

M86 and M79 Select Bus Service

Manhattan Community Board 8 | October 5, 2016



Overview

- **Select Bus Service in New York City**
- **M86 Select Bus Service Update**
- **M79 Select Bus Service Introduction**
- **Project Timeline**
- **Questions**

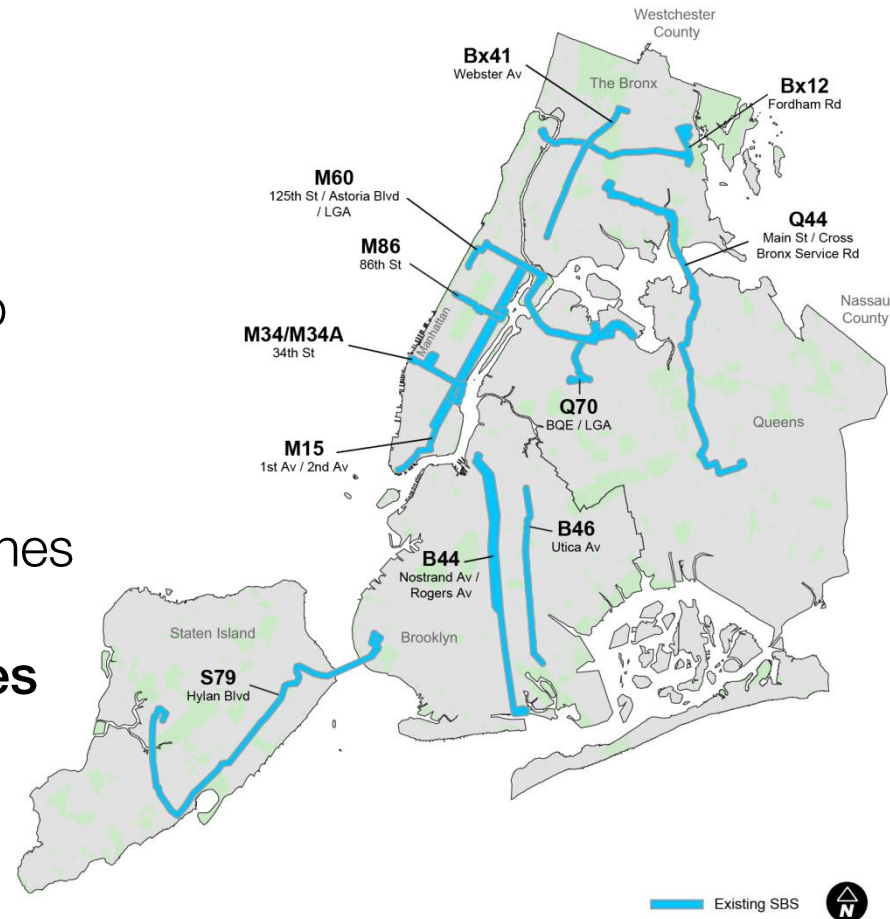
Select Bus Service in New York City

Select Bus Service (SBS) is New York City's brand name for Bus Rapid Transit: an improved bus service that offers fast, frequent, and reliable service on high-ridership bus routes.

SBS has brought:

- 10-25% faster bus speeds
- About 10% increase in ridership
- More reliable service
- Customer satisfaction of 95%
- Safer streets / reduction in crashes

There are 11 Select Bus Service routes in operation serving all 5 boroughs.



Select Bus Service Features

Dedicated Bus Lanes



Signal Priority for Buses



- **Faster** bus rides
- **Reduced traffic conflicts** between buses and traffic
- **More reliable** bus service
- Buses spend **less time stopped** at red lights

Off-Board Fare Collection



All-Door Boarding



- **Quicker** bus boarding
- Buses spend **less time waiting** at bus stops

Select Bus Service Features

Improved Station Amenities



Real-Time Passenger Information



- **More attractive, appealing** bus stops
- **Better trip information** for riders to **know when** the bus is coming
- **More comfortable wait** for the bus

Pedestrian Safety Improvements



- **Better visibility** for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
- **Clearer, shorter** pedestrian crossings

M86 SBS Project Background

- Carries over 25,000 passengers per day
- Most passengers per mile of any bus route in NYC
- Crucial connection to **1** **4** **5** **6** **B** **C** trains and 12 bus routes
- Launched in July 2015



