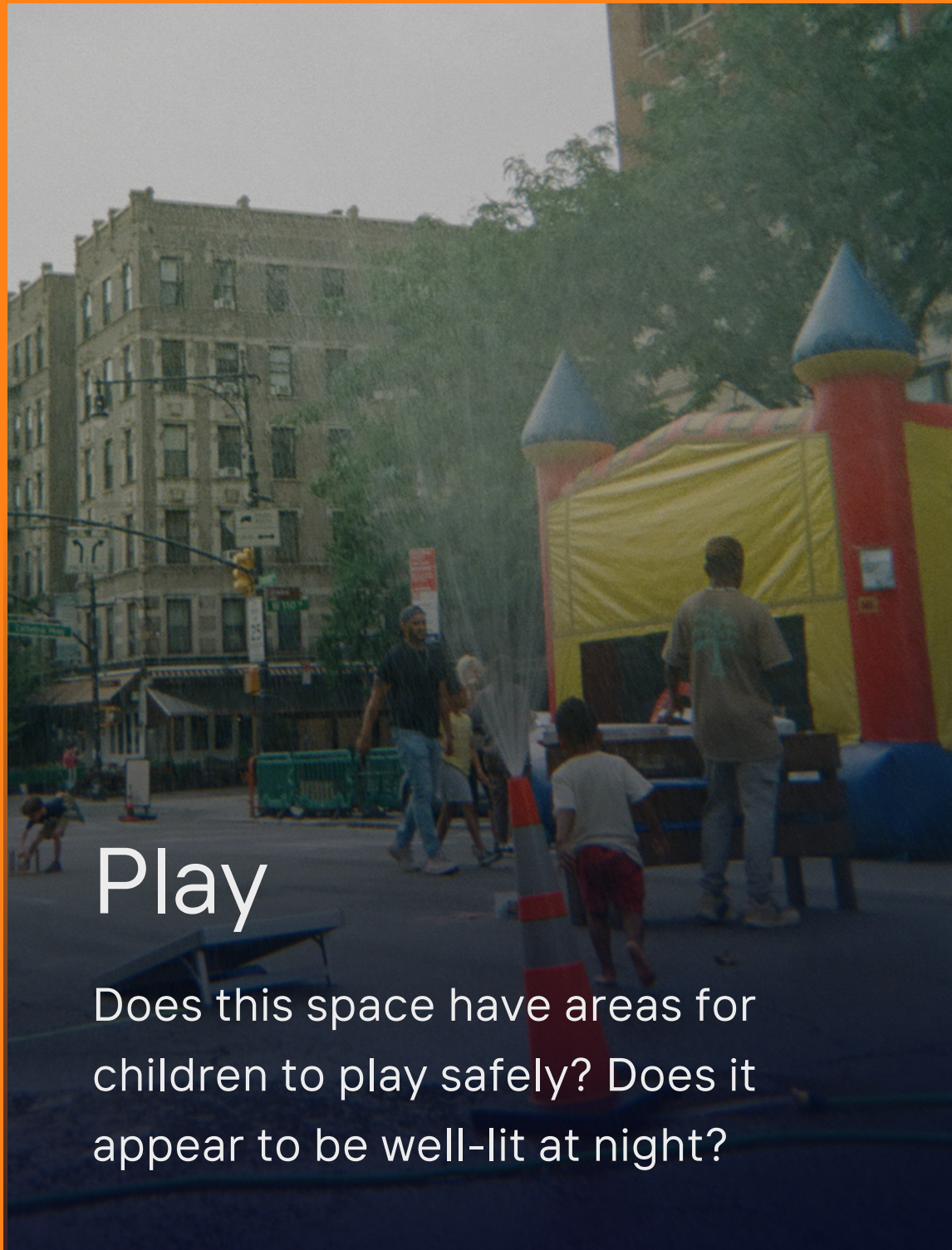


a proactive approach:

After identifying the area with the highest KSI score in the UWS, I measured their **safety features** (or lack thereof).

