

U DISTRICT

STATION AREA ACCESS STUDY

Overview

The U District light rail station will open in 2021 with a projected 24,000 daily riders, and the U District and the University of Washington's (UW's) populations are growing. Realizing the need for a comprehensive station area access and circulation plan, the U District Mobility Group—volunteer residents, small business owners, and institution representatives—initiated this study. Leveraging funds from several sources and a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' Matching Fund grant, the group conducted extensive community engagement and prepared the plan to identify the U District community's vision, goals, and preferences regarding mobility improvements.

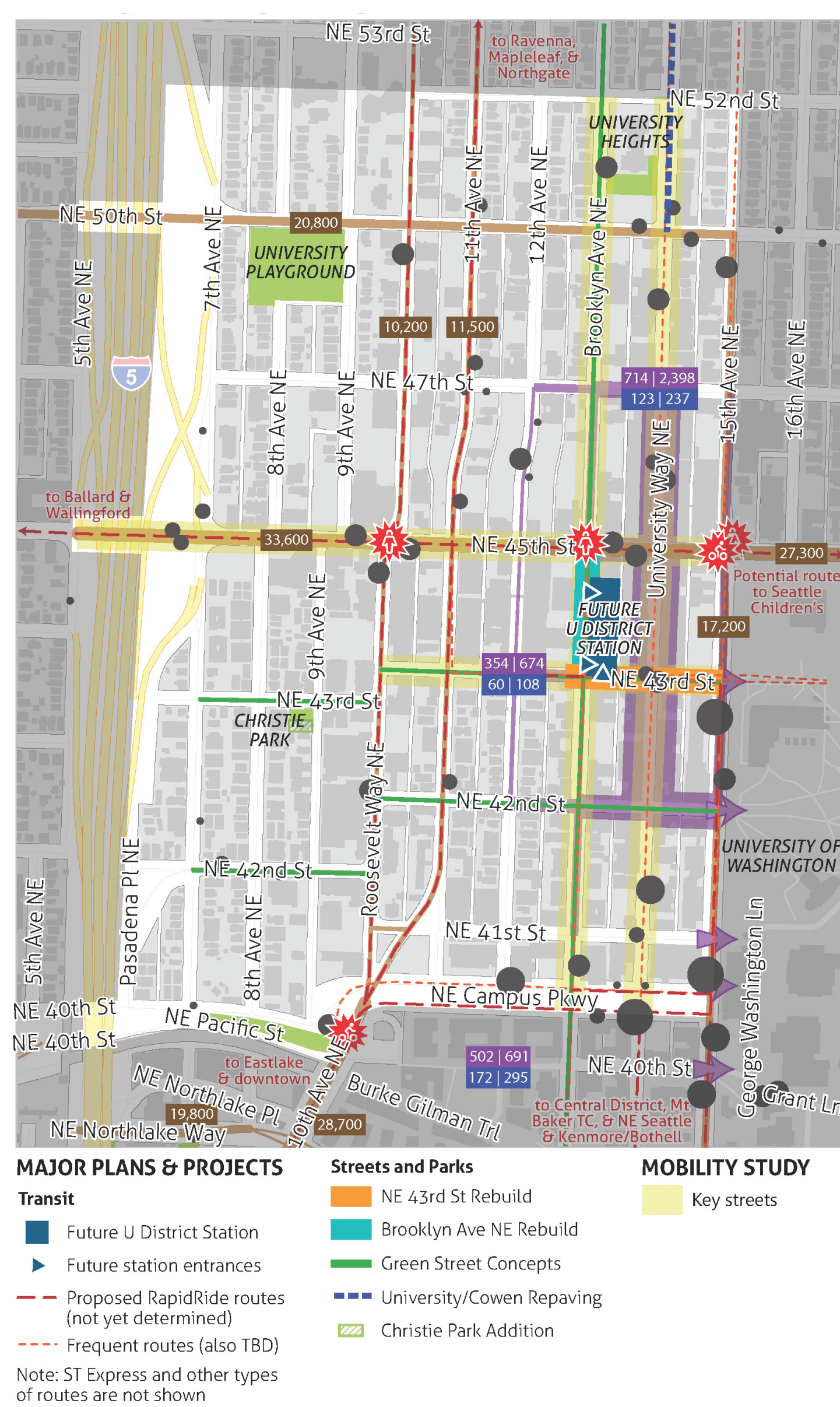
Innovation and Prioritizing People

