



# *Reconnect Campus Plan, Proposed Fall 2024*

## Pedestrianize 68th Street, Between Lexington and Park Avenues

Goal: To implement in conjunction with DOT's Public Space Equity Program, with support from the MTA (M66 bus reroute), Student Government, Community Board 8, Elected Officials, Advocacy Groups, Nearby Schools, and Vendors

- Create Iconic Viewshed and Reconnected Campus Identity
- Invest in an engine of economic mobility for local, working-class students
- Promote Campus Culture with opportunities for spontaneous encounters
- Relieve Substantial Indoor Overcrowding
- Provide a true Public Space for the Community and Students to Mingle
- Enliven the Neighborhood
- Provide 'Third Space' for K12 Students at Nearby Schools
- Enhance vending opportunities for Entrepreneurs
- Reduce Air Pollution



# Existing Conditions



- Rampant Illegal Parking
- M66 Bus crawls in Traffic
- Air Pollution High due to idling congestion



- 20,000 Students Squeezed into 3 Buildings

# Existing Conditions

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A Campus short on  
needed Communal Spaces

Students desperate for spaces to learn, socialize, and just be

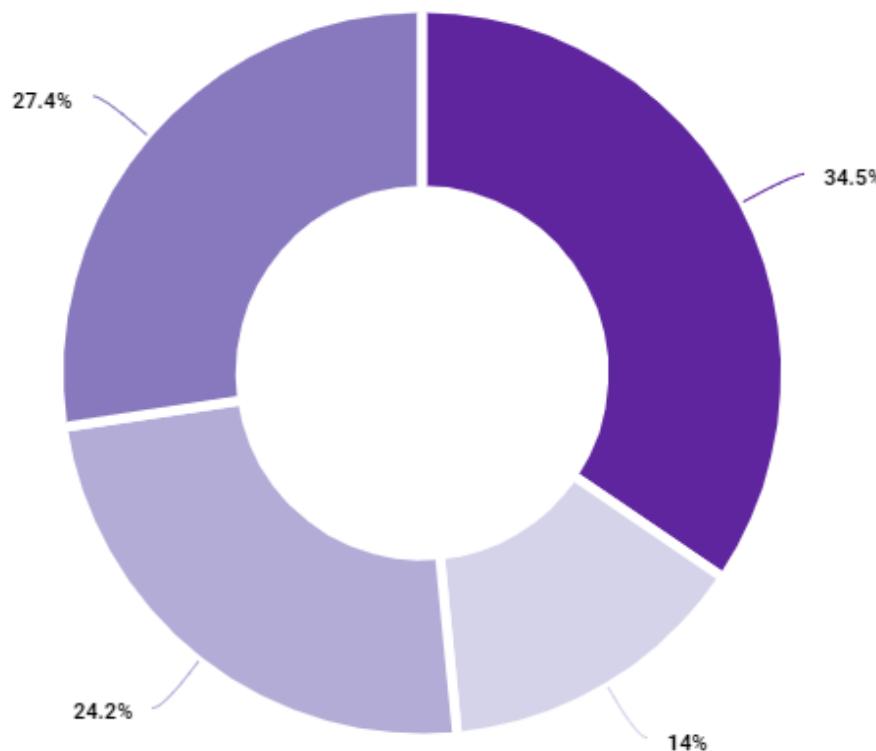


# Existing Conditions

## UNDERGRADUATE ETHNIC BACKGROUND

Undergraduate Ethnic Breakdown

● Asian or Pacific Islander    ● Black (non-Hispanic)    ● Hispanic    ● White (non-Hispanic)



# Key Statistics

Hunter College is \$17,000 less expensive per year than comparable peer universities