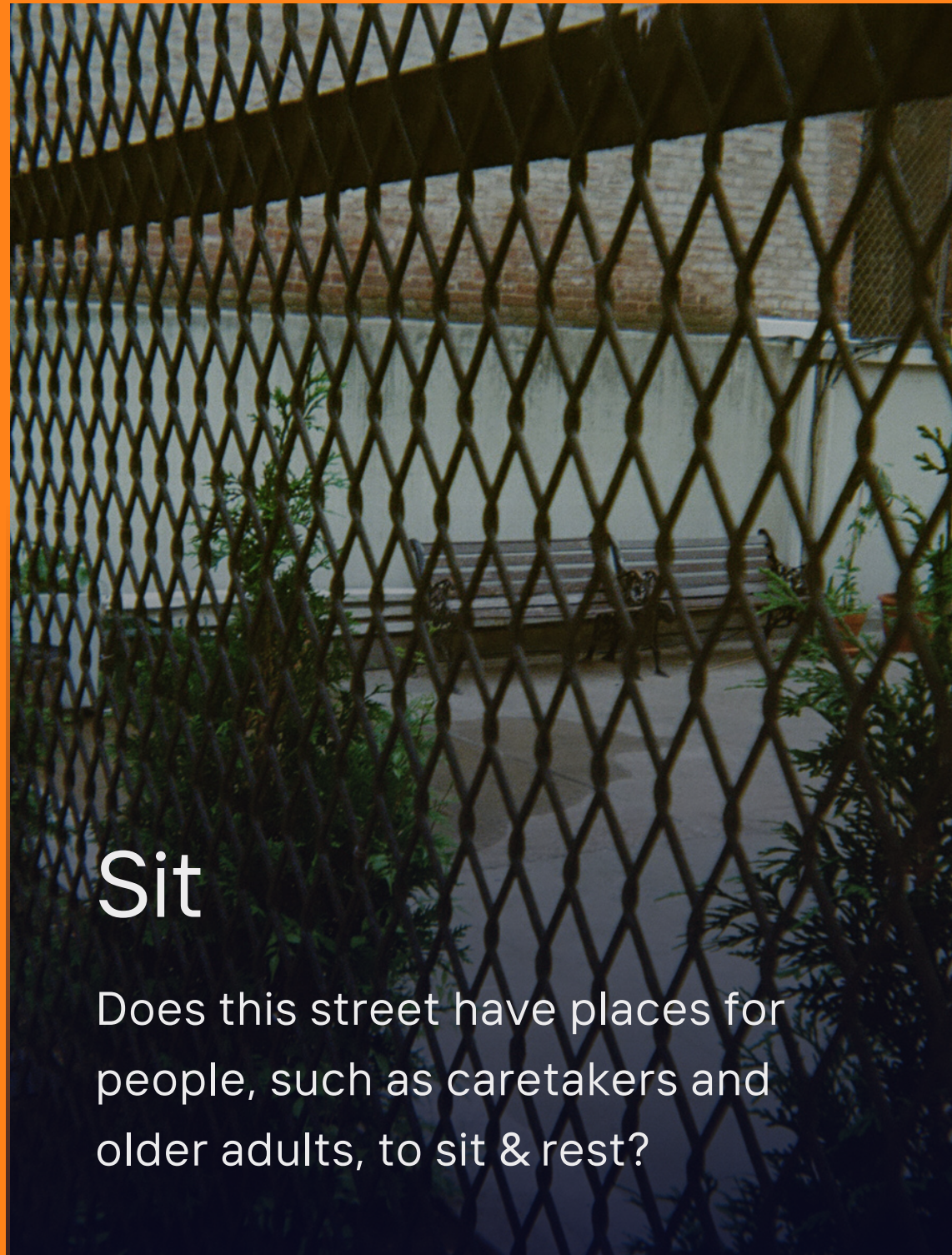


"The street is the river of **life** of the city, the place where we come **together**, the pathway to the center." -- William Whyte