M86 SBS Project Features



Street Design:

- Bus queue jump lanes
- Lane realignments
- Upgraded crosswalks

Station Amenities:

- Shelters
- Wayfinding signs
- Bus arrival information
- Off-board fare payment



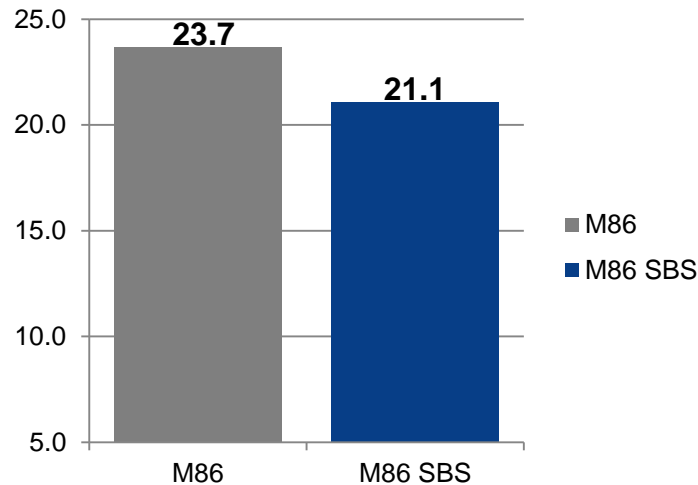
Before



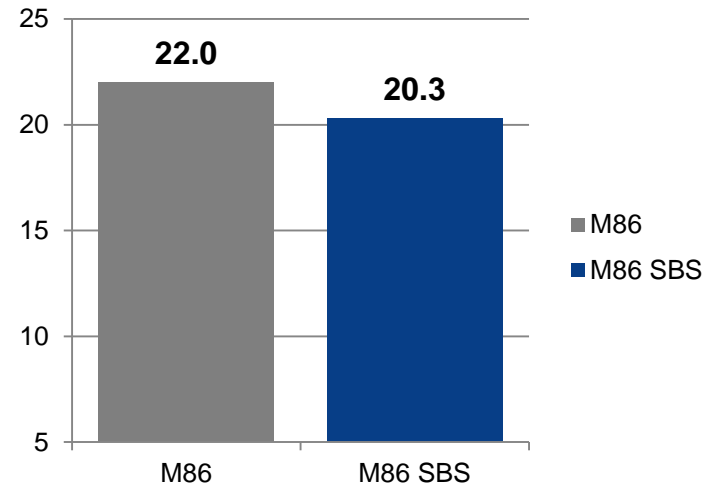
After

M86 SBS Update - Travel Times

**Eastbound Travel Time
(6:00am-7:00pm)
in minutes**

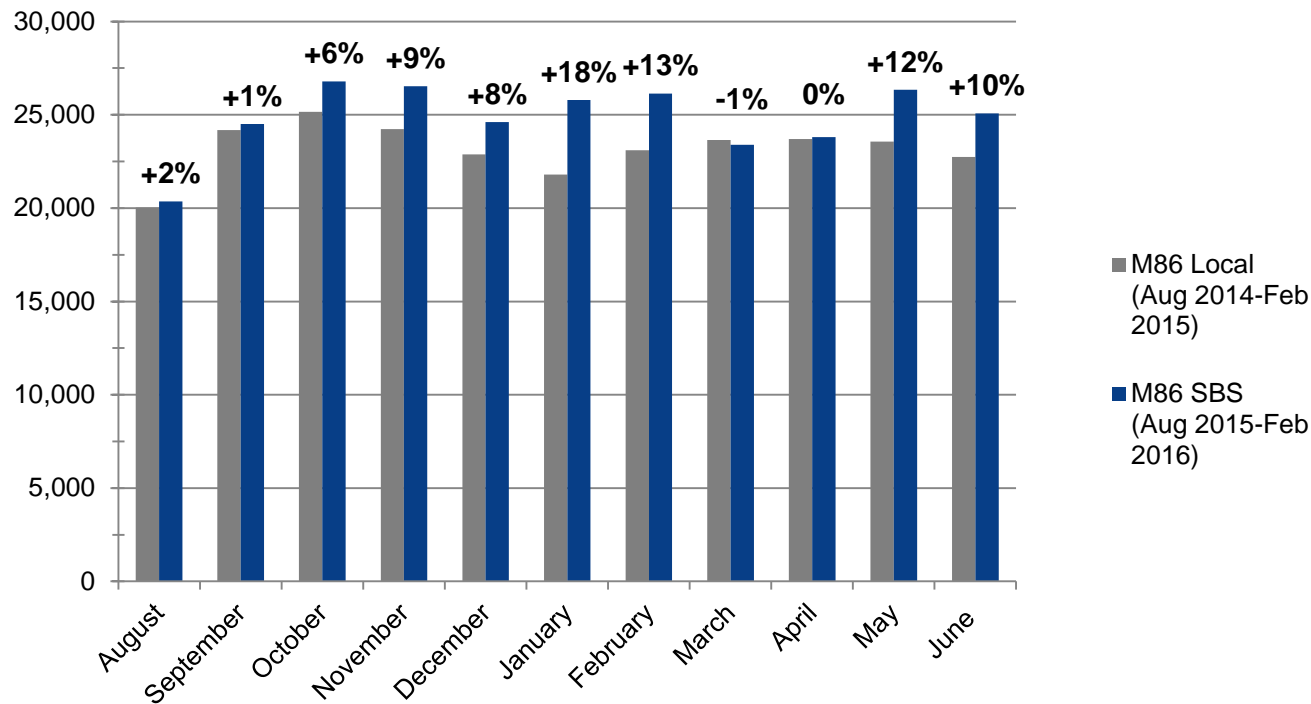


**Westbound Travel Time
(6:00am-7:00pm)
in minutes**



- Due to SBS improvements, M86 SBS operates 8-11% faster than M86
- Queue jump bus lanes and off-board fare collection have led to decreased travel times

M86 SBS Update - Ridership



- In the 5 years preceding SBS there was an 8% decrease in ridership
- Ridership grew on average 7% in the first 11 months of SBS service
- 96% rider satisfaction for overall service

M86 SBS and M79 SBS

- **Parallel crosstown routes with similar street designs and stop patterns**
- **M79 analysis and design plan will investigate similar treatments used for M86 SBS, with the goals of:**
 - Increase bus speeds and reliability
 - Improve pedestrian and traffic safety
 - Enhance customer experience with better station amenities and reduced wait times and travel times

