## Review of North/West Battery Park City Project Suggested Alignment Alternative

The North/West Battery Park City Resiliency ("N/WBPCR") Project design team has received, among the comments submitted by the public in response to the Project alignment preferred by BPCA and the design team and designated in the 30% Project design, a concept for an alignment alternative within Reaches 3 and 4 of the Project Area (the "Suggested Alternative"). Based upon the design team's consideration and analysis of alignment alternatives, including the potential viability of the Suggested Alternative, it has concluded that the Suggested Alternative poses challenges and creates conditions that run counter to the objectives of the N/WBPCR Project. In summary:

- COSTS & CONSTRUCTION IMPACT OF ALERNATIVE PROPOSAL: The current alignment is approximately 150 feet in length across the west side of the Irish Hunger Memorial ("IHM"). The Suggested Alternative would require the length of the alignment to be approximately 600 feet, or four times longer than that contemplated by the current design, with an associated increase in capital cost and construction duration.

- ALIGNMENT OPENINGS / CLOSURE GATES, SIGHT LINE IMPACTS & PEDESTRIAN FLOW: The current alignment entails one opening (with a closure gate) located in front of the IHM on the west side, which minimizes sight line impacts to the users of the plaza while providing the required storm protection. The Suggested Alternative would require at least three (3) and as many as five (5) new openings (with closure gates) to break up contiguous walls along River Terrace, Vesey Street, and North End Avenue for public access. This would increase the project costs and restrict movement of pedestrian flow around and into the IHM.

- AESTHETIC IMPACTS, GREENSPACE & CONNECTION TO PARK: The impact of the current alignment was designed to minimize aesthetic impacts to public space and maintain much of the plaza in front of the IHM, while conforming to the existing wall elements on the upland side of the Lily Pond. The Suggested Alternative along River Terrace would entail a more significant disruption than the current alignment and would interrupt Citi Bike parking and/or restrict River Terrace Street width.

  Moreover, the Suggested Alternative along Vesey Street would require the removal of greenspace and likely require the removal of trees within the traversed lawn area. The Suggested Alternative along North End Avenue would also represent a significant disruption to the familiar street-side connection and visibility of and entrance to the IHM from North End Avenue

- CONNECTION TO PARK, PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE & TRAFFIC FLOW: North of IHM, the current alignment on the west side of River Terrace was selected to conform to the existing wall that runs in a north-south direction, representing a minimal impact to the public space. The Suggested Alternative, by contrast, shifts the alignment from the west side of the sidewalk, along the park's edge to an area that seems to be in the roadbed, either by placing it in the current parking lane or within a widened sidewalk. This approach would present significant complications, including crossing multiple water mains, power lines, and sewer lines, and (depending on placement) could still result in the removal of street trees. These increased roadway/sidewalk and utility impacts would lead to longer construction duration and greater capital cost.

Additionally, narrowing the existing street would not necessarily eliminate the issue of placard parking; it could in fact exacerbate it by further limiting the width of the roadbed for residential parking, deliveries trucks, loading / unloading, and through traffic. A flood barrier in the street or on a widened sidewalk would also result in a corridor effect along the west side of River Terrace, in which the pedestrian would experience a wall on either side while walking along the sidewalk. Users of the park would have to pass two parallel walls to enter or exit it, and at certain points walk a block or more in either direction simply to access the west side sidewalk. This could lead to a disruption in normal park access for residents and visitors to the buildings along River Terrace and would represent a significant departure from these residents' experience with the park as they know it today. In addition, the construction activity required for the Suggested Alternative – while temporary – would represent a significant increase over that required to implement the current alignment. Moreover, the Suggested Alternative would not guarantee that construction within and a partial closure of the park would be avoided, thus potentially obviating any assumed benefit in that regard, since the impacts of an extended closure of River Terrace would need to be considered.

