

# ASTORIA FERRY STUDY

## HALLETTS POINT SITE ANALYSIS

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Community Information Session  
June 4, 2015

# Welcome and Introductions

- **NYCEDC Team**
  - James Wong – Ports & Transportation
  - Keith Dumanski – Government and Community Relations
  - Lydia Downing – Government and Community Relations
  - Andrew Genn – Ports & Transportation
  - Peter Flynt – Asset Management
- **Ferry Study Consulting Team**
  - Alan Meyers – Parsons Brinckerhoff
  - Alice Cheng – Cheng Solutions
  - Maki Onodera – CH2M Hill
  - Dan Baer – Parsons Brinckerhoff

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Project purpose and background
- Citywide Ferry Plan
- Astoria Landing
  - Technical studies
  - Neighborhood consultation
  - Transportation connections
- Breakout sessions for questions





# A history of ferries in Astoria

- **1780's** – Merchant Ferry Service established
- **1840's** – Stephen Alling Halsey Father of Astoria acquires Hell Gate Ferry Service
- **1917** - Queensboro Plaza opened and was used by trains between Grand Central and Astoria.
- **1936** - 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Ferry Depot discontinued after construction of the Triborough Bridge.
- **1951** - NYCHA Astoria Houses Campus Completed

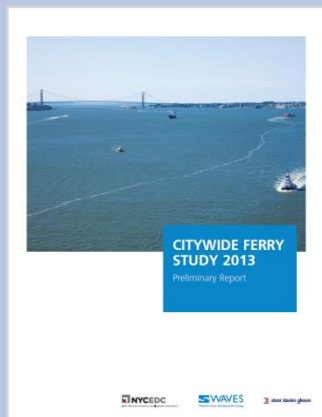
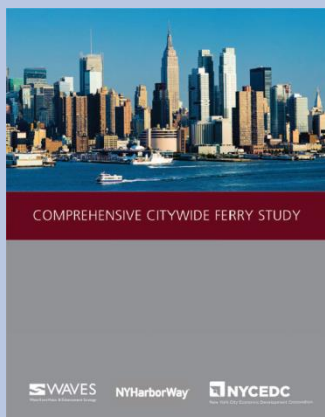


Postcard, ca. 1910, of the old 92nd Street ferry depot in Halletts Point, Astoria



Site of old ferry depot and original Halletts Cove (before Astoria Houses project)

# Astoria Ferry Study



- **2010** – Citywide Ferry Study first published.
- **2013** – Update to 2010 Citywide Ferry Study identifies several potential routes and landings including one in Astoria.
- **2014** – HPD's Astoria Cove project approved by NYC Council includes commitment from City to further study feasibility of a ferry stop in Astoria.
- **2015** – Mayor de Blasio releases Citywide Ferry Plan based on 2013 study including a commitment for ferry service to Halletts Point





# Study Purpose

- Develop concept designs for a ferry landing at Halletts Point, based on:
  - Citywide ferry program
  - Neighborhood context
  - In-water studies
  - Landside transportation access
  - Residential conditions
- Identify implementation plan with City partners:
  - NYC Dept of City Planning
  - NYC Dept of Transportation
  - NYC Housing Authority
  - NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation



# Citywide Ferry Plan

- **Staten Island Ferry**
  - NYCDOT operated
  - Free service
- **East River Ferry:**
  - E. 34th, Queens, Brooklyn, Wall St
  - EDC/City funded, privately operated
  - \$4 per trip / \$6 weekends
- **Planned network**
  - 5 new routes
  - 13 new and upgraded landings
  - System-wide base fare \$2.75
  - All routes launching in 2017-18
  - Astoria route launching in 2017!



# Transportation and Access – Main Themes

- Ferries fill in gaps between waterfront communities and subways.
  - 1 mile from Astoria Blvd subway
  - Residents near subway are unlikely to walk to ferry
- Ferries serve residents within walking distance.
  - Proposed landing near Astoria Houses and future residential
  - Saves about 15 minutes to Wall Street/Pier 11