99% of Undergraduates Receive Financial Aid

## STUDENT BODY CHARACTERISTICS

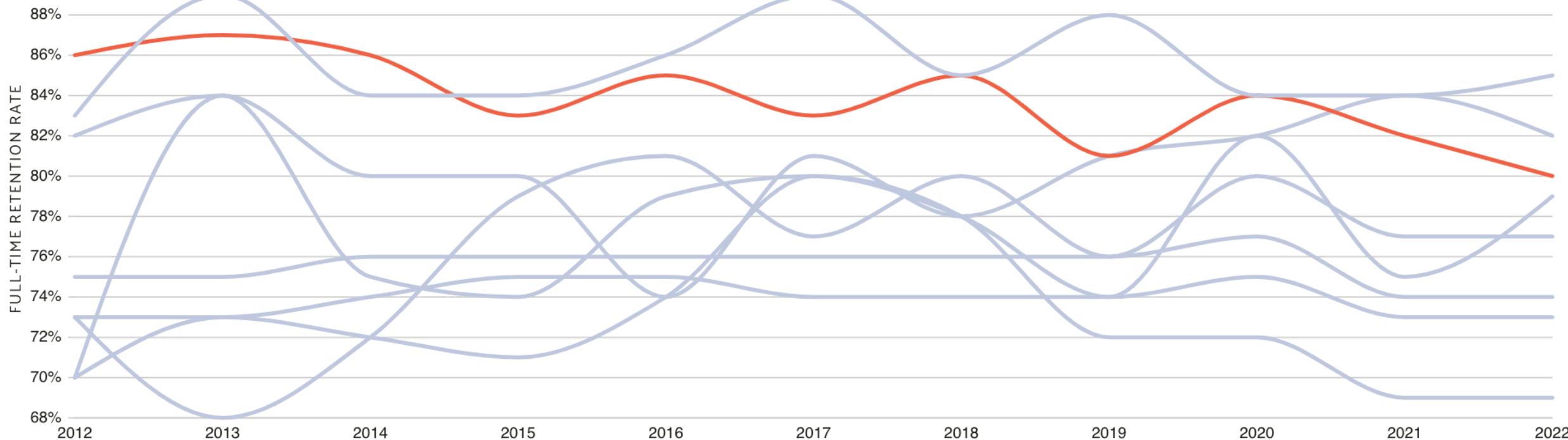
**72.6 %** Undergraduates who are minorities

**33%** Students who are immigrants

**34.2%** Transfer students

**51.7%** Alumni who live in New York City

# Academic Profile



Hunter  
College Retention Rate  
(versus comparable peers)

Hunter College excels  
academically and  
supports its students  
through graduation and  
beyond.

Naturally, enrollment has  
skyrocketed, leaving Hunter  
bursting at the seams, lacking  
in geospatial resources that  
ambitious, hardworking students  
deserve.