- SUBSURFACE UTILITIES AT 300 VESEY & SEWER OUTFALL: The Suggested Alternative would involve a substantial impact to utilities that are adjacent to, and that feed, 300 Vesey Street. Relative to the N/WBPCR Project Area as a whole, the concentration of utilities in the northwest corner of 300 Vesey is significant, as the building has buried existing telecommunications infrastructure. While unclear whether relocation of these existing subsurface telecommunications duct banks is remotely possible, it is clear that, even if possible, such a relocation effort would result in a substantial escalation of construction duration and cost.

  As significantly, there is a 96-inch sewer outfall that would be impacted by the Suggested Alternative, and this would require reconstruction of the pipe and likely an additional tide gate. This assumes the highly improbable possibility that reconstruction of the sewer outfall could be determined to be feasible and that it would receive the necessary approvals. All of these utility impacts would significantly increase construction duration and cost.

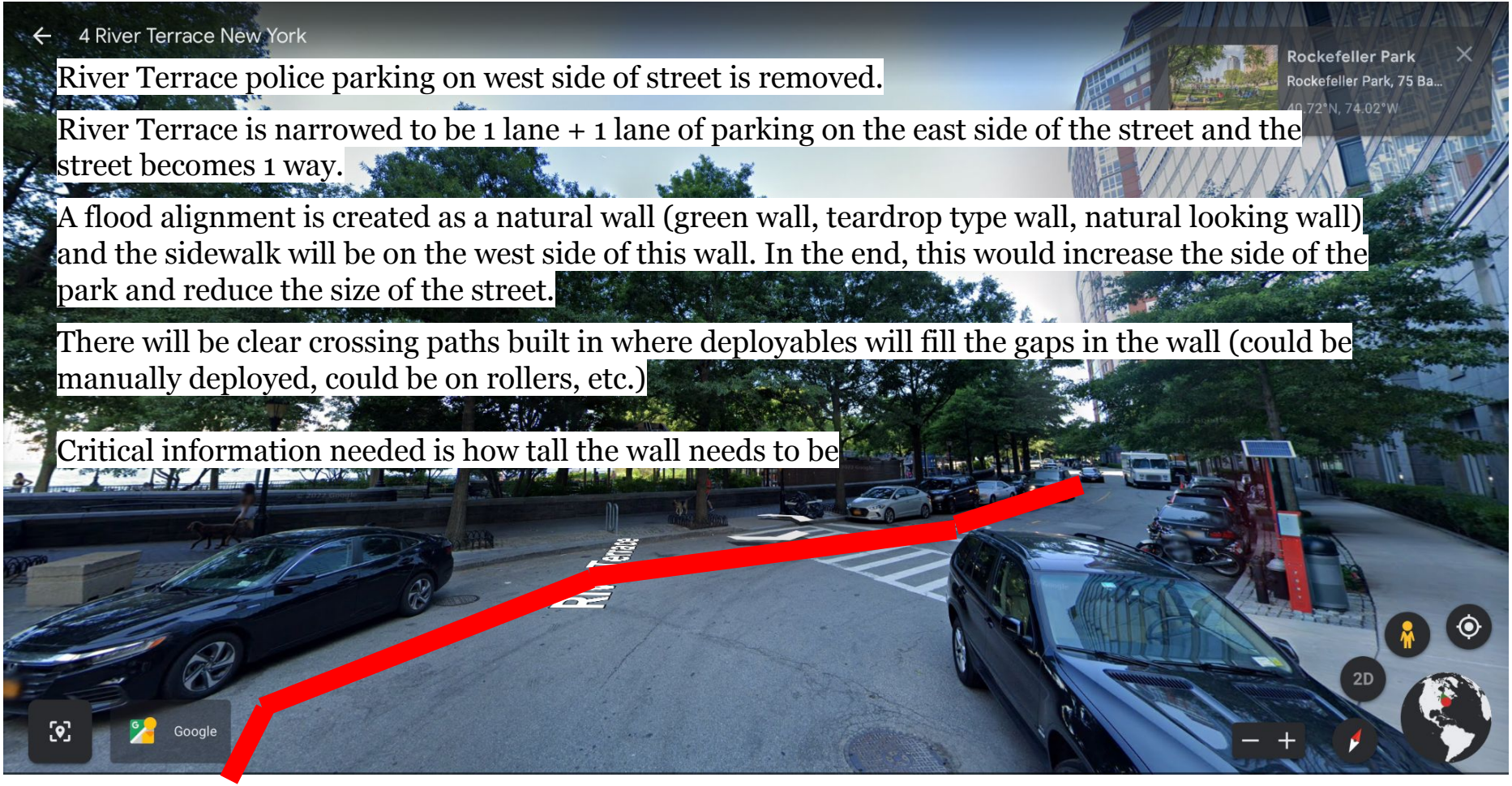
- CURRENT PROJECT ALIGNMENT & PROTECTION OF THE IRISH HUNGER MEMORIAL: Finally, the current alignment, running along the water side of the IHM, provides the benefit of protecting the memorial from coastal storms and future sea level rise. The IHM has programming on the first floor, including electrical equipment that would be damaged if flooding were to occur.

