

Access to the Williamsburg Bridge: Addressing safety issues around Continental Army Plaza



Continental Army Plaza

is located directly across the street from the Williamsburg Bridge in the Southside of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York.



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Verbal and Visual Information Graphics
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Initial Observations

Locations most frequented by bicycle riders through site observations



 Places in/around park most used by bicycle riders

Bikes going through the park to bridge



Pedestrians going through the park to bridge



Bikes going through park from bridge



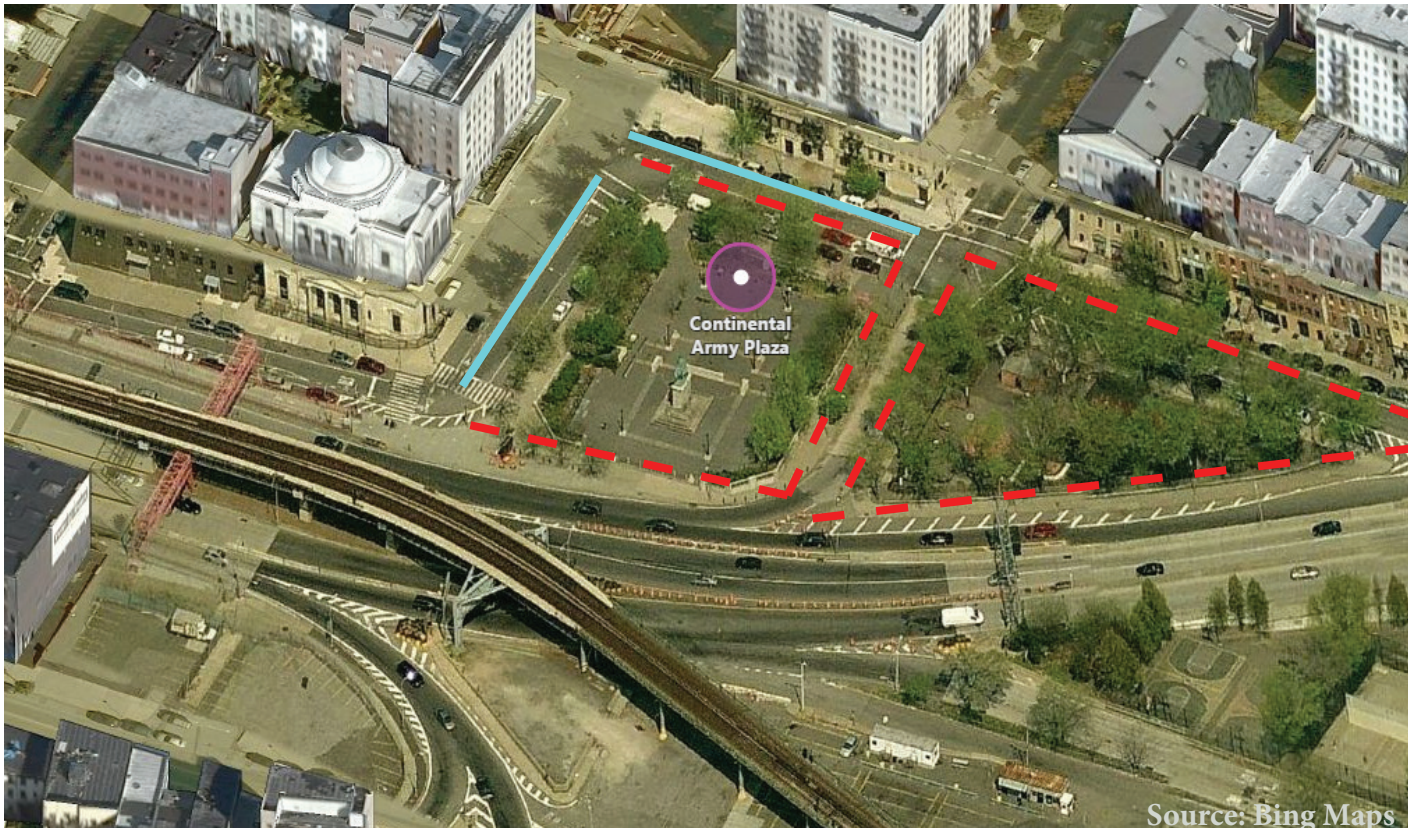
People sitting near exit ramp



Key thoughts

- Road conditions are dangerous and so bicyclists cut through Continental Army Plaza
- Continental Army Plaza serves as a connector to the Williamsburg Bridge
- Influx of bicyclists create unsafe conditions inside Continental Army Plaza for pedestrians































Why Do Bicyclists Cut Through Continental Army Plaza?



There are limited bike lanes leading up top the Williamsburg Bridge

The red dashes represent dangerous locations surrounding the park that could benefit from bike lanes.