This project was innovative in a few ways: 1) A group of volunteers—not a jurisdiction or agency—sought funding and initiated the study, and 2) Agencies with varying timelines and goals collaborated on joint solutions through an intensive series of strategy group meetings. These led to lessons on station area design that can be used in future station area planning, such as considerations for seamless transfers and swells of pedestrians. The study prioritizes people traveling by foot, bike, wheel, and transit and solves complex transit transfer, pedestrian volume, public space, and small business challenges.

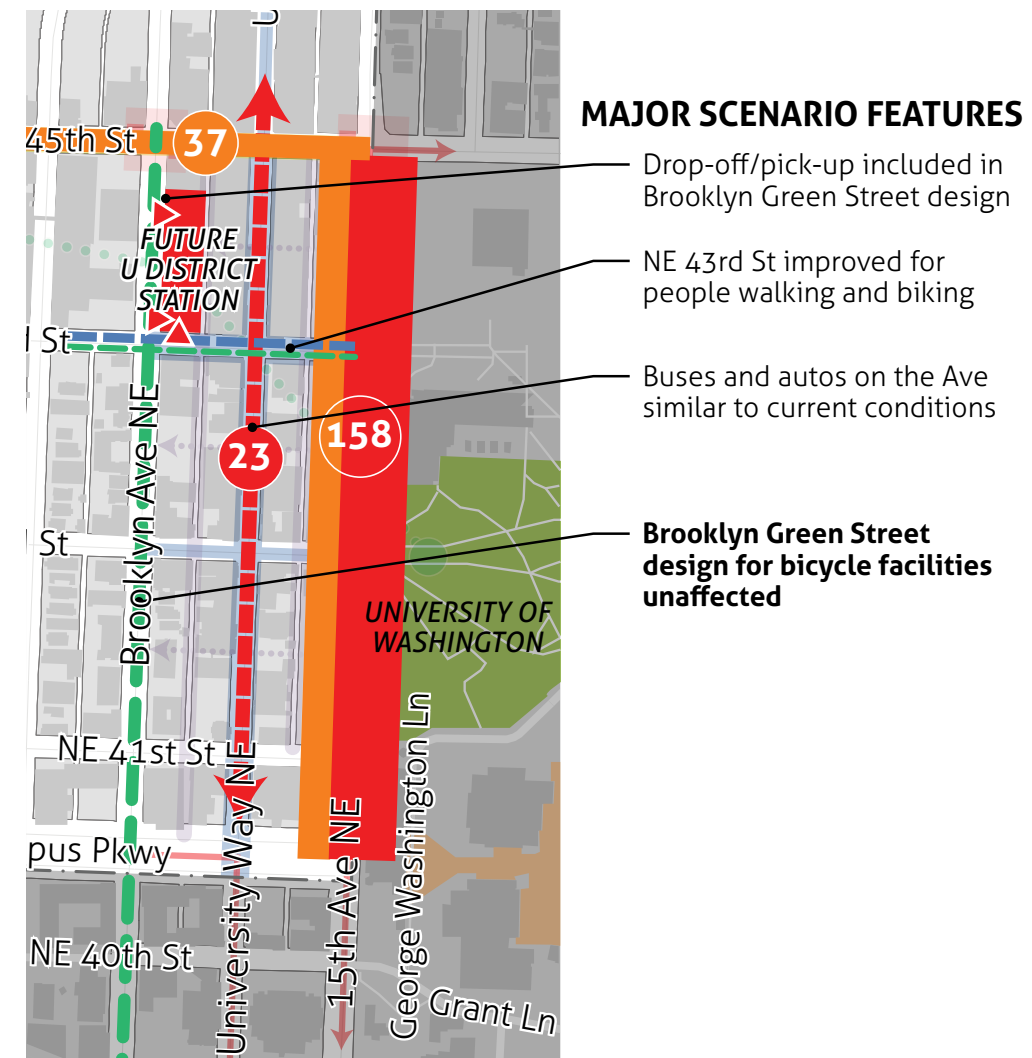


NE 43rd St from 15th Ave NE to Brooklyn Ave NE will see dramatic increases in pedestrian volumes between the light rail station, The Ave, and the university. Additionally, buses will be routed westbound in the short term. Therefore, a curbside street section is recommended that allows for greater pedestrian space and the flexibility to adapt to mode changes over time.