For the reasons enumerated above, namely: 1) the significant adverse impacts to construction cost and duration; 2) associated intensification of adverse community impacts; 3) undesired impacts to the area's aesthetics, pedestrian circulation, and connections to the park; 4) the substantial, if not insurmountable challenges related to subsurface infrastructure; and 5) the fact that the sheer number and extent of the adverse impacts associated with the Suggested Alternative would render the potential mitigation of any one or more of them ineffective in adequately mitigating the overall adverse impact of the approach, the North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project design team does not consider the Suggested Alternative to be viable and considers further consideration or analysis of such an approach to be unjustified.


The following slides are an alternative alignment option that the public would like to be meaningfully considered. It was discussed during the Feb 2023 workshops and confirmed that this approach had not been considered yet.

Key information that is still needed is details on the wall height.

This option may provide minimal disruption to the park character and the green infrastructure throughout Rockefeller and the Duck Pond. Please note this was created in PPT by a community member with no design background so the alignments are rough estimates.


4 River Terrace New York
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba...
40.72°N, 74.02°W
River Terrace police parking on west side of street is removed.
River Terrace is narrowed to be 1 lane + 1 lane of parking on the east side of the street and the street becomes 1 way.
A flood alignment is created as a natural wall (green wall, teardrop type wall, natural looking wall) and the sidewalk will be on the west side of this wall. In the end, this would increase the side of the park and reduce the size of the street.
There will be clear crossing paths built in where deployables will fill the gaps in the wall (could be manually deployed, could be on rollers, etc.)
Critical information needed is how tall the wall needs to be
2D
Google


The trees both in the park and along the street will be preserved as construction equipment can come in from the street.

The likelihood of the park staying open during construction would be much higher as well.