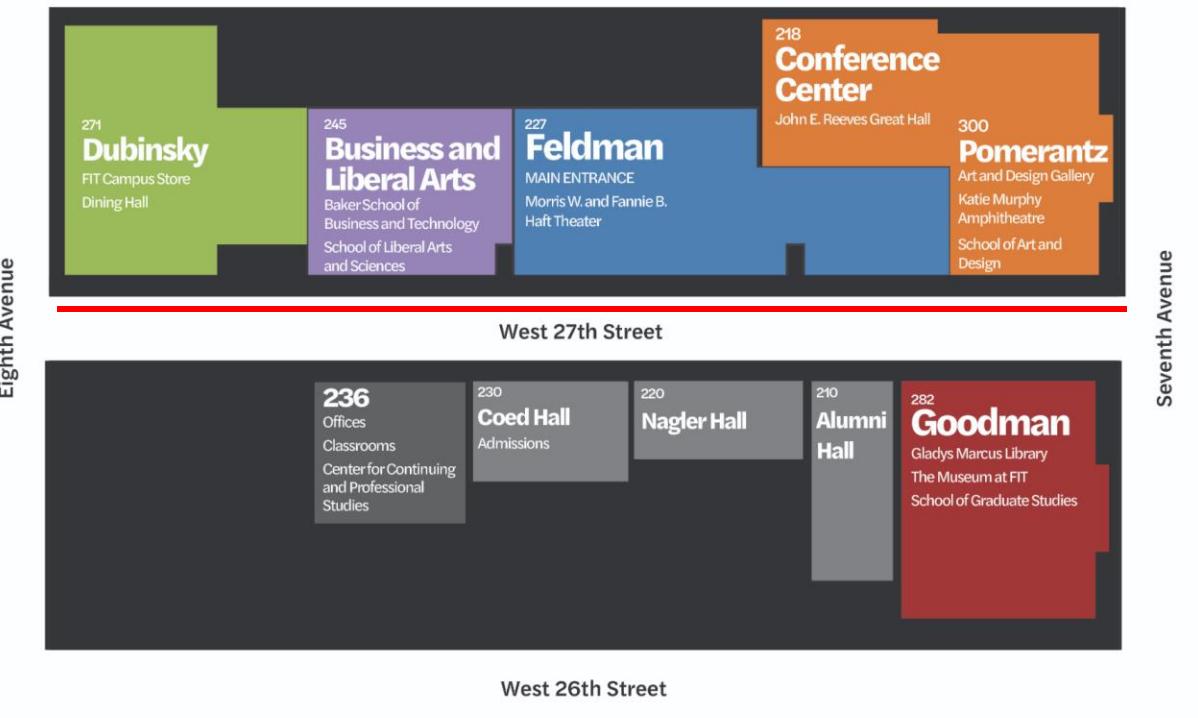
## *Precedence*

CUNY Baruch College's pedestrianization of 25th Street is a tremendous success. By building a thriving public realm for students and the community alike, it reaffirms the potential of underutilized land.



Known as the Clivner-Field Plaza, it spans the block between Lexington and Third avenues. The space was first proposed by Baruch College dministrators in 2011. (Office of Councilmember Carlina Rivera)

