

NYC Streets Renaissance

T.A.'s Vision for New York City

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STREET or public space in your neighborhood? Ever imagine making it even better by adding outdoor seating, greenery, ample bike parking, art, chess boards, a bike lane, more sidewalk space, maybe even an outdoor market, a playground, attractive lighting, decorative bollards or other improvements?

The feature article of our last magazine detailed how T.A. has worked especially hard for the past three decades on improving basic safety for pedestrians and bicyclists at numerous locations throughout the city. And though campaigning to prevent every death and injury to bicyclists and pedestrians will always be at the core of what we do, we recognize that winning basic safety measures is just the first step towards making a more bikeable and walkable city. We have recently also focused on articulating our vision for a New York City Streets Renaissance by partnering with community groups to fight for makeovers of iconic neighborhood locations.

For example, T.A. has worked with Manhattan Community Boards 2 and 3 and the City Department of Transportation (DOT) to help win a walking and bicycling friendly makeover of the Astor Place area. The plan calls for vastly expanding the sidewalks, reclaiming unused street space for pedestrians and opening up the streets to the hundreds of thousands of people on foot and bicycles that frequent the area every day. The City DOT deserves praise for working with the community to make this plan happen. After a failed attempt to persuade the community boards to adopt a similar plan beginning in 1996, the City DOT applied for an extension of the \$5 million it had received in federal money to push one last time for the plan. Community Board 3 has voted in favor of the full footprint changes of the plan and Community Board 2 has voted in favor of most of the footprint changes. Now the community boards must work with the Parks Department, DOT and MTA to determine how the reclaimed space will be used.

TakeAction!

The Astor Place area could soon be a walking and biking heaven. If you live or work in the area, you can be a part of the process. Call Tresa at 212-629-3080 or e-mail tresa@transalt.org for more information.



PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

D.I.Y. Astor Place Makeover

The Astor Place area in Manhattan could soon get a full makeover—and so could your favorite neighborhood streets. Whether you live or work in the Astor Place area or not, have fun thinking about what your favorite street or public space could look like with our fun cut outs.