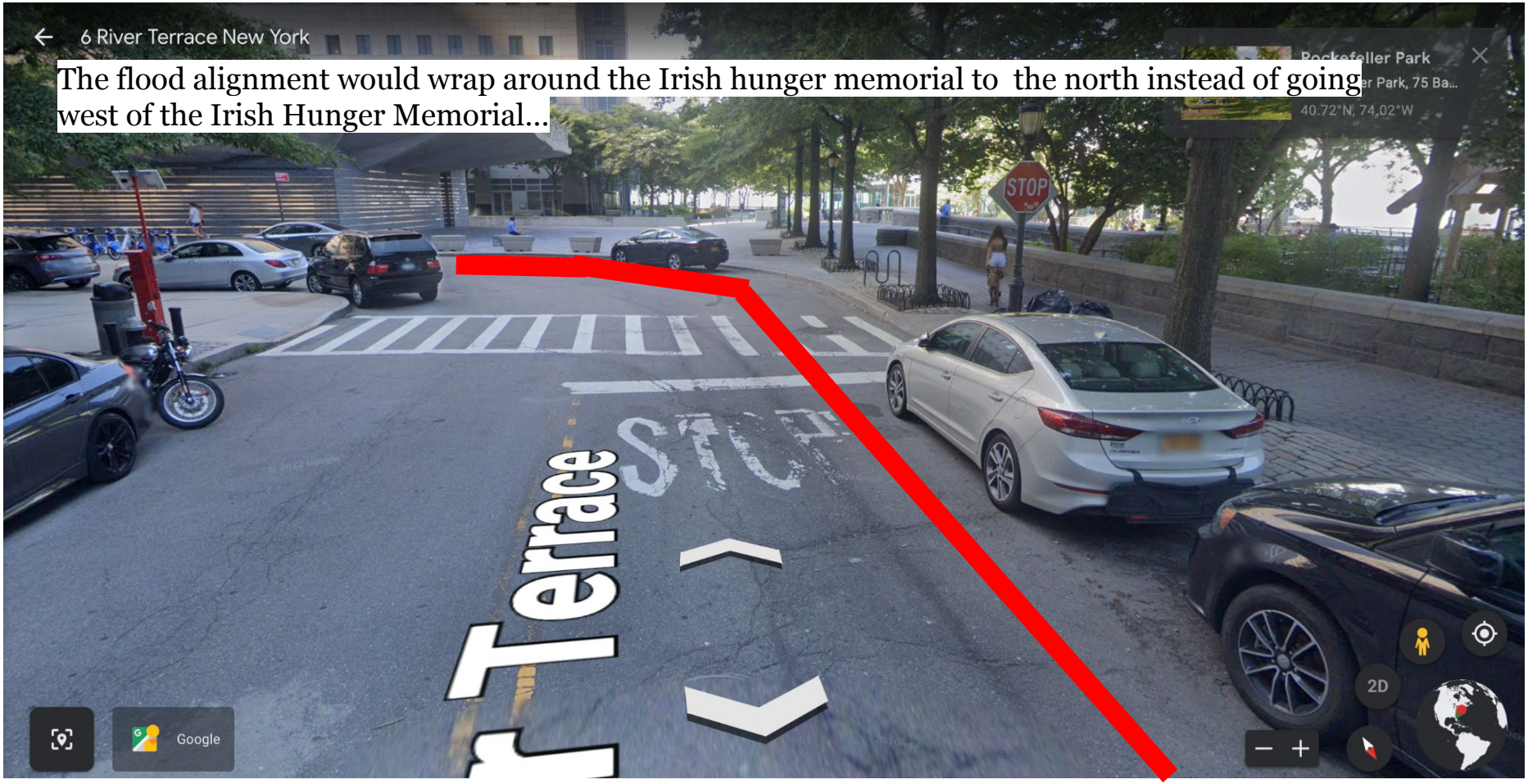

10 River Terrace New York
This will continue all the way down to the end of River Terrace
Did you know kids like to climb and walk on these walls? Any flood alignment wall should be natural and think of ways that it could be used by kids to play or climb
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba...
40.72°N, 74.02°W
Google
2D

