

Daylighting is a simple pedestrian safety measure achieved by removing curb parking spaces around an intersection, increasing visibility for pedestrians and drivers and minimizing conflicts.¹ While New York State², New Jersey State, and NATCO³ all require or recommend 20-25 feet of space between parking and a crosswalk, New York City's law requires no space between parking and a crosswalk.⁴

In practice, New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) frequently provides for approximately six feet between parking spaces and a crosswalk. However, this treatment is applied irregularly. The problem of cars parked next to crosswalks, eliminating any sight lines, is especially acute at T-intersections, where two crosswalks are located adjacent to each other. Pedestrians at T-intersections are therefore not visible to cars at those intersections, and cars are not visible to pedestrians.

In Community Board 7, there are approximately 40 T-intersections which lack necessary sight-lines. The majority of these are located along Riverside Boulevard and Riverside Drive. Our proposal would be for the installation of concrete planters between crosswalks located at T-intersections, with painted buffers for approximately six feet beyond the crosswalk. This would ensure property daylighting—a cost effective and easily implemented method to ensure safety for all street users.

Contents

- [Daylighting, an overview](#)
- [Current DOT Practice](#)
- [Issues with lack of Daylighting at T-intersections](#)
- [Proposed Solutions](#)
- [Addenda: Chart of Intersections](#)

1

<https://www.streetopia.city/smarter-intersections#:~:text=Daylighting%20is%20a%20simple%20pedestrian,and%20drivers%20and%20minimizing%20conflicts>.

² State of New York, § 1202 Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places

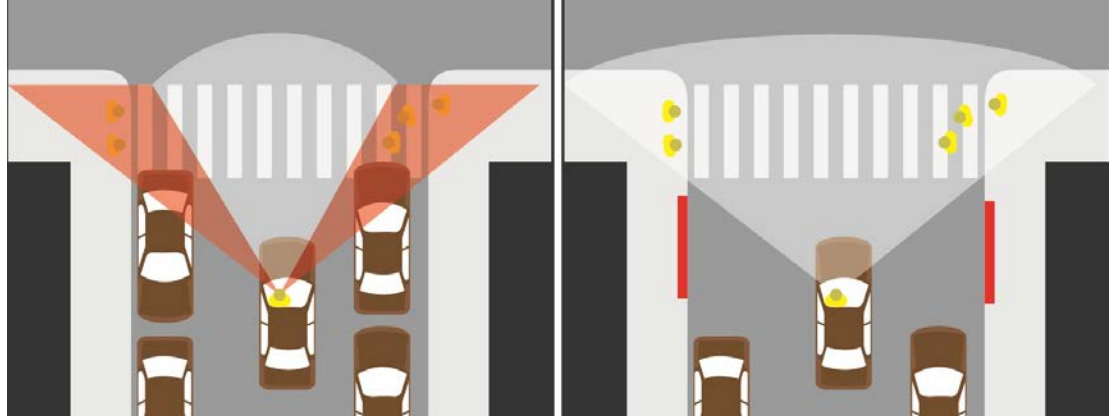
³

<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/intersection-design-elements/visibility-sight-distance/>

⁴ The Rules of the City of New York, Section 4-08(e)(2)(5) prohibits a person from “stop, stand, or park[ing] a vehicle” in a crosswalk, but does not provide for any clearance for parking around the crosswalk

Daylighting, an overview

Daylighting is the removal of visual obstacles in order to provide open sight-lines to the pedestrian crossing for approaching cars, and visa versa. Cities across the U.S. are daylighting their intersections. In 2010, Hoboken daylight 38 intersections throughout the City to improve visibility between vehicles and pedestrians. Jersey City has also daylight intersections to improve pedestrian safety.⁵



⁵ Robbins, "Hoboken Hasn't Had a Traffic Death in 4 Years. What's Right?"

Current DOT Practice

As explained above, NYC law does not require cars to park away from the crosswalk, but DOT often, but not always, will set parking back from a crosswalk by about six feet.