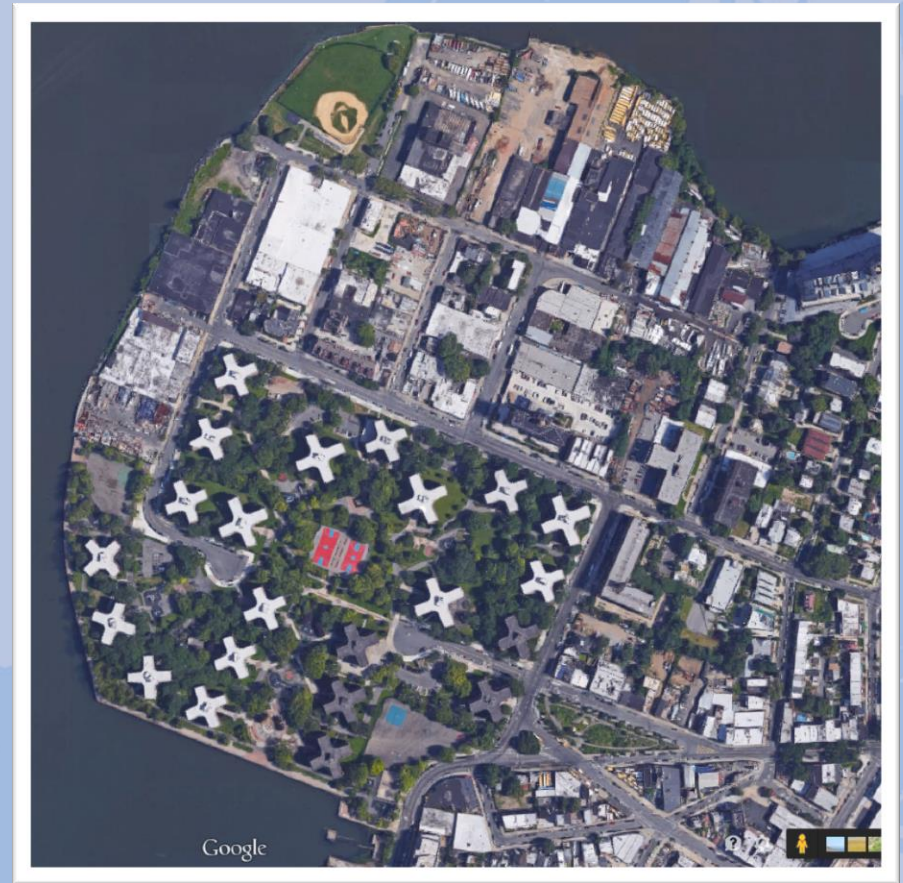


## Transportation – Access and Parking

- Surveys of actual riders in other neighborhoods show that more than 90% of regular ferry riders walk, bike or take transit to ferry landings.
- By 2025, there will be about 600 ferry riders a day from Astoria.
- In the mornings, fewer than 10 people are expected to drive to the ferry and park.

# Site Selection for Ferry Landing

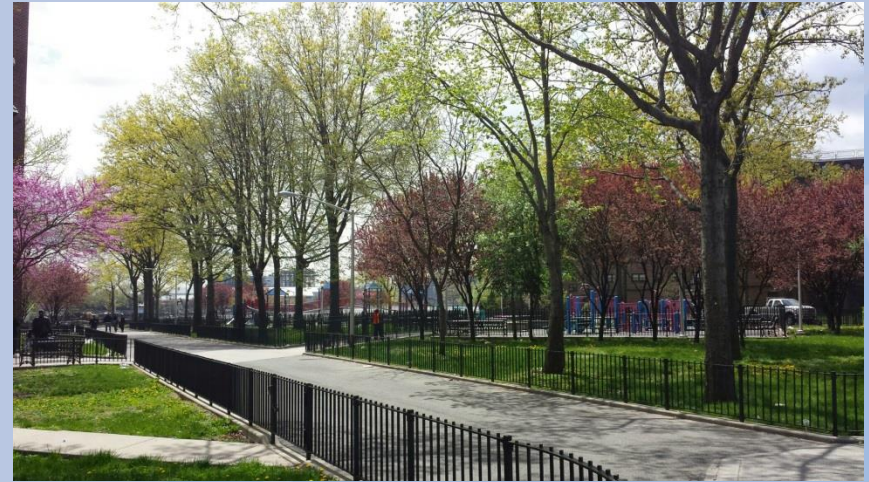
- Halletts Cove location ideal based on:
  - Navigation to landing
  - In-water bathymetric conditions
  - Existing upland esplanade
  - Proximity to residential centers
  - Travel time on ferry route