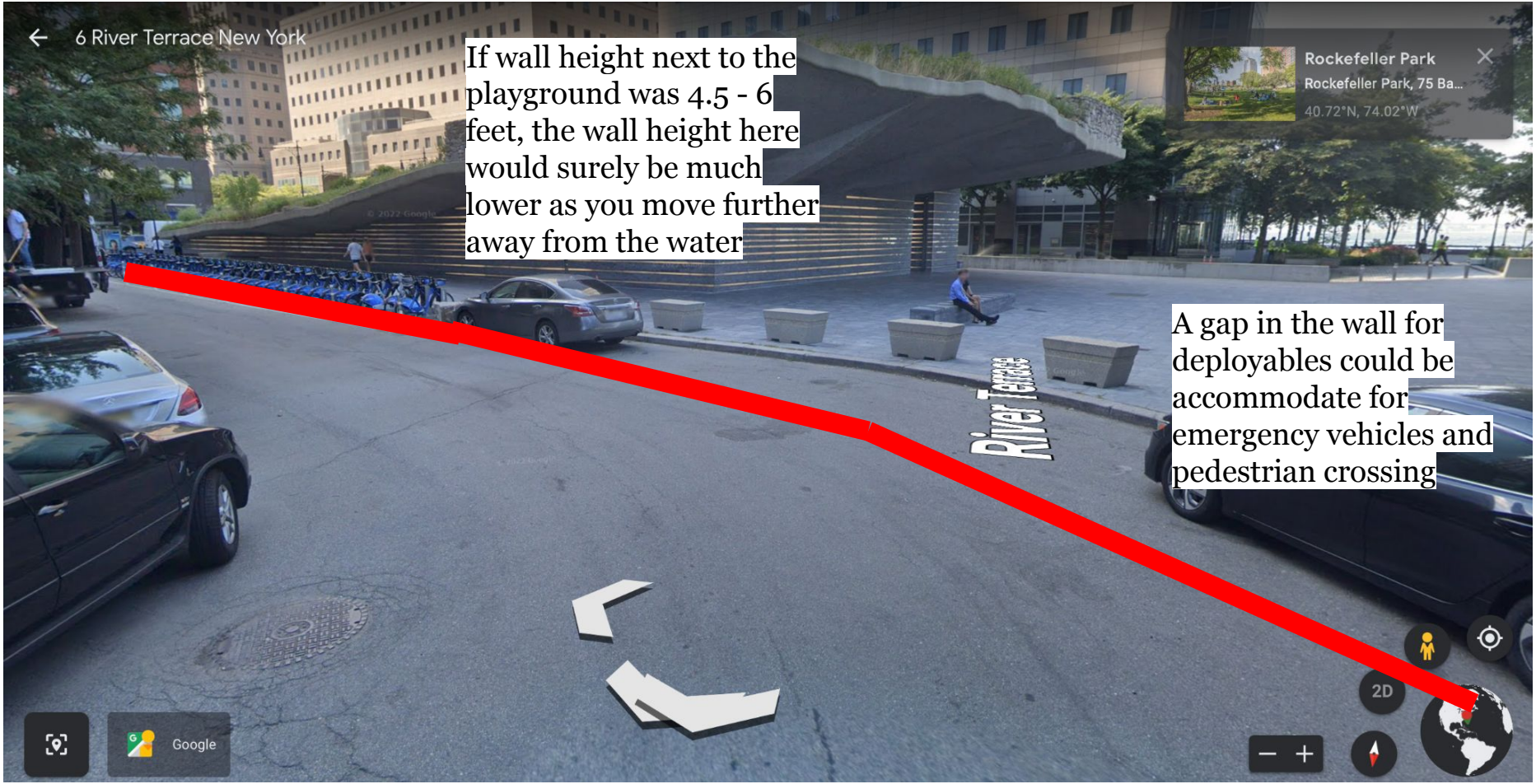

Hurricane Maria memorial to be relocated to a community where it is more appropriate and appreciated.