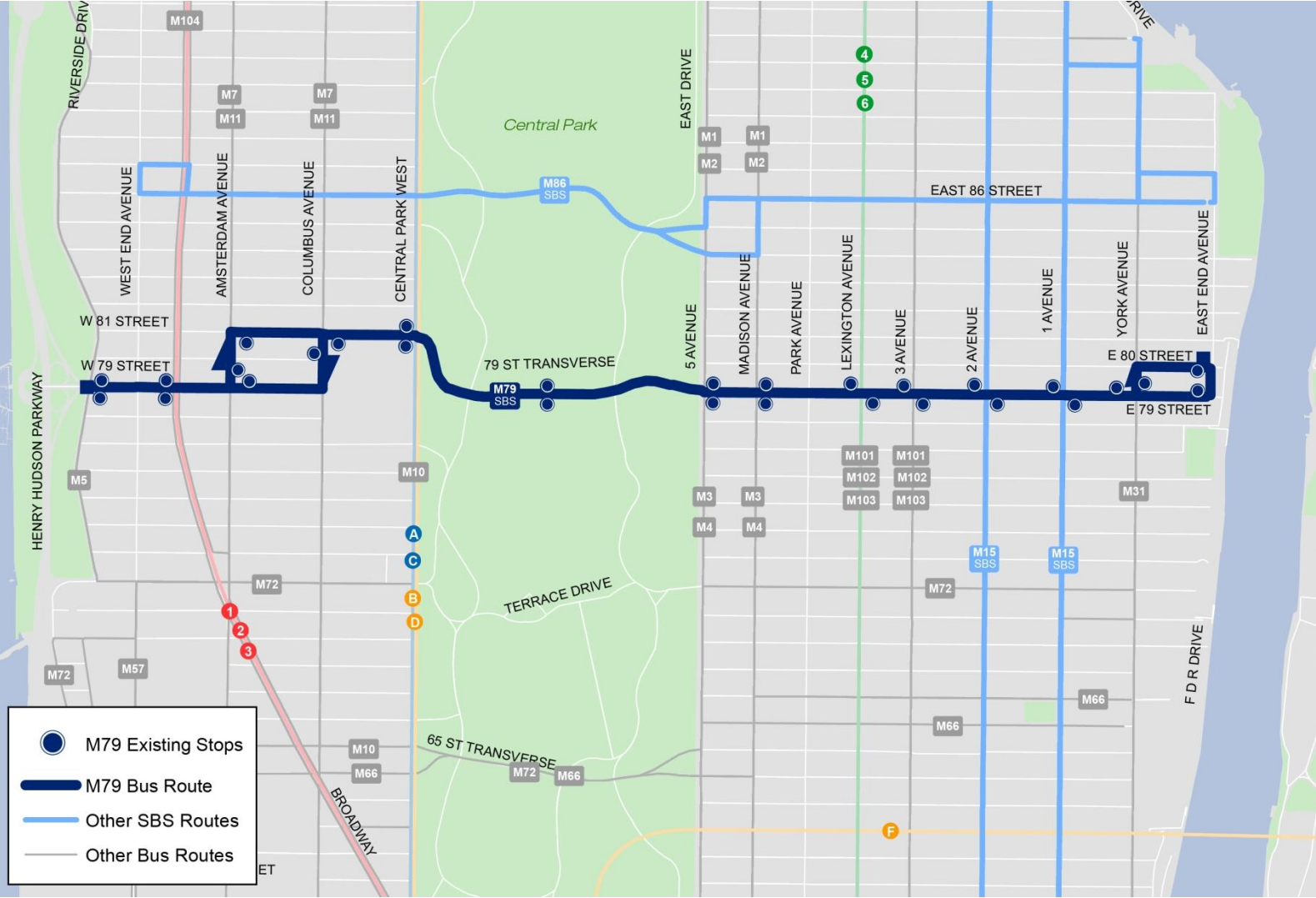
M79 Project Background

The M79 bus corridor was identified as a potential candidate for Select Bus Service in the “Bus Rapid Transit: Phase II Study” (2009).

- Request for M79 SBS from Council Member Kallos
- Heavily used route with slow trips
- Carries over 18,000 passengers per day over about 2 miles
- Serves areas far from subway
- Crucial connection to **1** **6** **B** **C** trains
- Connection to 16 bus routes including M15 SBS

