Pedestrian plan takes Broadway

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As part of the city’s plan to ease congestion in Herald Square and Times Square, traffic on Broadway will be limited all the way north to Columbus Circle.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled a proposal Thursday that would send Broadway to two driving lanes from 47th to 59th streets and create a left-turn lane and a parking lane.

This would be in addition to the mayor’s plan to prohibit cars on Broadway in Times Square and Herald Square starting Memorial Day weekend.

The $1.5 million pilot program calls for:

- Cars between 42nd and 47th streets to be diverted to Seventh Avenue.
- Vehicles between 33rd and 39th streets to be diverted to Sixth Avenue.
- Completion of landscaped pedestrian plazas in Times Square and Herald Square by the end of summer.

The traffic changes would require the MTA to alter bus routes that carry about 75,000 daily passengers. Exact details have not been worked out. "You always say there’s nothing you can do about traffic," Bloomberg said. "Well, we’re not just going to sit back — we’re going to try to do something about it."

The $1.5 million plan would require altered MTA bus routes.

Step in the right direction

The city proposes parts of Broadway, including blocks in Times Square, be limited to vehicles and open to walkers.

2nd person sought in hate bash

Police on Thursday were seeking one man in the beating death of an Ecuadorian immigrant who was not guilty to a hate crime murder charge in the December attack in Brooklyn.

Robert F. Kennedy Bridge about 20 minutes after Jose Sucuzhanay and his brother were attacked in Bushwick.

Hakim Scott, 25, was being held Thursday after his arraignment on a charge of second-degree murder as a hate crime. His attorney was waiting to go through legal papers before deciding on a bail request.

Police and prosecutors said Sucuzhanay, 31, was beaten with a bat and kicked by men shouting anti-Hispanic and anti-gay slurs as he and his brother, Rommel, walked arm in arm to keep warm after attending a church party and stopping at a bar.

The attack left Sucuzhanay in a coma. He died as his mother was coming from their native Ecuador to see him.

Cell phone leads officials to Brooklyn rape suspect

A Brooklyn man was charged Thursday with rape and robbery after police traced use of the victim’s cell phone following the attack.

Jonathan Salva grabbed the 26-year-old woman as she walked home around 7:30 p.m. Saturday on West 28th Street in Manhattan, prosecutors said.

He dragged her behind a trash bin and choked her unconscious, they said. Prosecutors say after the woman awoke to find the 20-year-old suspect raping her, she fought to escape.

They say he then fled with her purse and cell phone, but dropped his own phone at the scene.