# Landside Access: Clear Pedestrian Routes are Crucial



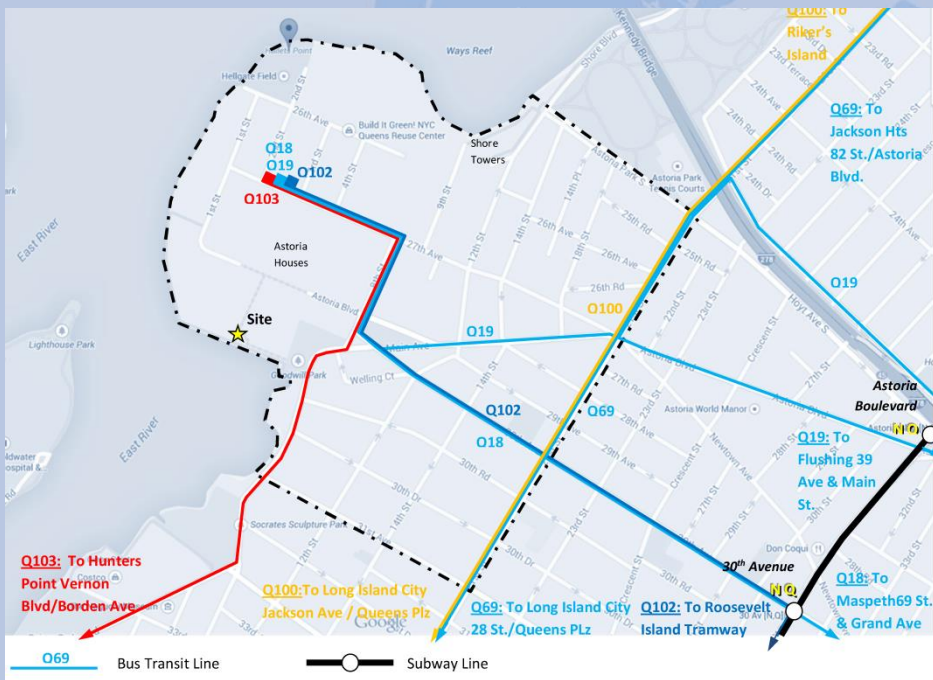
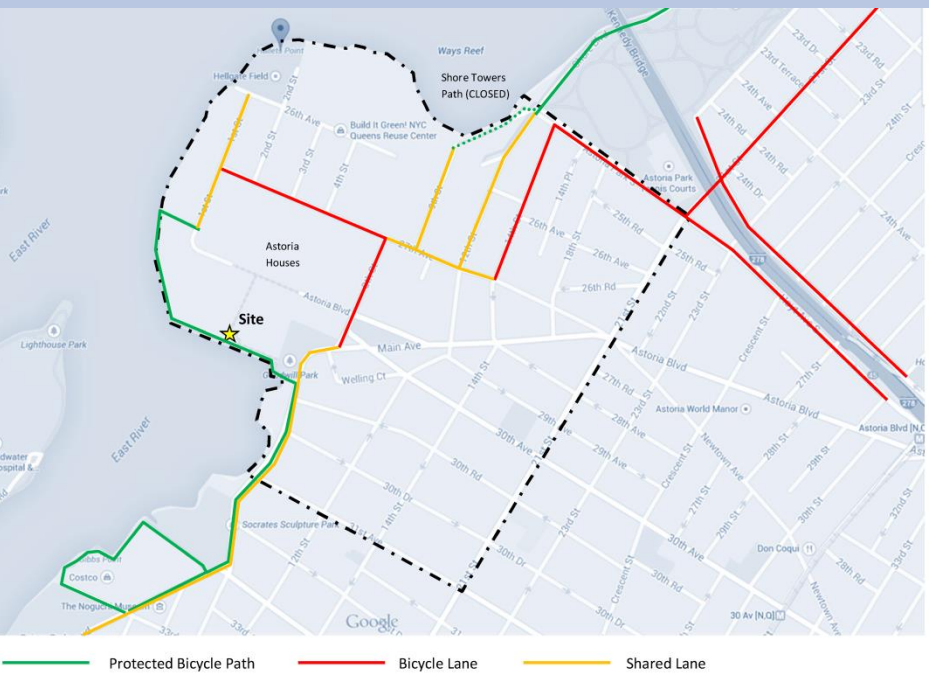
- To/from Halletts Point, western peninsula
- To/from Astoria Houses, Astoria Cove
- To/from points East