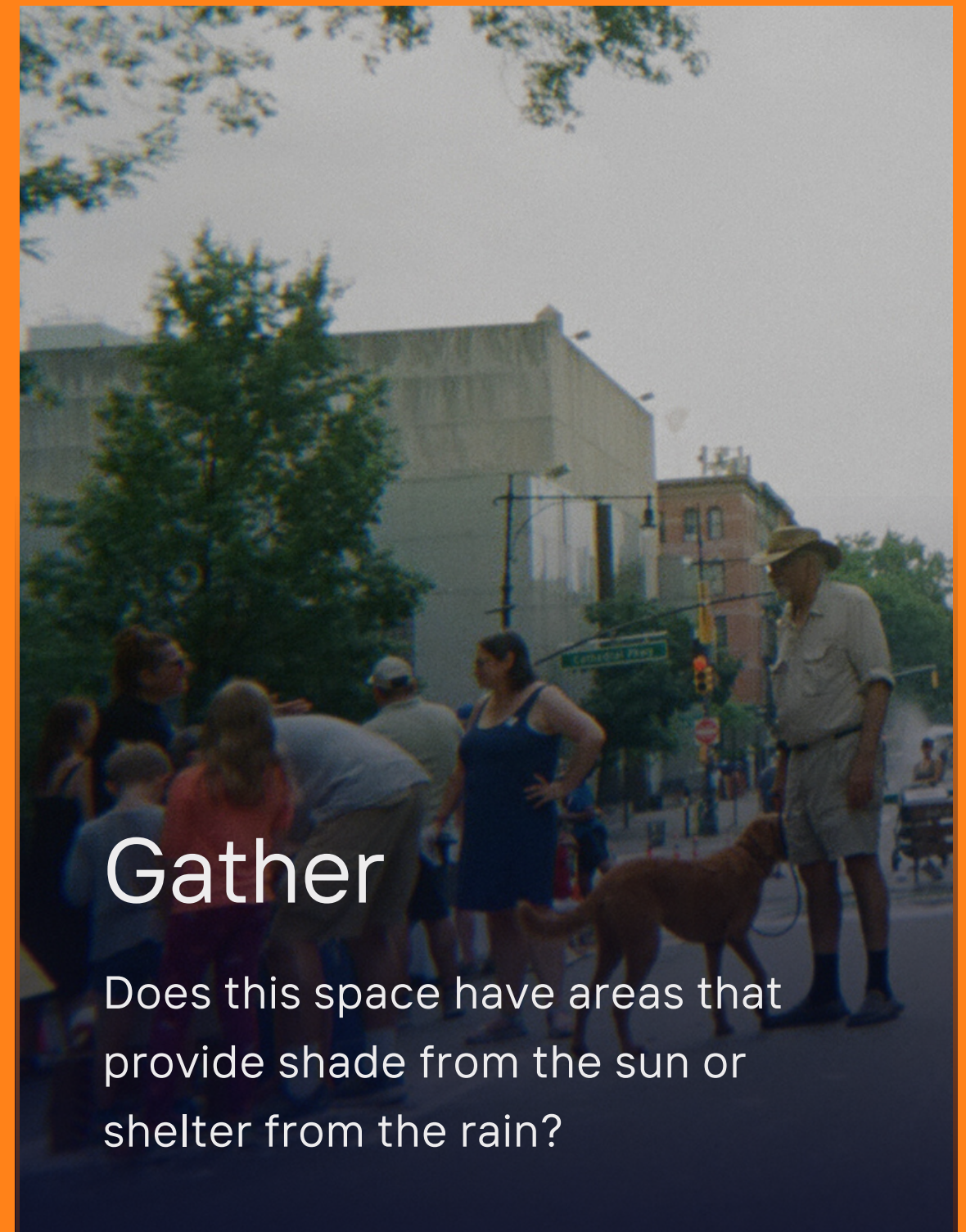
Play

Does this space have areas for children to play safely? Does it appear to be well-lit at night?



Sit

Does this street have places for people, such as caretakers and older adults, to sit & rest?