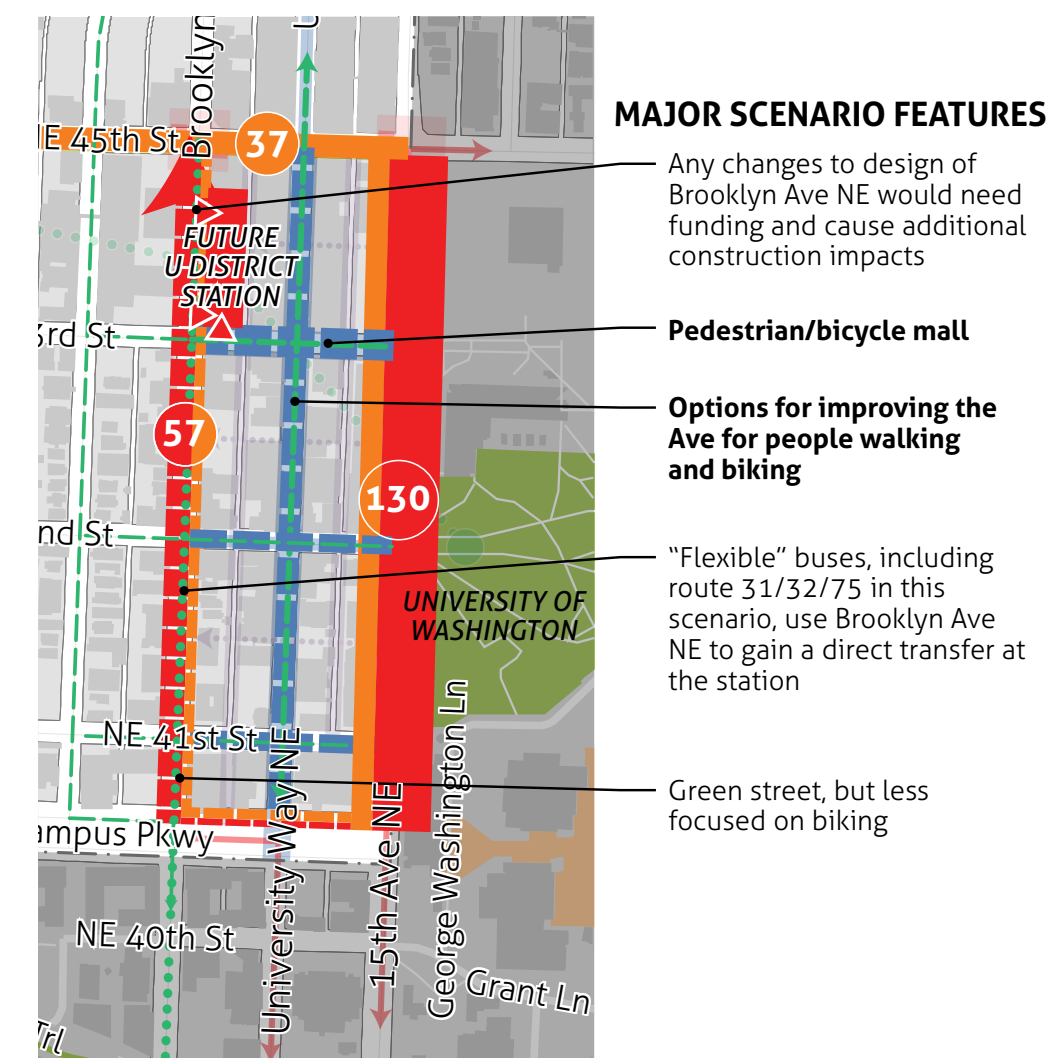
Existing Challenges, High Volume Areas, and Major Plans