Example of a six-foot buffer between designated parking and crosswalk



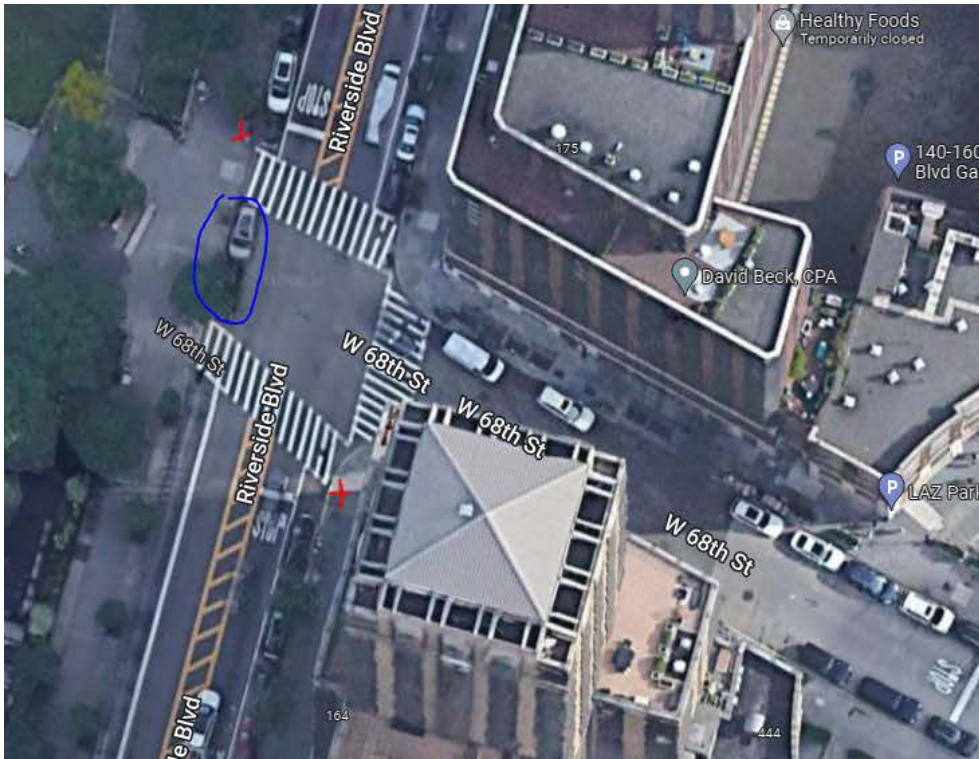
Example of no separation between the crosswalk and parking



Issues with lack of Daylighting at T-intersections

As a case study to understand the dangers posed by lack of daylighting, consider the typical intersection of 68th and Riverside Boulevard.

The intersection at issue is indicated below in blue.



This is another view of the intersection; note the cars parked directly next to the crosswalks. Following this photograph are photos taken from the perspective of the person dressed in neon green on the left of the photo.



The following photo was taken from the street on the southern crosswalk at the intersection of 68th and Riverside Boulevard. This photo was taken to show how challenging it is to even see a bus driving down the street; you can hardly see the top of the MTA bus due to the car in the way:



Unknown at the time that photo was taken, there was actually a second vehicle, a red car, in front of the bus when the top photo was taken (see photo below). The pedestrian standing in the street on the crosswalk taking these photos could not see the red car at all. Cars parked adjacent to the intersection eliminate all visibility for both the pedestrian and the car.



As is shown in the following photo, there is also no visibility of the car to who or what is at the curb waiting to cross using the crosswalk.



68th and Riverside Boulevard, like many of the T-intersections in Community Board 7, are located adjacent to parks and public spaces. Here, there is a playground and a connection to the Hudson River Greenway. Children, seniors, pedestrians, and cyclists are all placed in direct damage due to lack of clear visual corridors.

Proposed Solutions

Daylighting is already used effectively throughout the City, including these examples of T intersections on the UWS :

(102nd and Freedom Place)



Riverside Drive and 96th



Manhattan Avenue and 100th





In addition to paint and concrete barriers, the City has successfully employed concrete planters to block off space. Especially because most of the intersections in Community Board 7 are near parks, concrete plants, such as those pictured below, would be an excellent way to preserve daylighting at crosswalks.