The blue lines indicate existing bike lanes, however they are ineffective for bicyclists going to the bridge.

Photograph of Site near Continental Army Plaza	Is there a bike lane?	What are the physical conditions of the road like?	Is the DOT currently working on improvements/ connectivity?	Are there bike racks on the street?	Is there car parking on this street?
 <p data-bbox="125 465 469 511">Marcy Ave and Boriquen Pl</p>					
 <p data-bbox="125 722 469 768">South 4th and Havemeyer</p>					
 <p data-bbox="125 922 469 968">Driggs Ave and Broadway</p>					
 <p data-bbox="125 1108 469 1153">South 8th and Roebling</p>					
 <p data-bbox="125 1308 469 1353">South 4th and Roebling</p>					

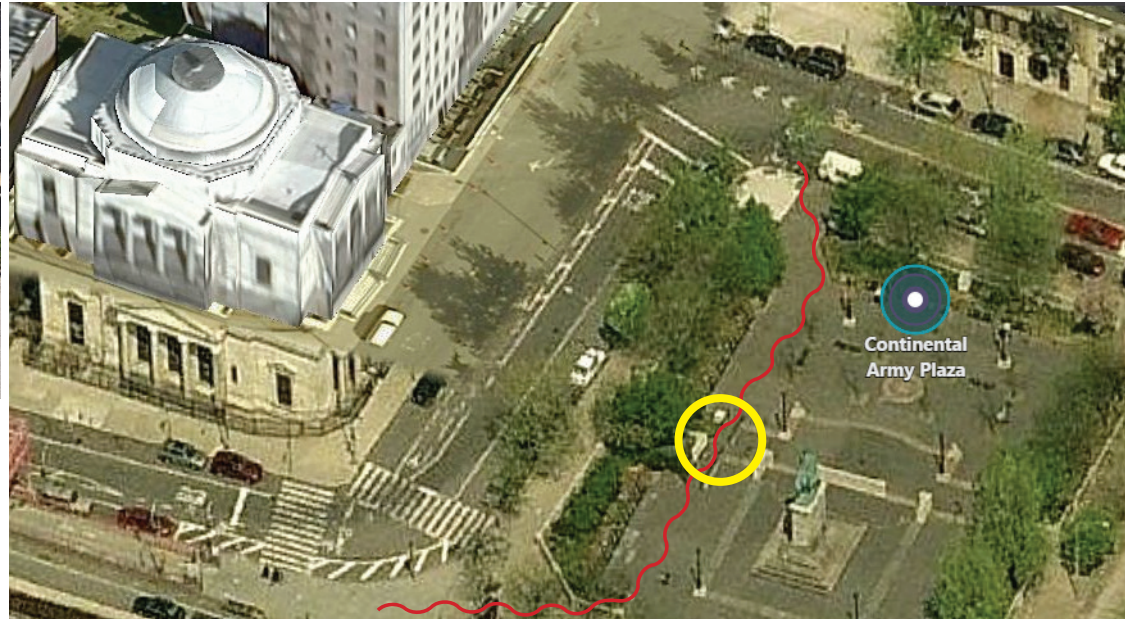
Connectivity Issues Inside Continental Army Plaza



Main access point to Bridge. Bicyclists cut through and pedestrians pass.



Bicyclists use the only ramp in the park. This ramp is needed for pedestrians who cannot use the stairs.



The red line indicates the informal route bicyclists take to cut through the park
The yellow circle represents the conflict area where pedestrians cross paths with bicyclists

What are effective measures to improve safety ?