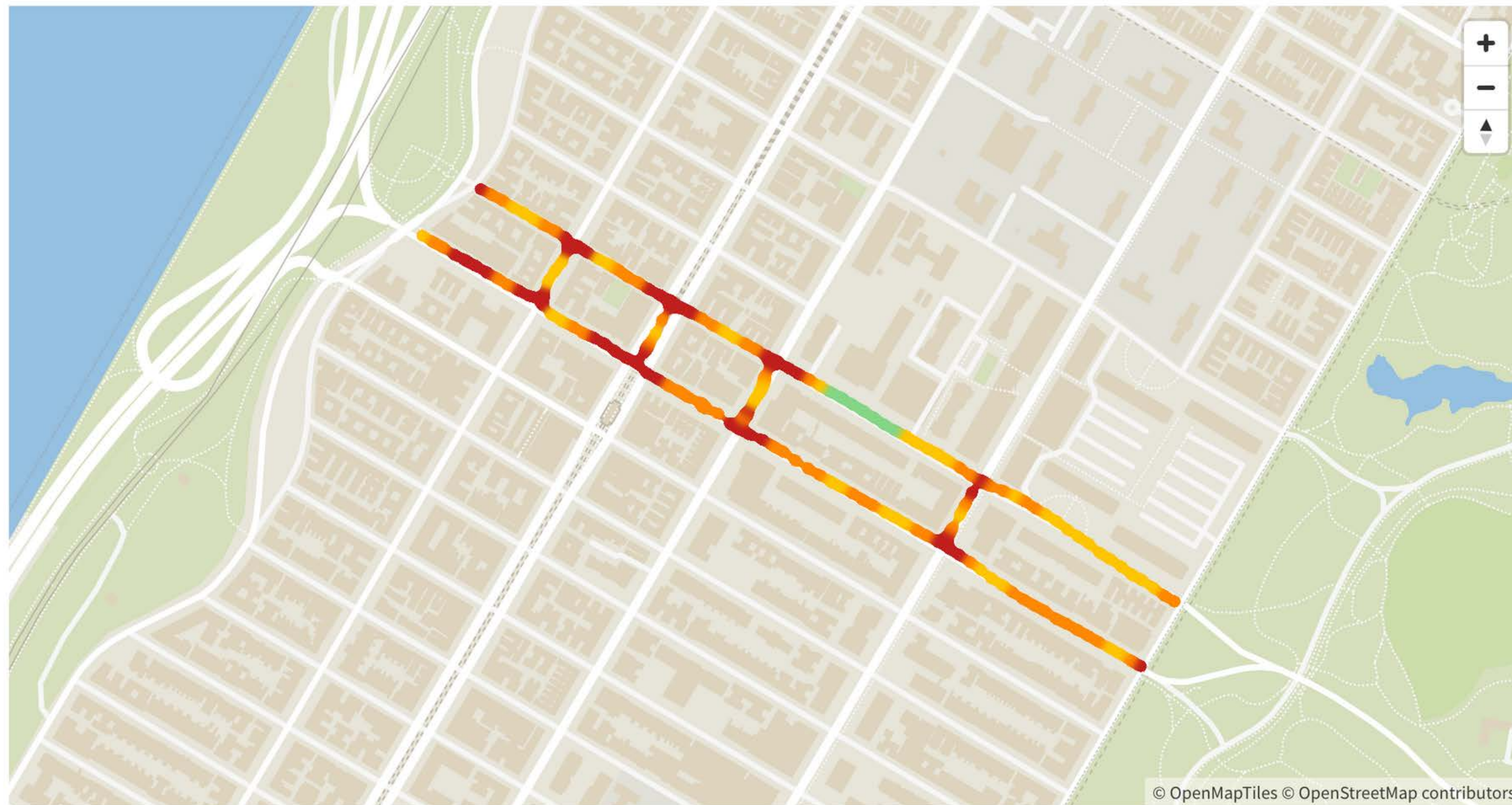


Gather

Does this space have areas that provide shade from the sun or shelter from the rain?

Community Connectivity Score

aggregate safety score legend: least safe (red) ⇒ more safe (green)



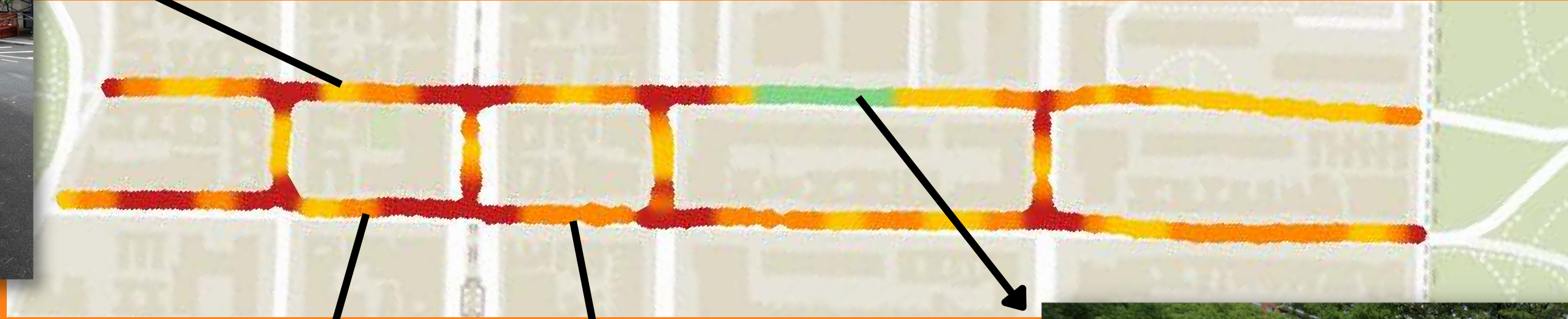
Source: k.conway summer internship 2023, [NYC OpenData](#)