As appropriate, curb extensions can also aid with daylighting efforts









Addenda, chart and photos of T-Intersections in CB7 which are in need of daylighting




Intersection	Marked/ Unmarked	Photo
Riverside Blvd and 61st	Marked	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 61st. A marked crosswalk with white stripes is visible on the asphalt. A grey sedan is parked on the right side of the road. In the background, there is a modern glass building and a construction site with a green fence.
Riverside Blvd and 62nd	Unmarked	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 62nd. The crosswalk is unmarked. A person is pushing a stroller across the street. Several cars are parked along the right side of the road. The street name 'Riverside Blvd' is painted on the asphalt.
Riverside Blvd and 63rd	Marked	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 63rd. A marked crosswalk with white stripes is visible. A blue SUV is parked on the right side of the road. In the background, there is a highway overpass and a city skyline.




<p>Riverside Blvd and 64th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Blvd and 65th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Blvd and 66th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Blvd and 67th</p>	<p>Unmarked</p>	

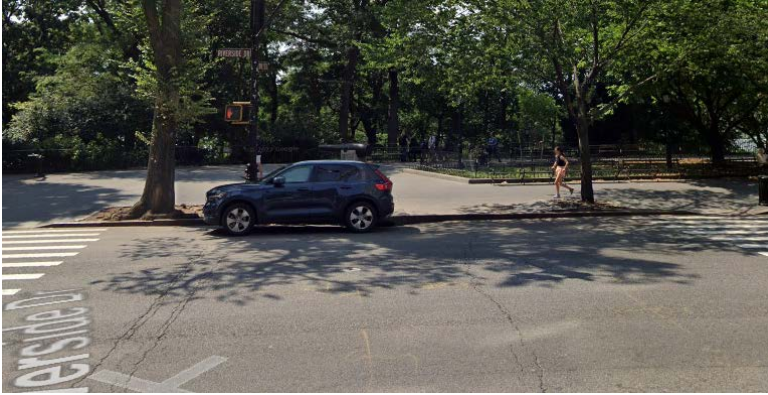


<p>Riverside Blvd and 68th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A street-level photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 68th St. A marked crosswalk with white stripes is visible. A silver SUV is driving through the intersection, and a yellow SUV is parked on the right. The street name "68th St" is painted on the pavement.
<p>Riverside Blvd and 69th</p>	<p>No crosswalk</p>	
<p>Riverside Blvd and 70th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A street-level photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 70th St. A marked crosswalk with white stripes is visible. A blue SUV is driving through the intersection, and a black sedan and a silver SUV are parked on the right. The street name "70th St" is painted on the pavement.
<p>Riverside Blvd and 71st</p>	<p>Unmarked</p>	 A street-level photograph of the intersection of Riverside Blvd and 71st St. The crosswalk is unmarked. A blue sedan is driving through the intersection, and a silver SUV is parked on the left. The street name "Riverside" is painted on the pavement.




<p>Riverside Drive and 73rd</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive 74th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 75th</p>	<p>No Crosswalk</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 76th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 77th</p>	<p>No crosswalk</p>	

<p>Riverside Drive and 78th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Drive and 78th Street. A white sedan and a dark sedan are stopped at a traffic light. A white cross is painted on the asphalt. A street sign for Riverside Drive is visible on a pole.
<p>Riverside Drive and 80th</p>	<p>No Crosswalk</p>	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Drive and 80th Street. A silver SUV and a silver sedan are stopped. The name 'Riverside Drive' is painted vertically on the road surface. There is no crosswalk.
<p>Riverside Drive and 81st</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A photograph of the intersection of Riverside Drive and 81st Street. A silver sedan is in the foreground, stopped at a crosswalk. A white SUV and a green car are also visible. Traffic lights and street signs are present.

<p>Riverside Drive and 82nd</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 83rd</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 84th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	

<p>Riverside Drive and 85th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 86th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 87th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	

<p>Riverside Drive and 88th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A photograph showing a dark blue SUV stopped at a marked crosswalk on Riverside Drive at 88th Street. The street name "Riverside Drive" is painted on the pavement. A person is visible on the sidewalk in the background.
<p>Riverside Drive and 89th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A photograph showing a silver SUV and a white SUV stopped at a marked crosswalk on Riverside Drive at 89th Street. A person is pushing a stroller, and another person is on a motorcycle in the background.
<p>Riverside Drive and 90th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	 A photograph showing a silver SUV and a dark blue SUV stopped at a marked crosswalk on Riverside Drive at 90th Street. The street is lined with trees.