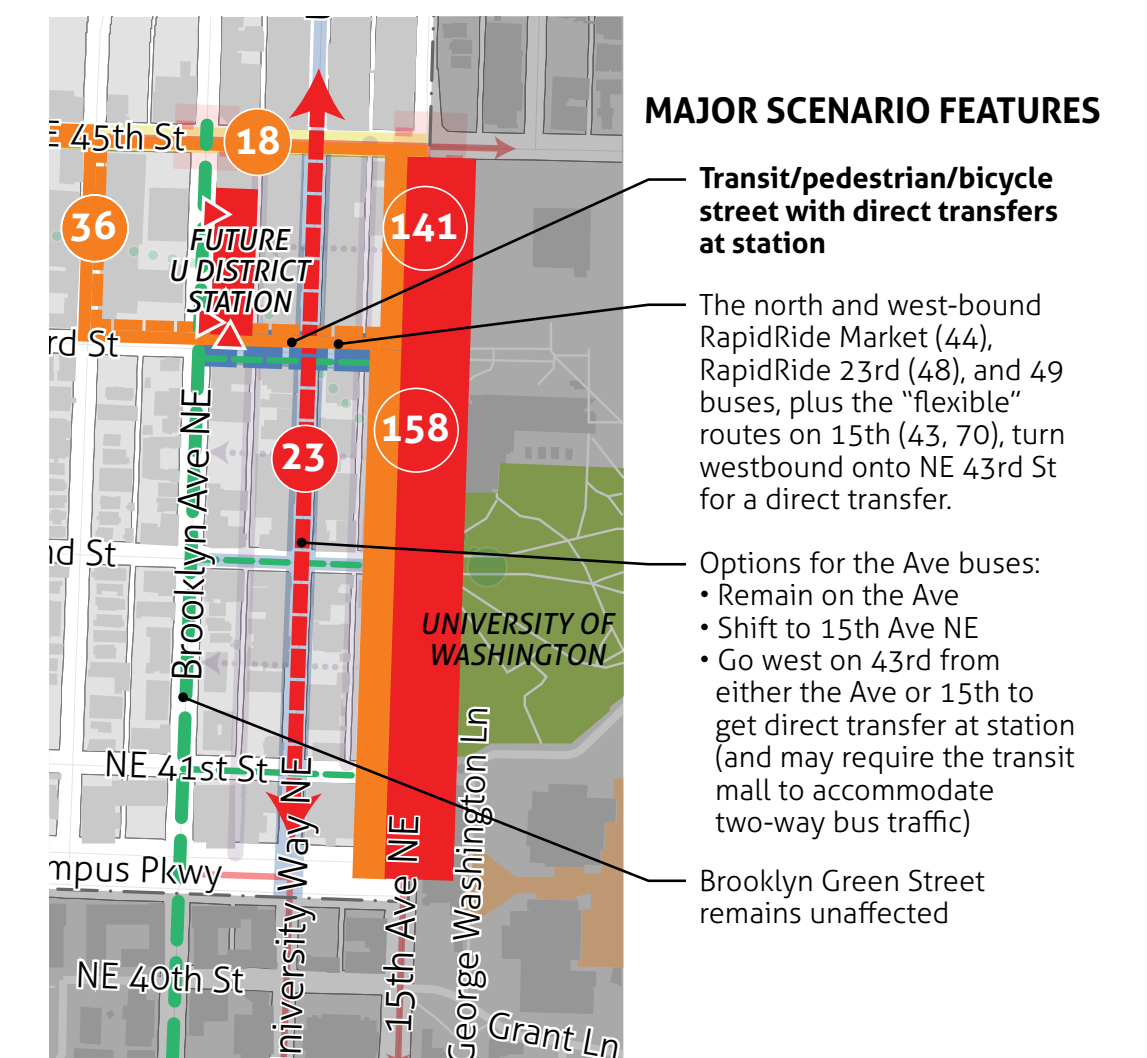
Scenario 1: Brooklyn Green Street (Buses on the Ave)