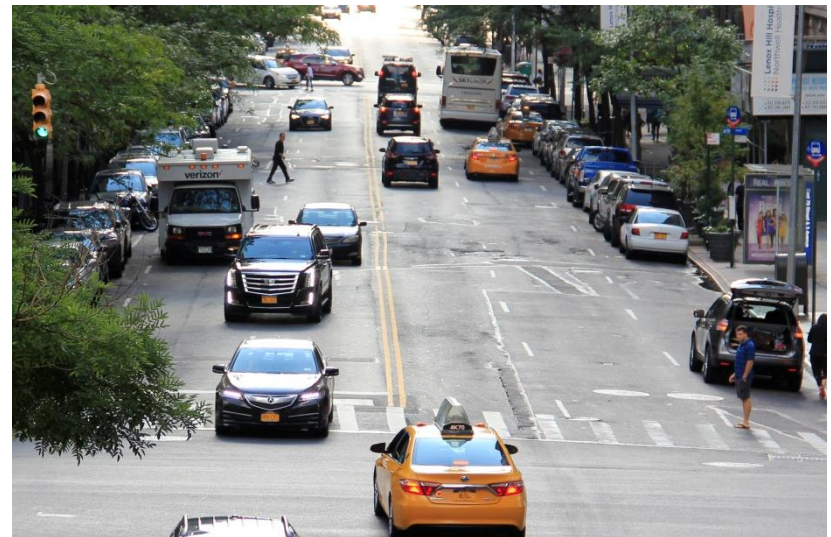


M79 Route

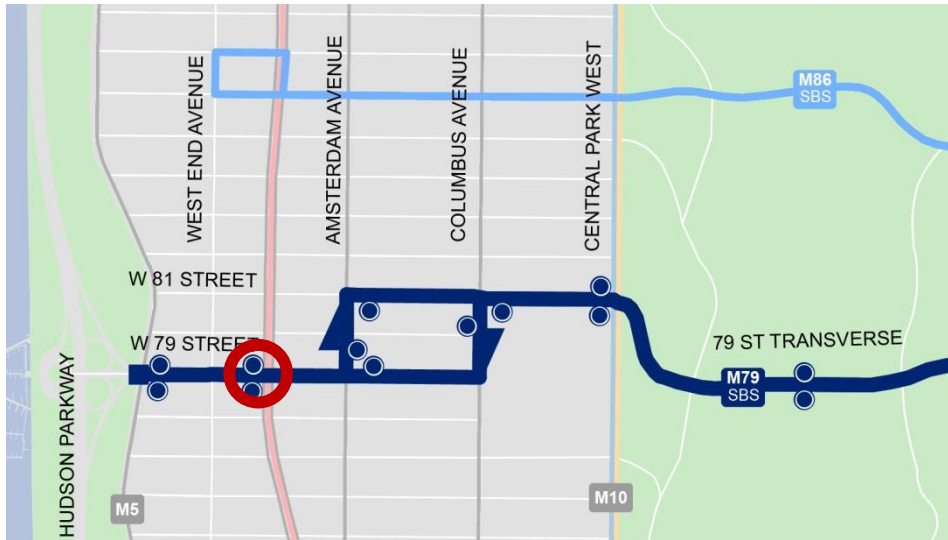


Traffic Issues

- Congested intersections
- Travel lanes not being put to full use due to:
 - Blocked lanes from double parking, deliveries
 - Turning queues at some intersections
- Difficult turns across traffic

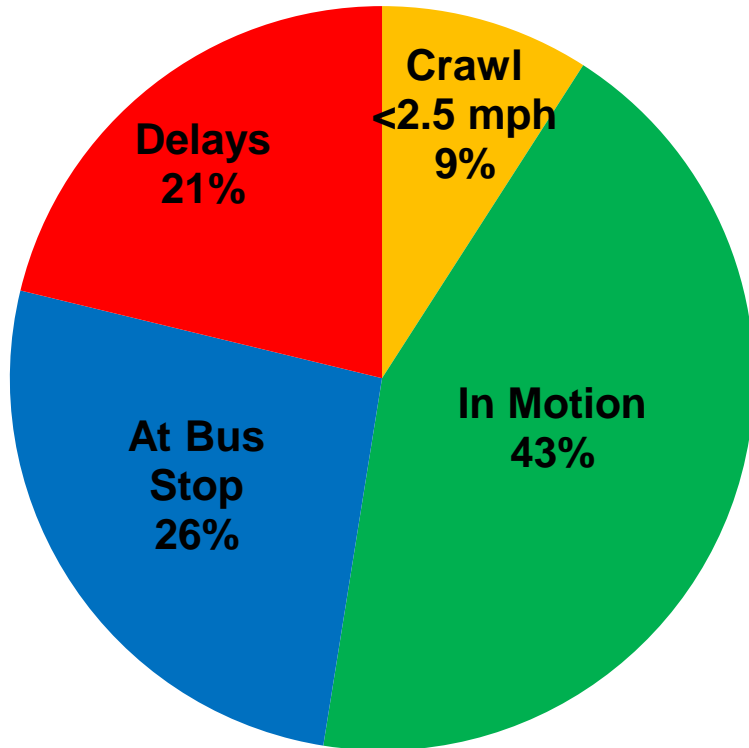


Safety Issues



- Multiagency effort to reduce traffic fatalities
- 5 intersections:
 - 79th St and Broadway
 - 79th St and Lexington Ave
 - 79th St and 3rd Ave
 - 79th St and 2nd Ave
 - 79th St and 1st Ave

Transit Issues



- Over 50% of trip spent delayed, crawling, or at bus stop
- Bus is moving well only 43% of the trip



- Customers wait in long lines to pay on board

Potential Stop Changes

- Discontinue stop on 81st St at Amsterdam Ave eastbound due to:
 - Low ridership
 - Sidewalks too narrow for fare machines
 - Close proximity to 79th St at Amsterdam Ave



81st St at Amsterdam Ave

Next Steps

Fall 2016

- Finalize traffic analysis
- Develop street design and service plan
- Begin construction for off-board fare equipment

Winter 2017

- Present draft plan to CBs
- Finalize street design and service plan

Spring 2017

- Launch SBS

Questions?