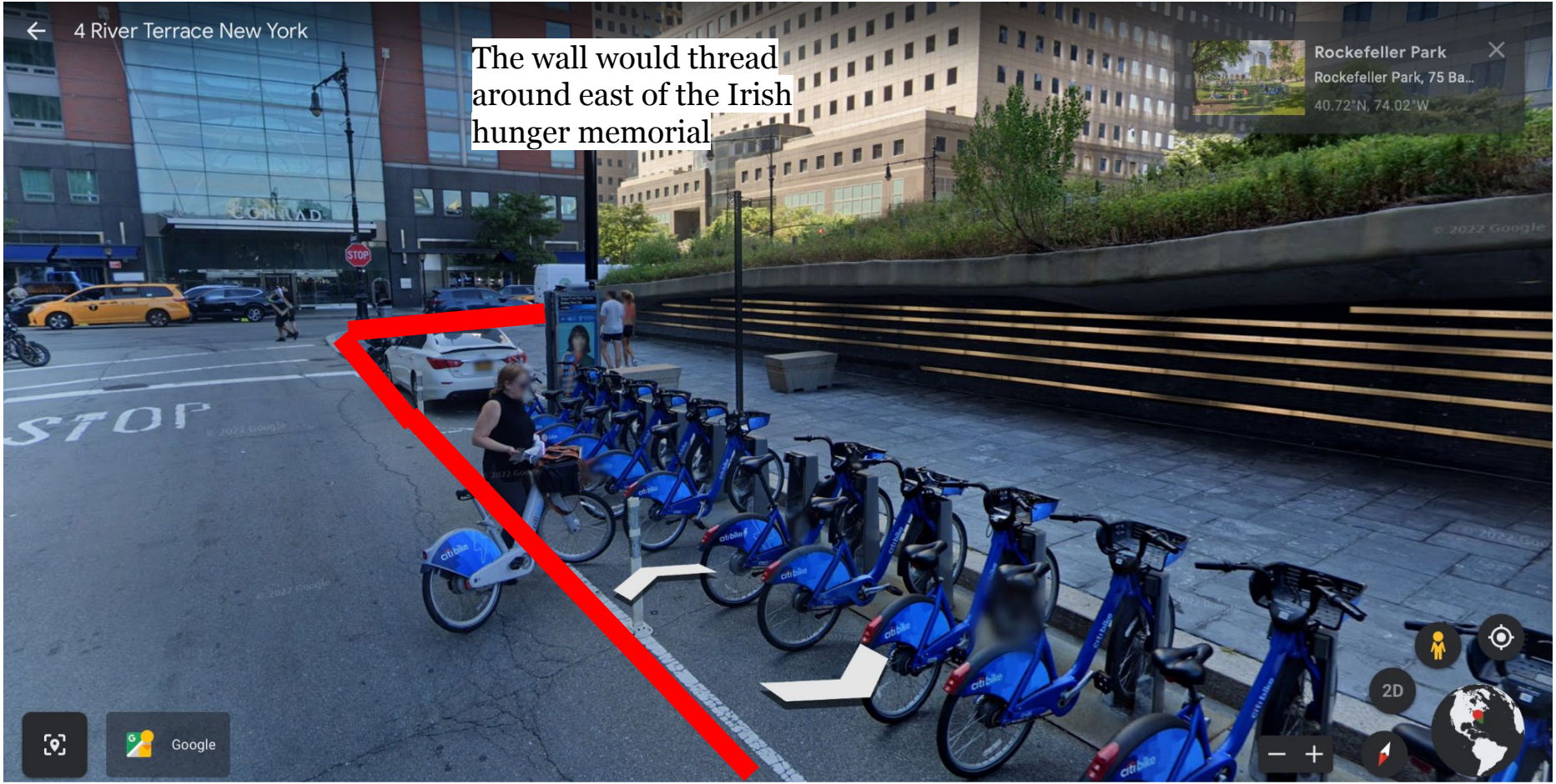
Right now, it is a place where people go the bathroom and smoke marijuana

That space could be imagined with new trees , green space and habitat for animals