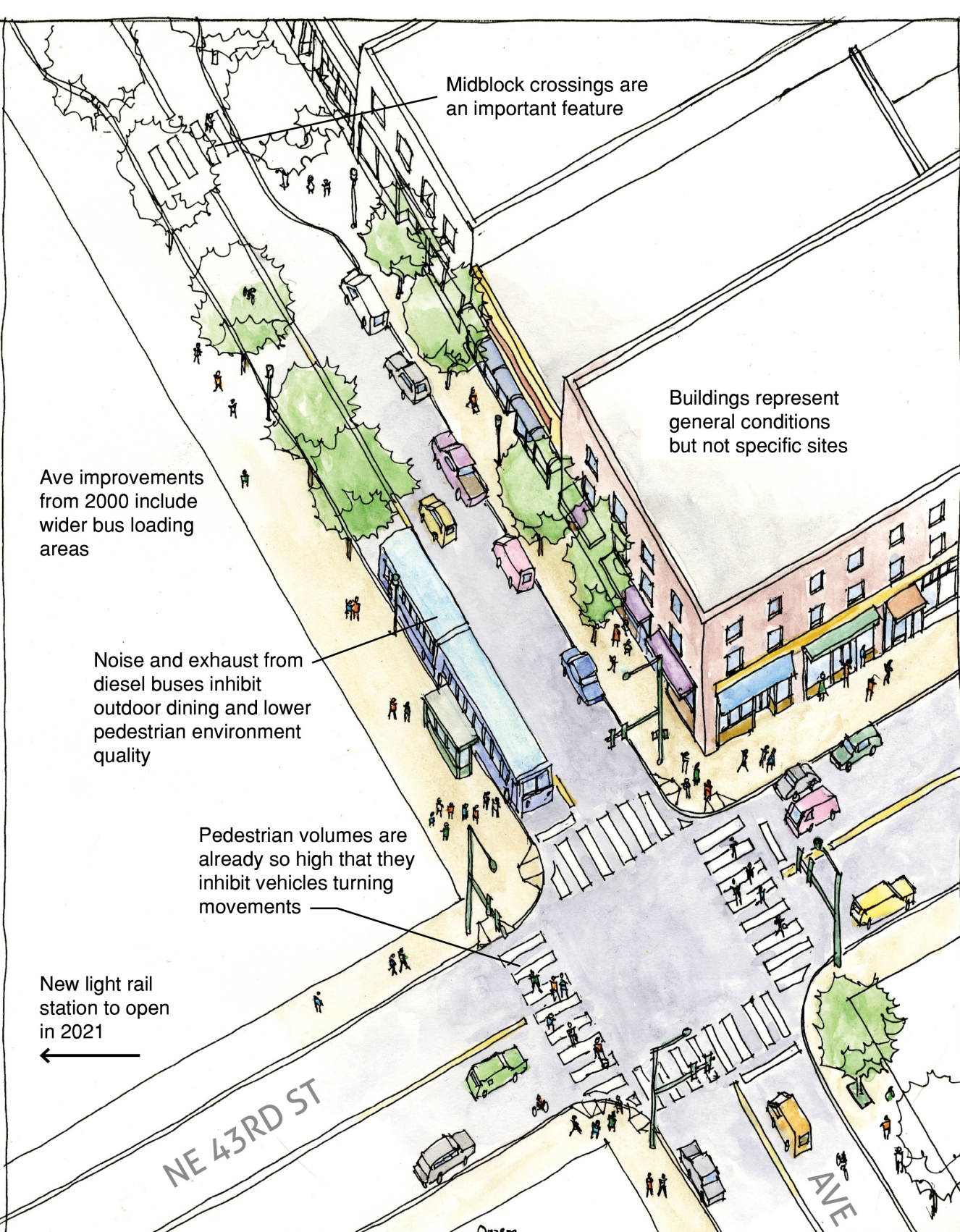
Scenario 2: The Ave for Pedestrians (Buses on Brooklyn)