Behind the numbers



Question - 96th	97.1	97.2	97.3	97.4	97.5	97.6	97.7
Does this space have areas for children to play safely?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Does this space have areas to spend time, sit and/or rest?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Could someone who has trouble walking, such as an older person or someone in a wheelchair, be able to easily enter and use this space?	Mostly Yes	Mostly Yes	Mostly...	Mostly...	Mostly...	Some...	Mostly...
Does this space have areas that provide shade from the sun or shelter from the rain?	No	No	No	No	Mostly...	Mostly...	Mostly...
Is this a space young and old can use at the same time?	Somewhat	Somewhat	Some...	Some...	Some...	Some...	Some...
Does the space appear to be well-lit at night?	Mostly Yes	Mostly Yes	Mostly...	Some...	Some...	Mostly...	Mostly...
Can you use this space year-round?	Absolutley	Absolutley	Absolu...	Absolu...	Absolu...	Absolu...	Absolu...
Aggregate Score	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.2	3	3	2.8

Behind the numbers



"I would get rid of scaffolding, and put things that I would **actually use**, like stores or chairs" -Student, 14

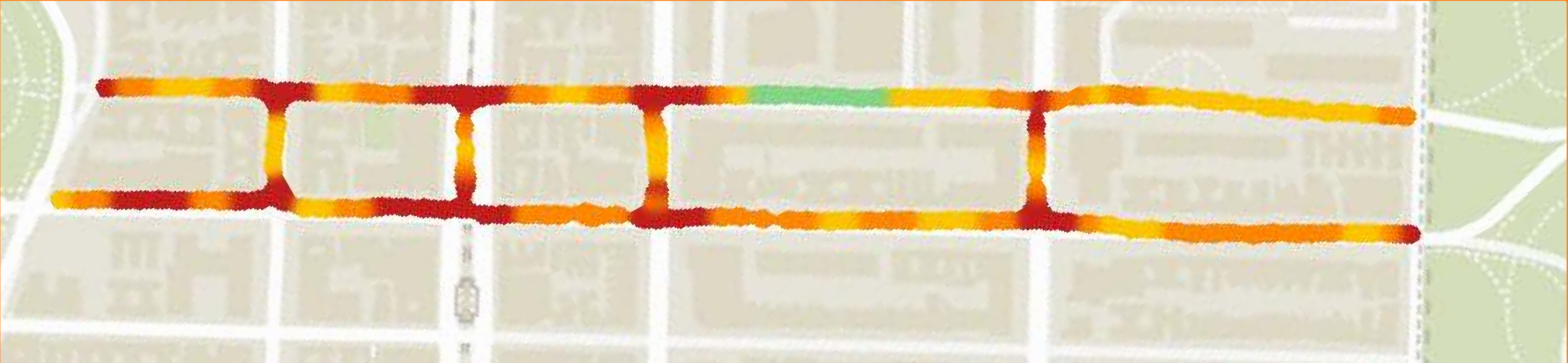


"Everybody has to commute, and it's complicated, but **it shouldn't be so unsafe.**" -Lab Technologist, 63

CrashMapper data 2013-2023



Community Connectivity data Summer 2023





The maps show the same things, but one measures harm that has been done, and the other measures where further harm can be **prevented**.

If this new metric were used, not only would it produce **safer** streets, but would also improve the overall **health** and **well-being** of the **community**.

By implementing their own safe street design at the places shown on the new map, DOT can **protect** New Yorkers, increase our **quality of life**, and prevent more of us from dying in car-related crashes.

Let's get to work: together we can measure what matters

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LINKEDIN



Q & A