- Primary access:
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Street (serving points east and Astoria Cove) and Vernon Blvd (serving points east and south)
  - Encourage through signage, design
- Supporting access:
  - Astoria Blvd./NYCHA
  - 4<sup>th</sup> St./NYCHA
  - 1<sup>st</sup> St./NYCHA

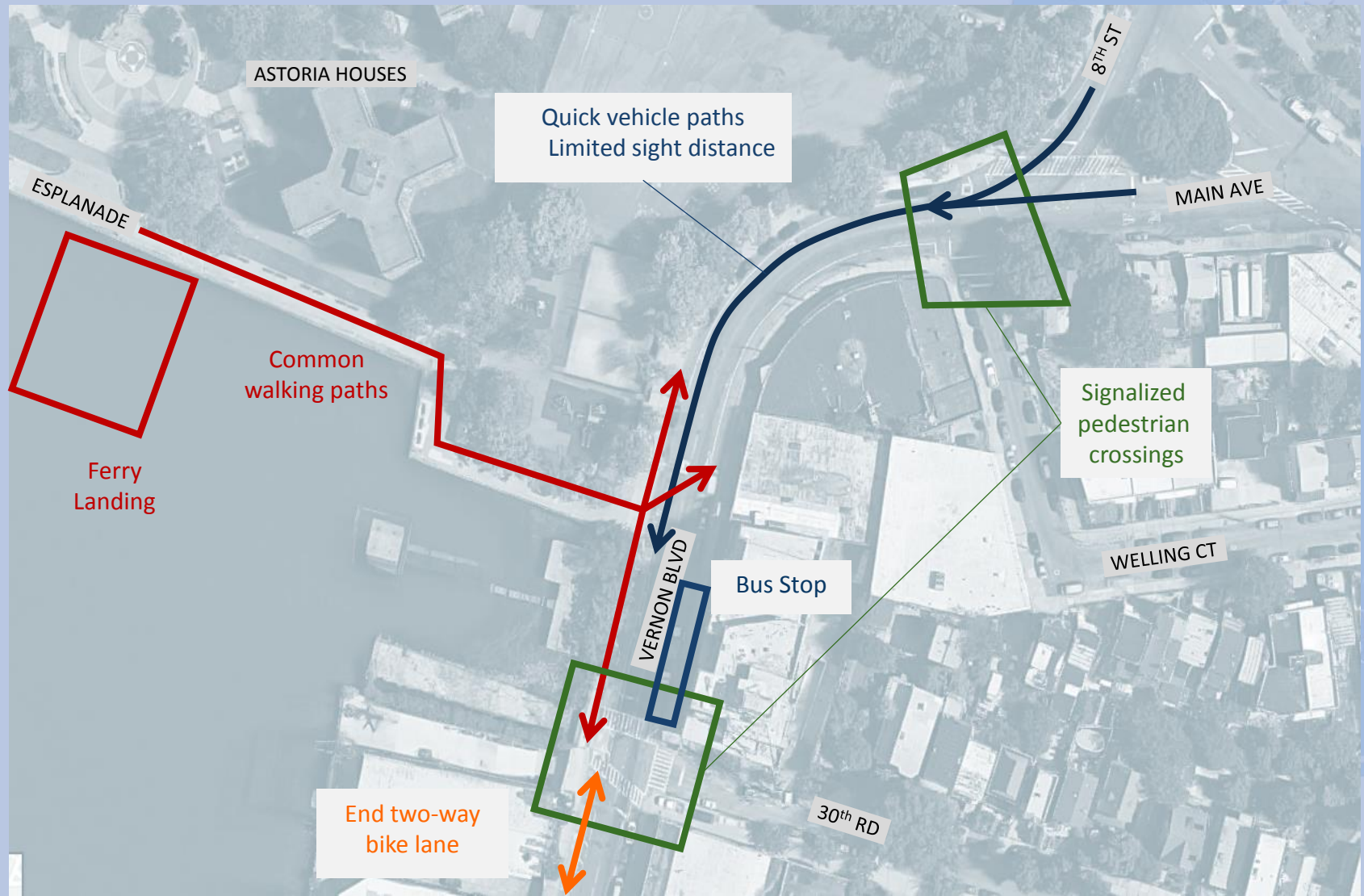


# Landside Access: Bike and Transit Access is Good



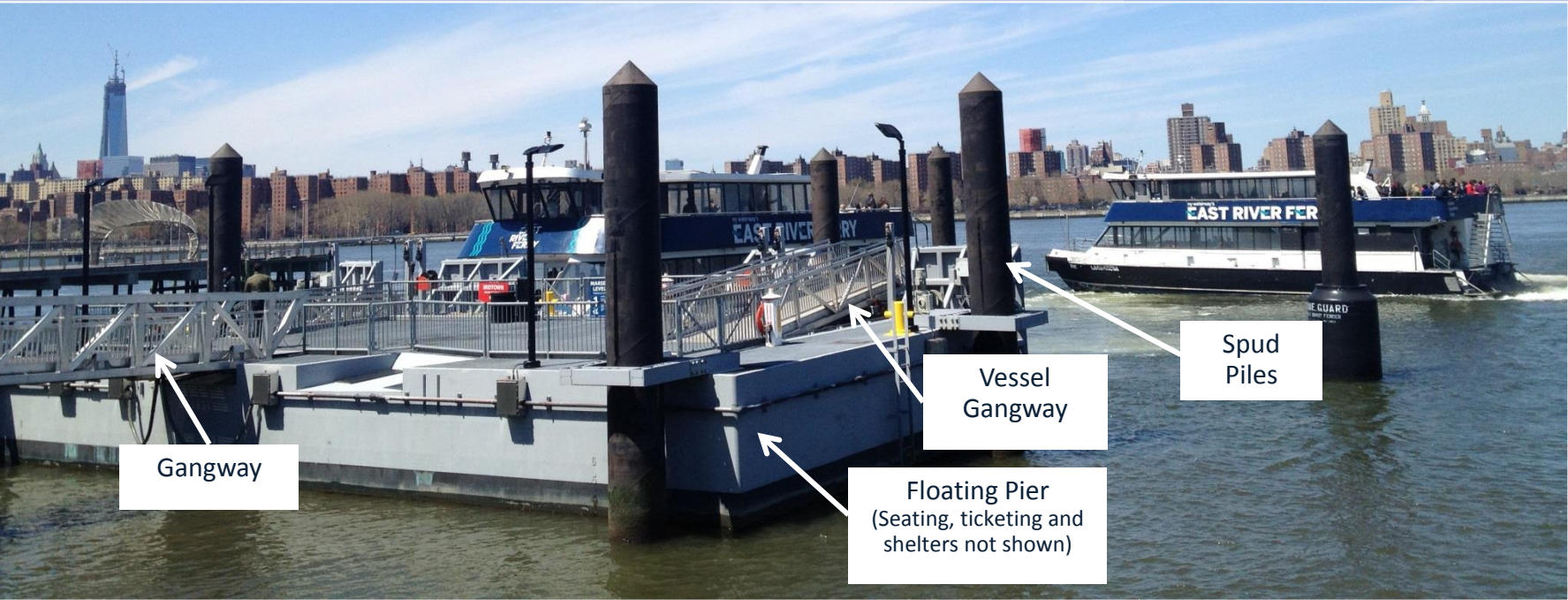
- Ferry site near a protected bike path
- Protected bike path runs from the south along Vernon Blvd.
- Bike lanes support most of peninsula
- Connection to protected bike path to points north of Halletts Point
- Ferry site is adjacent to the Q103 stop on Vernon Blvd, and within 2-3 blocks of five other bus routes
- Around 1 mile (15-20 min. walk) to Astoria Blvd subway (N, Q)