How To Get a Bike Lane In Your Community District



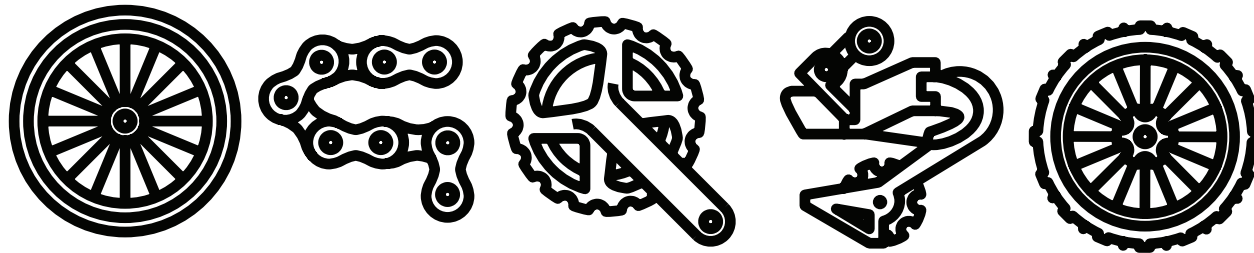
Source: bikenyc.org

Improve conditions inside Continental Army Plaza for all users

Enhance safety for bicyclists through protected bike lanes

Connect with Advocacy groups to spread awareness

Design Process



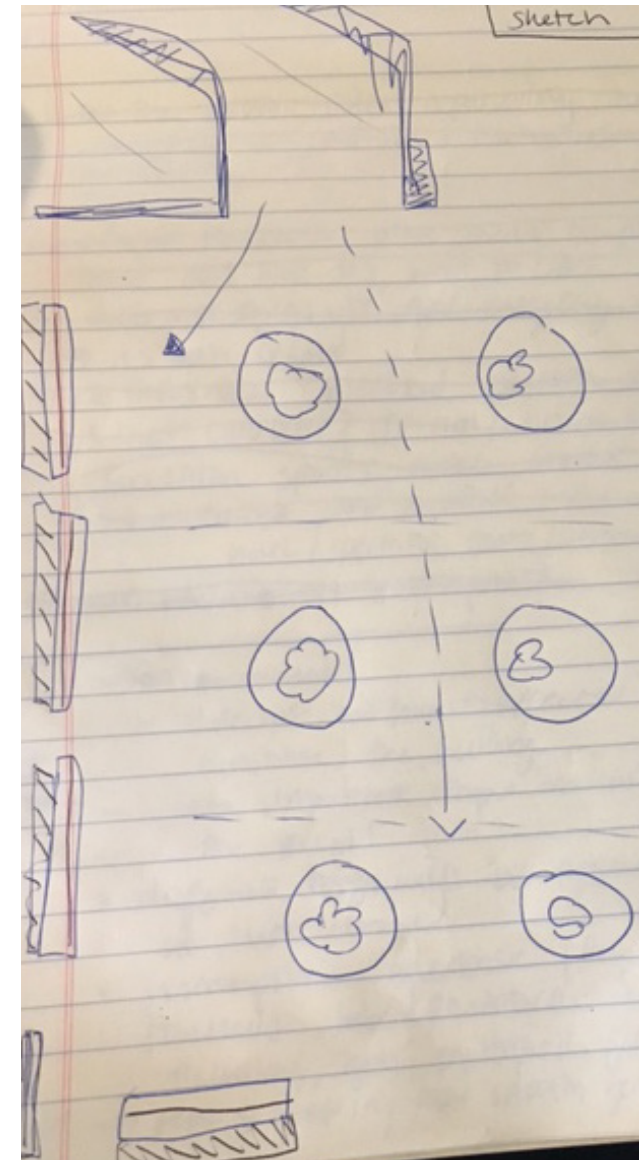
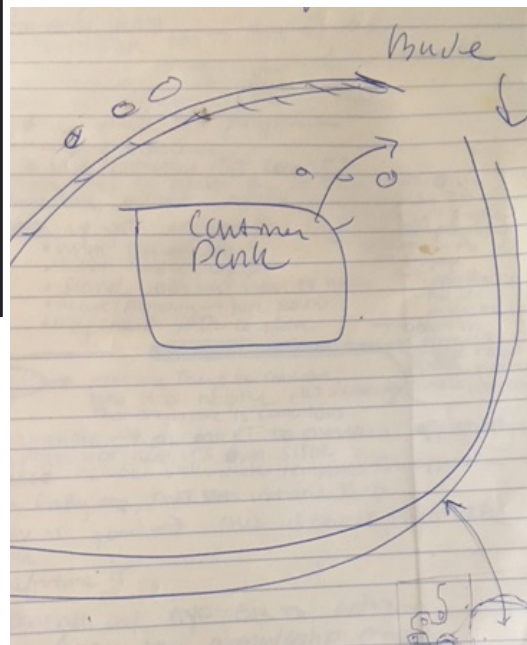
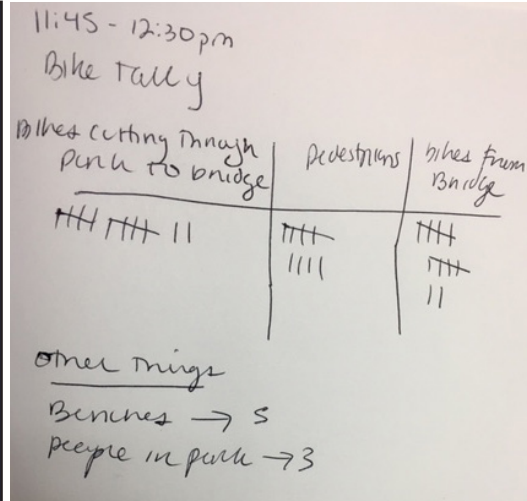
I observed Continental Army Plaza as an access point to the Williamsburg Bridge.