<p>Riverside Drive and 91st</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 97th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	
<p>Riverside Drive and 104th</p>	<p>Marked</p>	

Riverside Drive and 108th

Marked



98th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Unclear if Marked or Unmarked



99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Marked



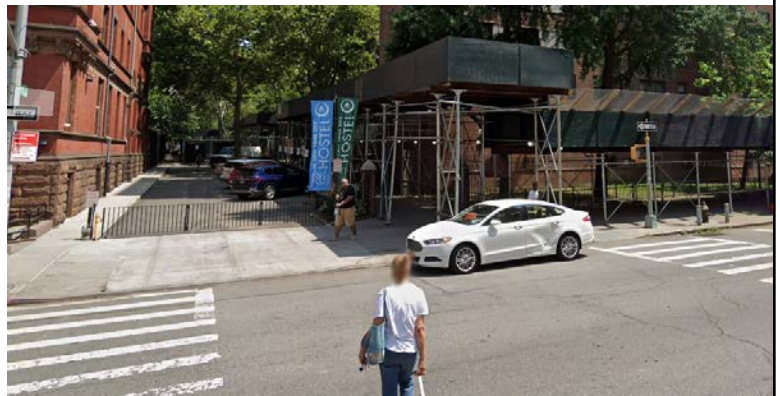
101st Street and
Amsterdam
Avenue

Marked



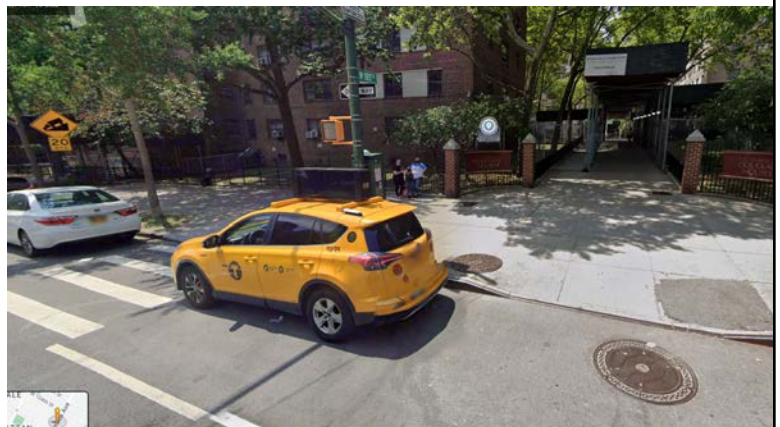
103rd and
Amsterdam
Avenue

Marked



103rd and
Columbus
Avenue

Marked



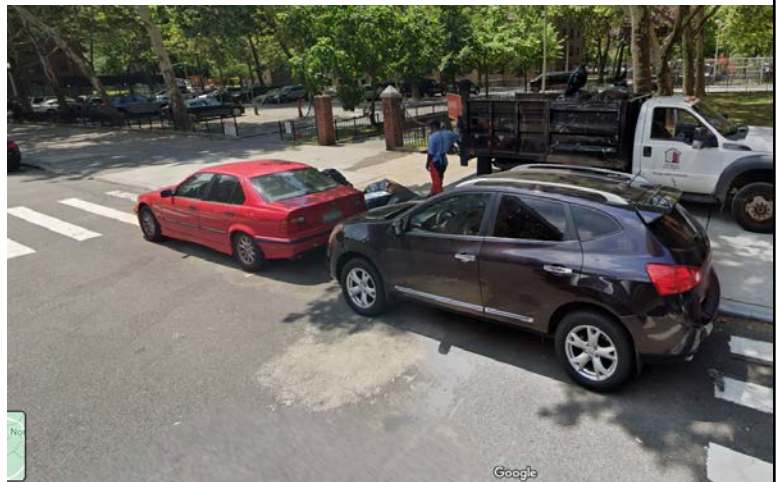
101st and
Manhattan
Avenue

Marked



102nd and
Manhattan
Avenue

Marked



103rd and
Manhattan
Avenue

Marked