# Pedestrian Safety: Vernon Blvd / Esplanade





# Landing Design Features



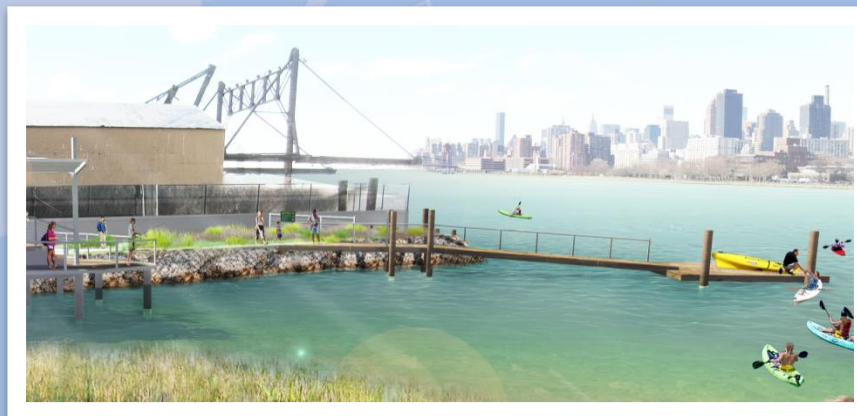
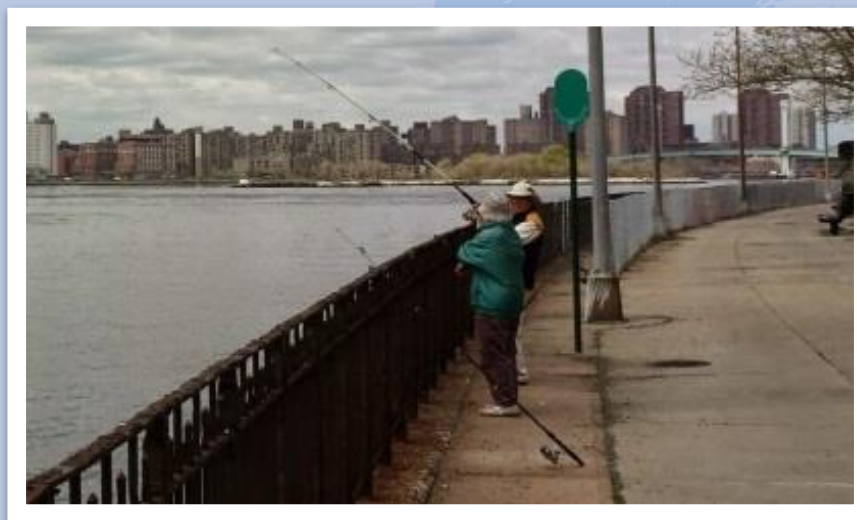
A number of security gate options are available to protect pedestrians when the ferry landing is closed. These are approved by the Coast Guard.