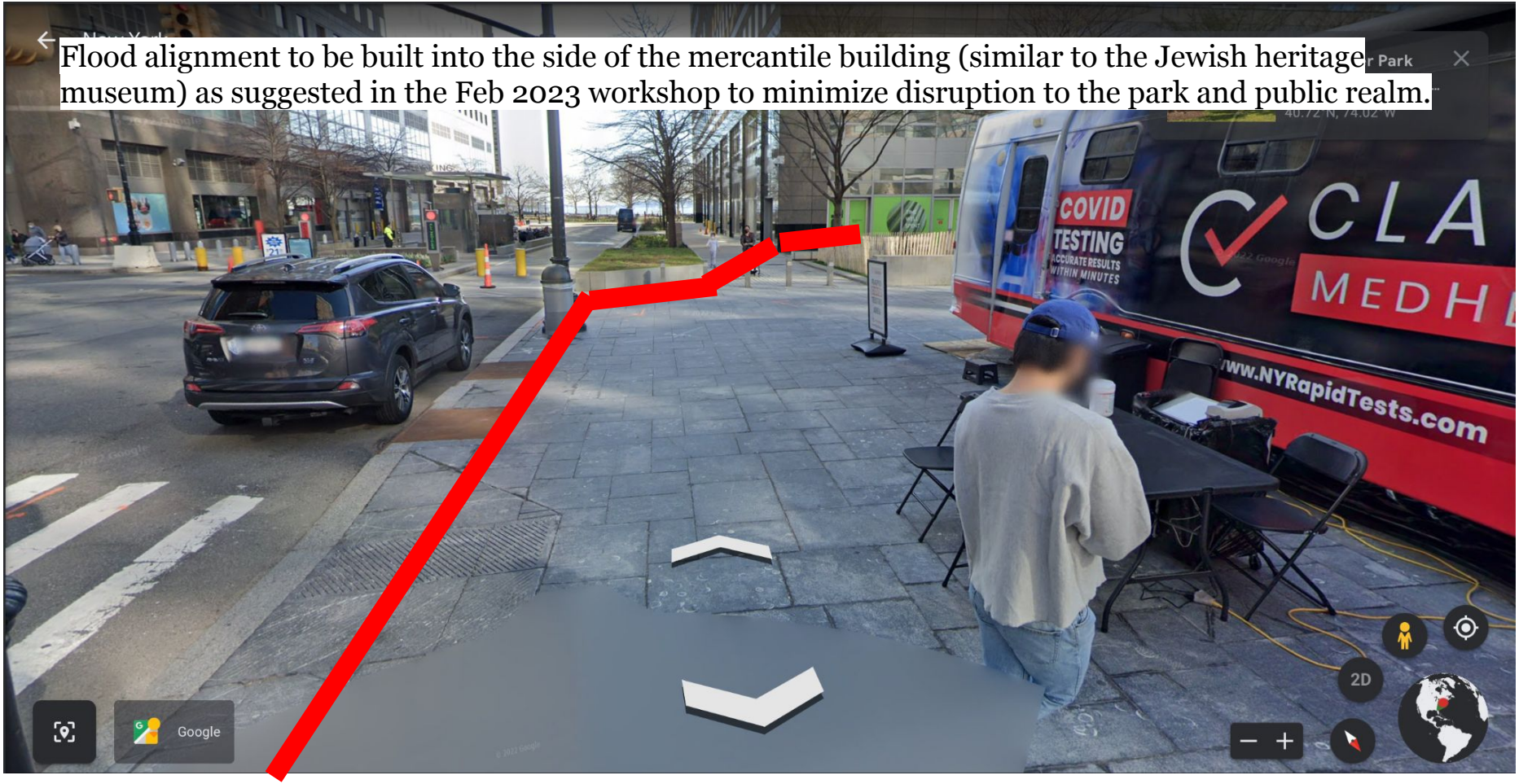

4 River Terrace New York
Now, going back to this view… there’s a flood alignment that should be explored.
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba…
40.72°N, 74.02°W
2D
Google


6 River Terrace New York
The flood alignment would wrap around the Irish hunger memorial to the north instead of going west of the Irish Hunger Memorial...
Rockefeller Park
40.72°N, 74,02°W
STOP
Terrace
2D
Google


6 River Terrace New York
If wall height next to the playground was 4.5 - 6 feet, the wall height here would surely be much lower as you move further away from the water
A gap in the wall for deployables could be accommodate for emergency vehicles and pedestrian crossing
River Terrace
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba...
40.72°N, 74.02°W
2D
Google


4 River Terrace New York
The wall would thread around east of the Irish hunger memorial
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba...
40.72°N, 74.02°W
CONRAD
STOP
© 2022 Google
citibike
2D
Google


4 River Terrace New York
Continues wrapping around east of the Irish hunger memorial. The original designers of the memorial should be contacted and consulted
Rockefeller Park
Rockefeller Park, 75 Ba...
40.72°N, 74.02°W
CONRAD
ONE WAY
STOP
© 2022 Google
2D
Google


Flood alignment to be built into the side of the mercantile building (similar to the Jewish heritage museum) as suggested in the Feb 2023 workshop to minimize disruption to the park and public realm.
COVID
TESTING
ACCURATE RESULTS WITHIN MINUTES
www.NYRapidTests.com
Google
2D


Flood alignment to be built into the side of the mercantile building (similar to the Jewish heritage museum) as suggested in the Feb 2023 workshop to minimize disruption to the park and public realm.

Seating may need to be reimagined and this is the area where the Authority proposed putting the Essential Workers Memorial in 2021.