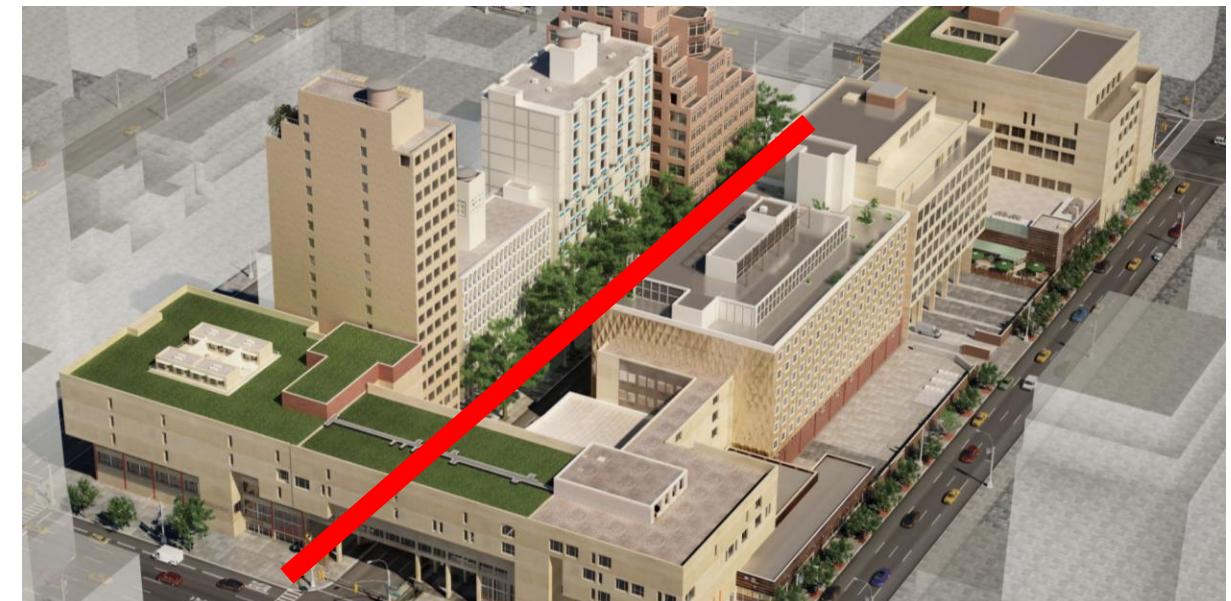
Eighth Avenue



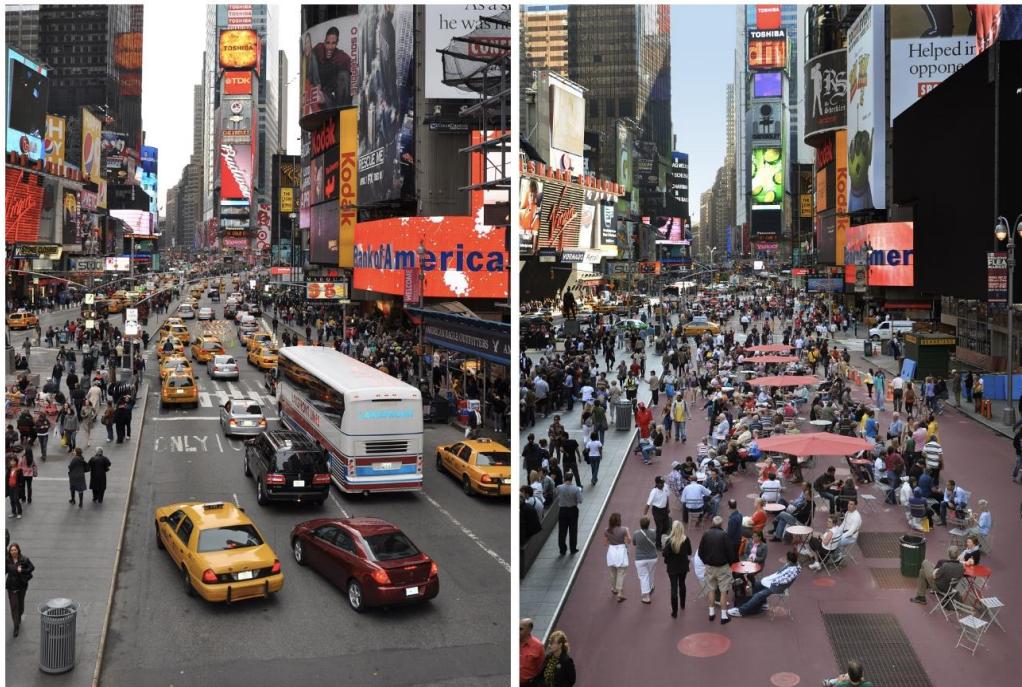
## Precedence

SUNY FIT's low traffic street provides a connecting thread and a 'soft edge' public space to create a distinct campus environment in the heart of a bustling neighborhood.

Seventh Avenue



## Times Square Plaza (Manhattan, New York)



After adding more pedestrian space in New York, retail sales increased, according to Sadik-Khan.  
Left: Photo by Heidi Wolf/NYC DOT, right: Photo by Julio Palleiro/NYC DOT

## Brooklyn Bridge Park



## *Precedence*

Pedestrianizing streets in dense areas with high foot traffic creates thriving spaces providing economic, social, health, and public wealth benefits.

Find address or place



North Bergen  
West New York  
Union City  
Weehawken

Manhattan

Jersey City

New York



The Nightingale Bamford School	\$61,655 py
The Dalton School	\$61,120 py
Saint David's School	\$58,800 py
The Buckley School	\$58,500 py
Hunter College	\$6,930p/y

# Existing Open Streets

Source: NYC DOT

When suffering from systemic, racialized disinvestment<sup>1</sup>, it is a moral imperative to reallocate resources.