Security Gate Options

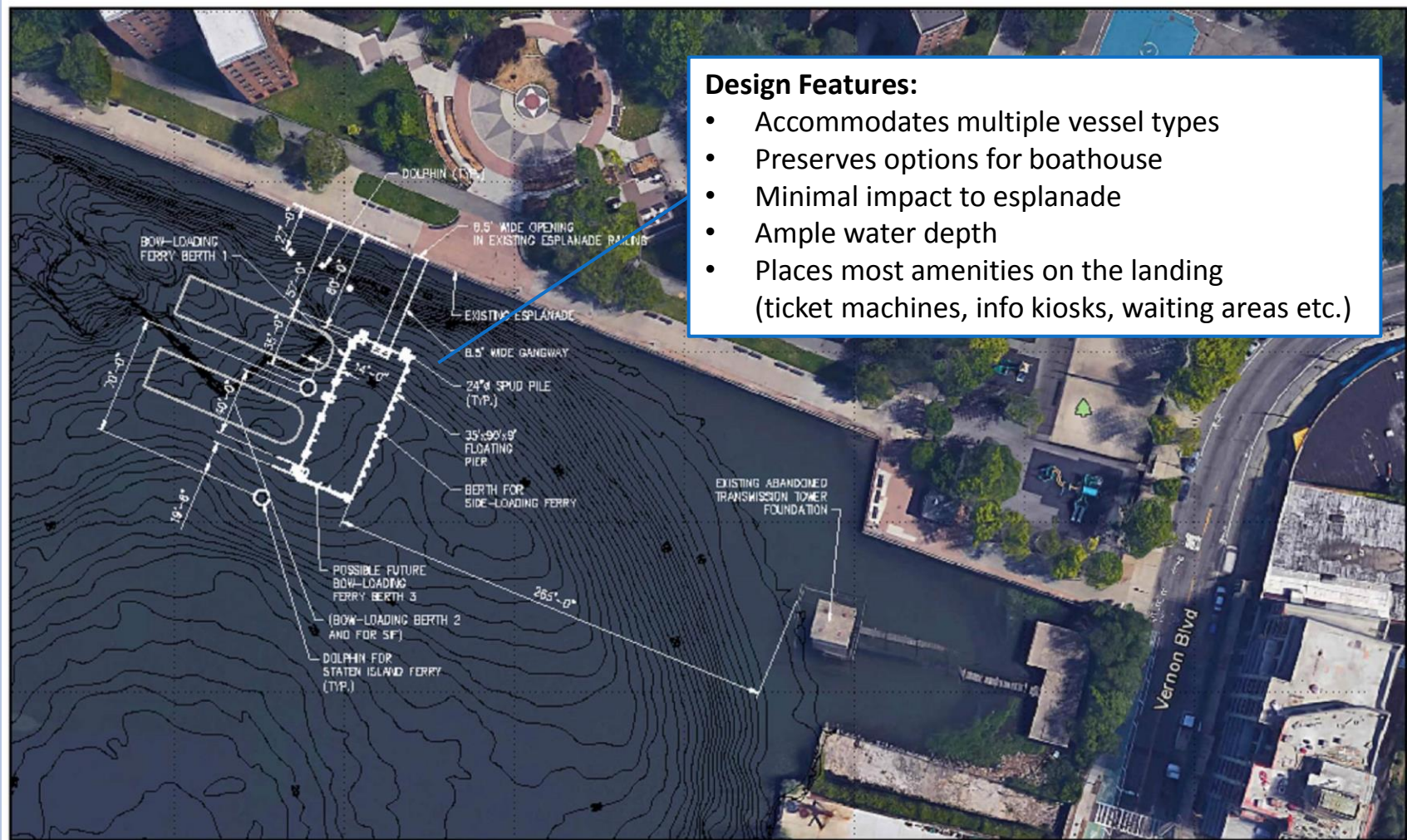


# Other Design Considerations

- Existing use of esplanade
  - Playground and benches
  - Fishing
  - Astoria Houses residents
- Other potential projects
  - Proposed Halletts Cove Boathouse
  - Astoria Cove and Halletts Point



# Conceptual Design



## Design Features:

- Accommodates multiple vessel types
- Preserves options for boathouse
- Minimal impact to esplanade
- Ample water depth
- Places most amenities on the landing (ticket machines, info kiosks, waiting areas etc.)

## NOTES:

1. ALL ELEVATIONS SHOWN ARE REFERENCED TO NAVD 83.
2. BATHYMETRY SHOWN WAS PERFORMED BY MARINE SOLUTIONS ON MARCH 20, 2016.



0 60 120 FT.  
1"=60'

**CH2MHILL.**

NYCEC  
Hallett Point Ferry Study  
Queens, NY

DRAWING NO.

PROPOSED FERRY LANDING  
AT SOUTH SITE

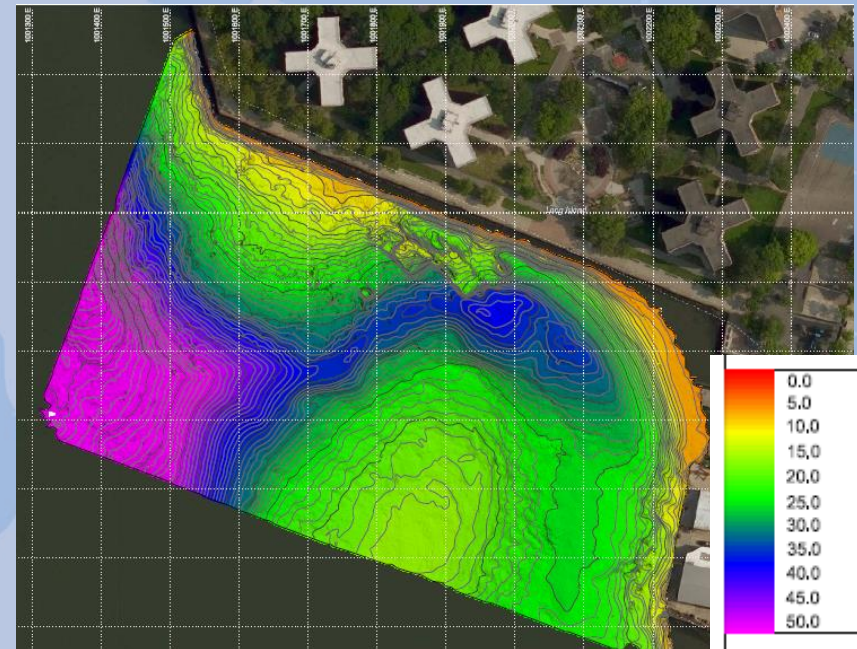
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# Technical Studies - Waterside