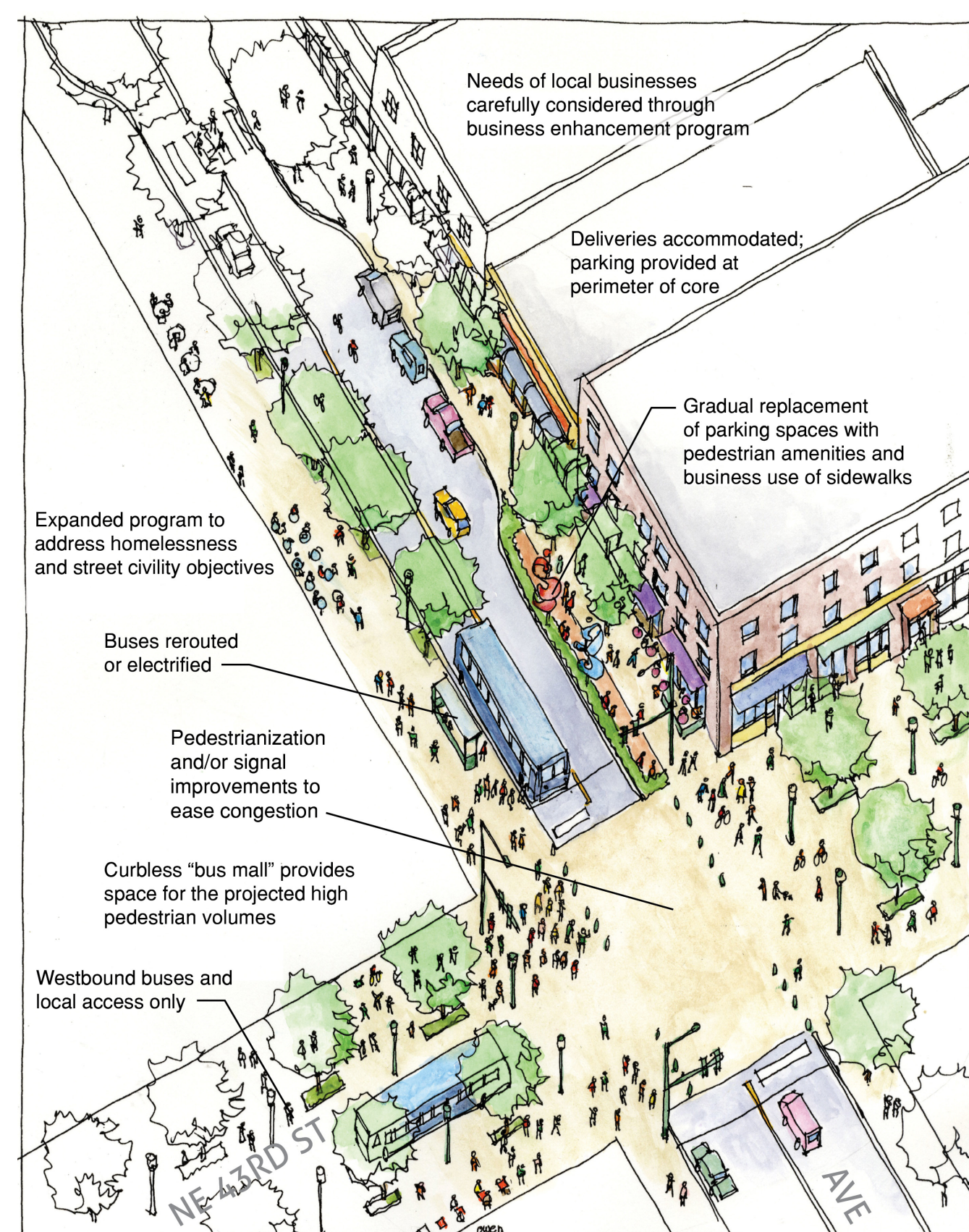
Scenario 3: Transit Street (Buses on The Ave/43rd/12th)