SCHOOLS | UPDATED MAR. 25, 2022

## Hunter College Is Falling Down “We’re actually in crisis, and you can’t keep duct-taping things together forever.”

By Willy Blackmore

In early March, it looked as if the main campus of Hunter College, the so-called crown jewel of CUNY, was overrun by rats. State Assemblyman [Zohran K. Mamdani](#) tweeted that a student told him no one was allowed to eat below the sixth floor in one building because the infestation was so bad. But Jen Gaboury, a gender studies professor at the school, says this isn't true: There's actually a full-on mouse infestation, she says, and rodent species don't like to share the same space. The campus, which dominates the corner of 68th and Lexington, has so many mice that Gaboury flips over her keyboard every morning to let the droppings fall out,

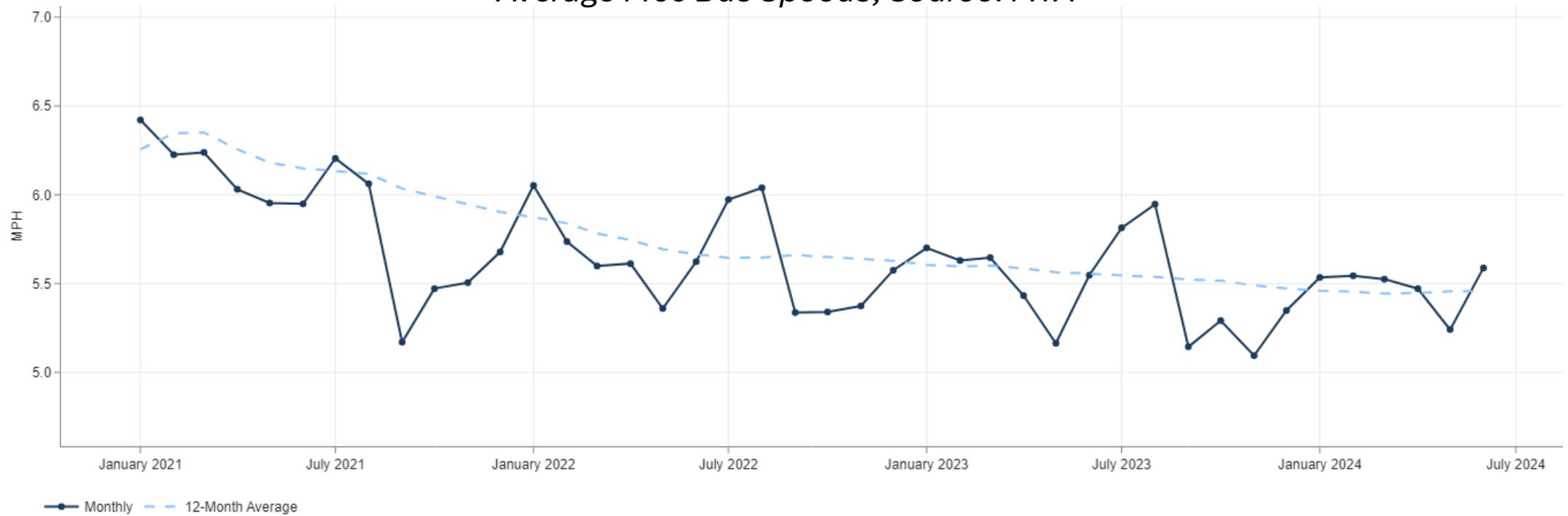
A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, seen from behind, waiting at a bus stop. She is wearing a light-colored jacket and a black strap across her shoulder. In the background, a city street is visible with several vehicles, including a blue bus, a white car, and a police car with "FDNY" markings. The scene is set in an urban environment with buildings lining the street.

# Preserving M66 Bus Service

# An Inefficient Crosstown Route

# M66 Bus Service

Average M66 Bus Speeds, Source: MTA



- As a commuter school, the M66 is Critical to Retain Connections between Campus and our Homes
- We believe Bus Service should be preserved and enhanced by moving the M66 from 68th to a new **bus only 2-way lane** on 67th Street.
- The rampant illegal parking on our current perimeter streets is an inefficient and destructive use of valuable urban land, and a wealth transfer in the form of private subsidized car storage.