- Acceptable water depth near esplanade
- Calm, protected water with moderate currents/eddies
- Sensitive to other projects in the area





# Shared waters



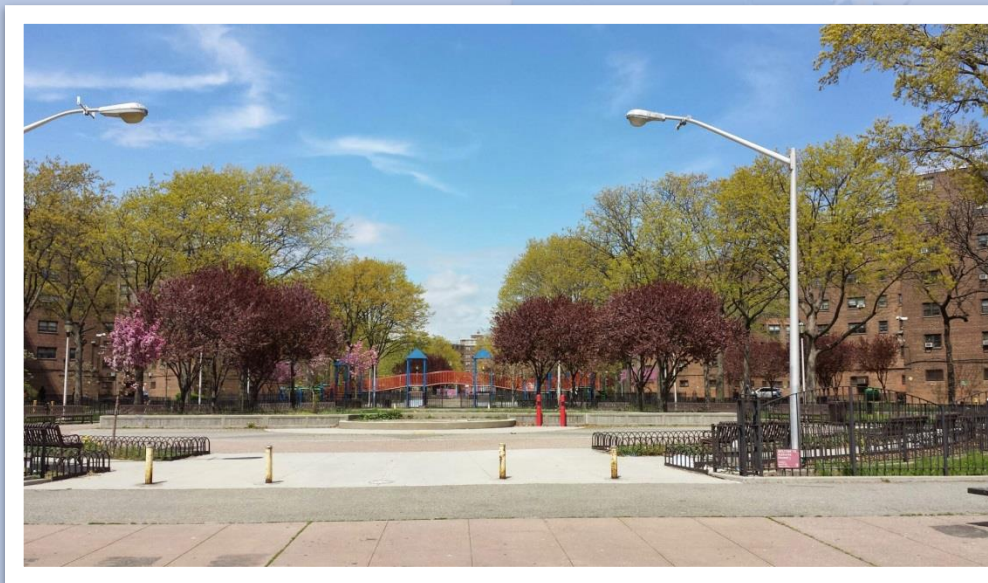
## Design Elements

- Careful siting with buffer distances from areas with small boats
- Low-speed vessel operations (no wake zone) on approach and landing
- Boat wakes are pointed away from small boats
- Minimal physical and operational footprint within the larger Halletts Cove area

Photos courtesy of Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

# Interagency Coordination

- **Parks**
  - Maintenance of esplanade
  - Working with EDC to use site.
- **City DOT**
  - Pedestrian and bike safety
  - Potential auto impacts
  - Signage and way-finding
  - Bicycle facilities
- **City Planning**
  - Housing and economic development projects
  - Waterfront planning
- **NYCHA**
  - Working with Astoria Houses Tenants Association
  - Way-finding and signage on Astoria Houses campus.
  - Preserving space on esplanade for local residents' use



# Breakout Sessions and Leaders

- **Community and Transportation**
  - Councilman Constantinides
  - Alan Meyers, Parsons Brinckerhoff
  - Keith Dumanski, EDC Government and Community Relations
- **Ferry Landing Design**
  - Maki Onodera, CH2M Hill
  - Andrew Genn, EDC Ports & Transportation
  - Peter Flynt, EDC Asset Management
- **Citywide Ferry Plan**
  - James Wong, EDC Ports & Transportation
  - Lydia Downing, EDC Government and Community Relations



# Special Thanks

- **Councilman Costa Constantinides** - NYC Council
- **Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** - US House of Representatives
- **Senator Michael Giannaris** - NY State Senate
- **Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan** - NY State Assembly
- **Pastor Jackson** - First Reform Church of Astoria
- **Ms. Claudia Coger** - President, Astoria Houses Tenants Association
- **Robert Piazza** - Chair, CB1 Transportation Committee
- **Richard Khuzami** - Chair, CB1 Parks Committee
- **Bishop Mitchell Taylor** - President of Urban Upbound
- **Karen Means** - Executive VP of External Affairs, Goodwill NY/NJ