



## Separated Bike Lanes in NYC: Dividends of Advocacy

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NYC is in the process of a dramatic transformation of its streets to promote alternative modes of transportation to the automobile – walking, biking and mass transit. To the outside observer, this might seem like a natural evolution of streetscapes or merely based on the personal viewpoints of a few influential people. But in reality, this transformation, still in its infancy, is the result of a long and dedicated advocacy campaign by groups like [Transportation Alternatives](#), [Time's Up](#) and the dedicated bloggers and vloggers on [Streetsblog](#) and [Streetfilms](#) that is [finally seeing its advocacy work pay-off](#). Big time.

It has long been the dream of alternative transportation advocates to not only increase the number of on-street bike lanes for cyclists, but to make them safe enough for anyone to use them – children, elderly or just a casual commuting cyclist. Basically to make them safe and comforting to anyone that doesn't want to deal with automobiles buzzing them. The ideal to many cycling advocates is the separated bike lane because it not only provides a safer ride, but also prevents automobiles from blocking them by double parking in them.

And New York is getting its first taste of on-street separated bike lanes on a small stretch of a Ninth Avenue leading into midtown.

This is just one example of how local advocacy can result in real changes on the ground toward creating more sustainable communities. If you would like to get a taste for the type of advocacy work that went into this and some of the key players, watch this classic Streetfilm: The Case for Separated Bike Lanes by Clarence Eckerson.

What needs changing in your community? Instead of heading for the hills, you might want to get more involved in making the changes that will make it more sustainable.



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