But it wasn't intended to be a connector for bicyclists.

I decided to figure out why so many bicyclists preferred to go through the park.

I learned that it was due to safety issues and road conditions surrounding Continental Army Plaza.

These images represent initial sketches during a site visit that began my inspiration for my infographics presentation.



Establishing a narrative is hard. There are so many ideas to incorporate, but design takes time. It takes so much time. And patience. And coffee. But mostly time. It also takes many sketches and re-dos.

I took notes from my classmates and professor's feedback.

I looked at examples on the internet.

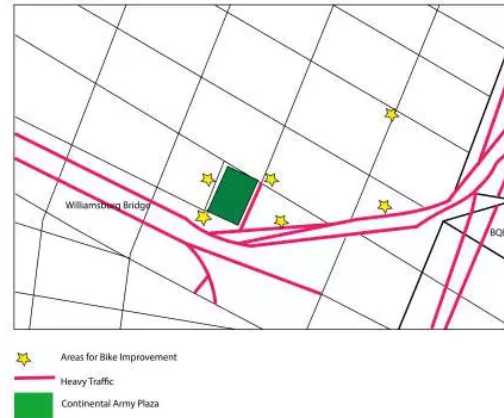
I went back to the drawing board.

I re-read my classmates and professor's feedback.

How can I visually tell a compelling story? A new challenge for me.

I best tell stories through words.

Bike Infrastructure Improvement Near Continental Army Plaza

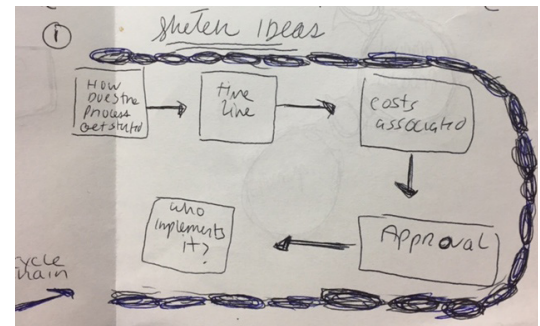
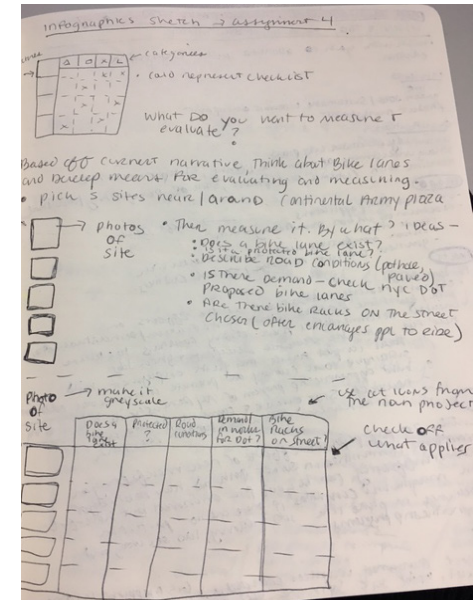


Assignment # 1 - My first attempt



Assignment # 1 - After feedback

So I took more time sketching and conveying my ideas on pen and paper before design on a computer. I tried not to rush. I spent more time on the process.



Final Stages: Planning The Visual Story of My Narrative

An evaluation of more Bike Ethnographies

PREMISE

Solutions?
What is the city doing
The community

Bikes Safety
Williamsburg BRIDGE IS Dangerous
Alternative Transportation
Enhancing connectivity
Trucks are Dangerous

Ghost bikes near
Entrance to park

Safe Streets
Bike connectivity

Continental Army plaza
Is a hub for connectivity
- needs improvements
- accrue spatial potential
- goal is SAFETY

STORY BOARD

1) Limited connectivity/DANGEROUS
2) Locations, critical issues/
Key data/Documentation
3) What's being done about it?
→ what are effective
approaches to solve these

STORY BOARD: A VISUAL NARRATIVE

 ROAD CONDITIONS BRIDGES THINGS THE AREA	 C.A.P. TRANSPORTATION HUB	 WHO IS DOING WHAT ABOUT IT
 PHOTO DOCUMENTATION • static case FOR C.A.P.	 EFFECTIVE APPROACHES	 1) limit truck traffic 2) protected bike lanes 3) paint

3 Acts → **Final Presentation**

1. Limited Connectivity/DANGEROUS → narrative building
2. Locations, Documentation, key data → explain
3. what are effective measures

INTRO (class title name (bike))

Act 1 (geographic context) → photos, institutional data, map

Act 2 → map made in class / checklist infographic

Act 3 → continental Army plaza, critical issues design map

Intertitle design process → simple vector images of bike pieces

Sketches / Class notes → write thoughts, feedback from class, ideas

The END → re recommendations / next research