# Option A

**-Fully Pedestrianize**

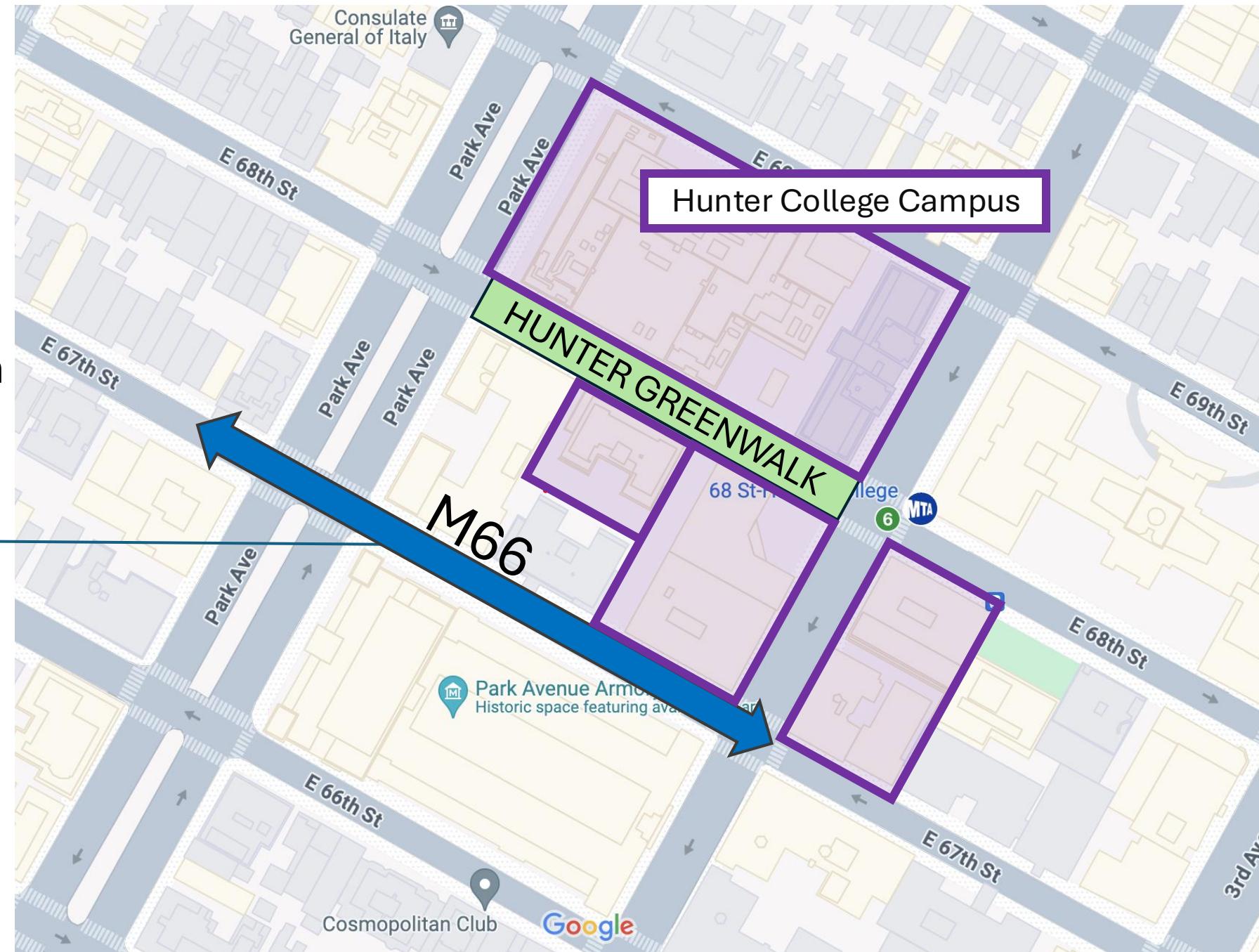
68th Street

**-Reroute M66 to 67th**

Convert  
One Parking Lane  
to Bus Only Lane  
2-way 67th

**Pros:** Allows reconnection  
of Campus, More Space for  
People, Faster Crosstown  
Bus Connection

**Cons:** Requires Changing  
Street Pattern



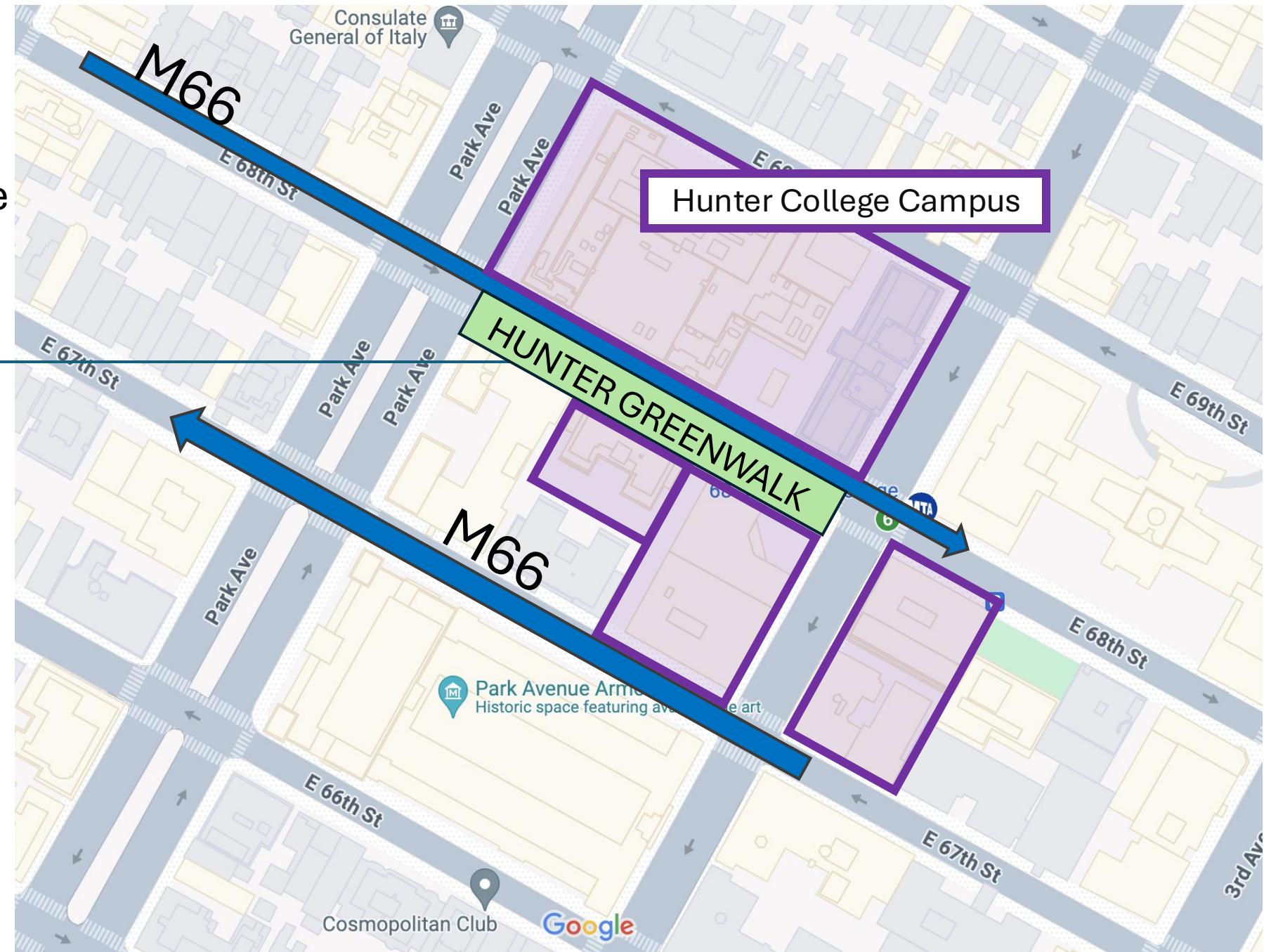
# Option B

Retain Existing M66 Route

Shift One Parking Lane to Protected Bus Lane, Pedestrianize Existing ROW and 1 Parking Lane

Pros: Quicker Implementation

Cons: Less space for the Community, Prevents Reconnection of Campus



BERTHA & KARL LEUBSDORF  
ART GALLERY

**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York

BERTHA

*The Care of the Future is Ours*