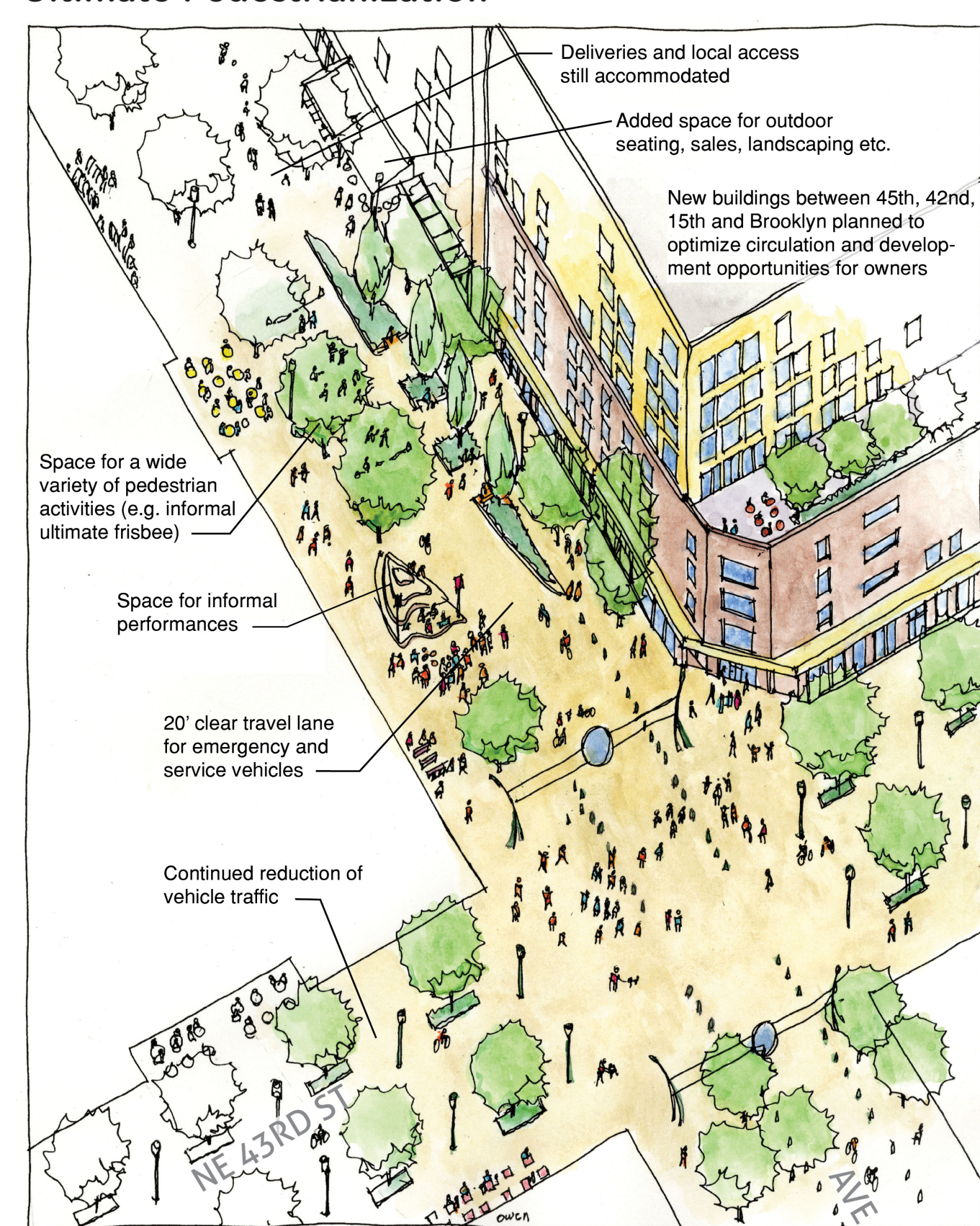
Current Conditions



First Phase Actions



Ultimate Pedestrianization



"Pedestrianizing" the Ave was a hugely popular concept, and this long-term strategy shows how it could be accomplished.



Project Name: U District Station Area Access Study
Project Location: Seattle, WA
Client: U District Mobility Group
Project Team: MAKERS architecture and urban design; Project Lead and Urban Design Fehr & Peers; Toole Design Group
Date: 2018