

# BUSFORWARD

2017





**City Council legislation in 2015, sponsored by Council Member Brad Lander, called for NYC DOT to develop an updated plan for implementing Select Bus Service lines in partnership with the MTA.**

**In May 2017, the Council passed additional legislation, sponsored by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, calling for NYC DOT to include plans for transit improvements other than Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and strategies for improving transit access in neighborhoods not well served by the subway.**

**Based on this legislation, the Citywide Transit Plan will build on the 2009 BRT plan to expand the Select Bus Service (SBS) network, but will also identify complementary projects beyond BRT within the transit system based on changes in transit use, land use, demographics and other important factors.**

# Overview

Nearly 2.5 million New Yorkers ride buses every day. But on average buses only move at 7.4 mph and in busy commercial districts, the average speed is less than 4 mph. Bus ridership is down across the city as riders choose faster, more reliable modes of transportation. The City and the MTA are committed to working together to improve bus service citywide, ensuring that New Yorkers have bus service that they can depend on at any time of the day.

The Select Bus Service program has helped to combat this trend of declining ridership and slowing service. In the decade since the program began, SBS routes have seen:

- **10-30% faster bus speeds**
- **About 10% increase in ridership**
- **More reliable service**
- **Customer satisfaction of 95%**
- **Safer streets/reduction in crashes**

The SBS program has proven that transit riders want to use fast, reliable service, and will make smart choices when transit services improve.

While SBS routes have shown success, there are many more bus routes around the city that could benefit from SBS-style treatments. In addition to continuing to implement the SBS program, the City and the MTA will also work together to ensure that we are addressing bus service issues all over the city.

In order to improve bus service quickly and at a reasonable cost, the City commits to:

- **Growing the Select Bus Service program**
- **Addressing critical bottlenecks in local bus service**

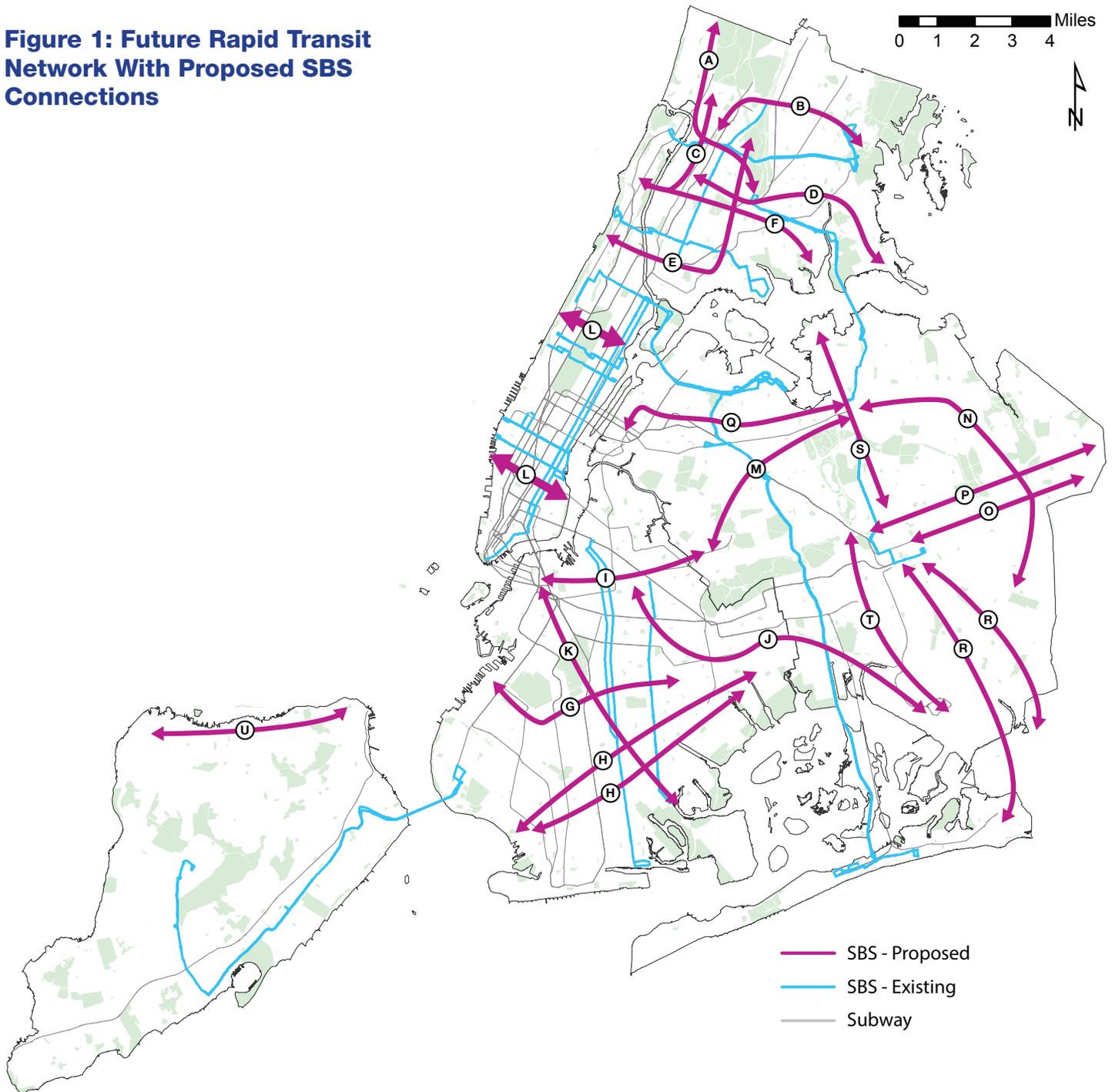
Additionally, the City is undertaking a comprehensive Citywide Transit Plan in order to understand the current state of the transit system, how it is meeting the needs of New Yorkers, and how the City is growing in order to develop our vision for the future of transit in New York City. These bus improvements will be included in that broader plan.

# Growing the SBS Program

Based on the results of data analysis and public feedback through workshops, on-street surveying and online feedback, NYC DOT and the MTA have identified 21 candidate corridors across the city for the next phase of SBS.

By continuing to grow the SBS network, we are focusing on key issues including improving job access across the City and providing service on trips not well served by the subway and rail systems.

**Figure 1: Future Rapid Transit Network With Proposed SBS Connections**



<b>The Bronx</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Broadway to Central Bronx</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Gun Hill Road</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>University Avenue</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Tremont Avenue</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Harlem to Southern Boulevard</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Soundview to Washington Heights</b>
<b>Brooklyn</b>	
<b>G</b>	<b>Church Avenue</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>South Brooklyn East-West (multiple)</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Downtown Brooklyn to Ridgewood</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Brooklyn Access to JFK</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Flatbush Avenue</b>
<b>Manhattan</b>	
<b>L</b>	<b>Manhattan Crosstown Routes (multiple, including 14th Street)</b>
<b>Queens</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>Ridgewood to Flushing</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>Flushing to Springfield Boulevard</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>Hillside Avenue</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Union Turnpike</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Northern Boulevard</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Southeast Queens (multiple)</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Jamaica to Flushing (via Kissena Boulevard)</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Queens Access to JFK</b>
<b>Staten Island</b>	
<b>U</b>	<b>North Shore*</b>

\* North Shore BRT is currently being studied by the MTA. NYC DOT supports this effort.



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BUS STATION

B44 SHEEPSHEAD BAY  
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Trip tips  
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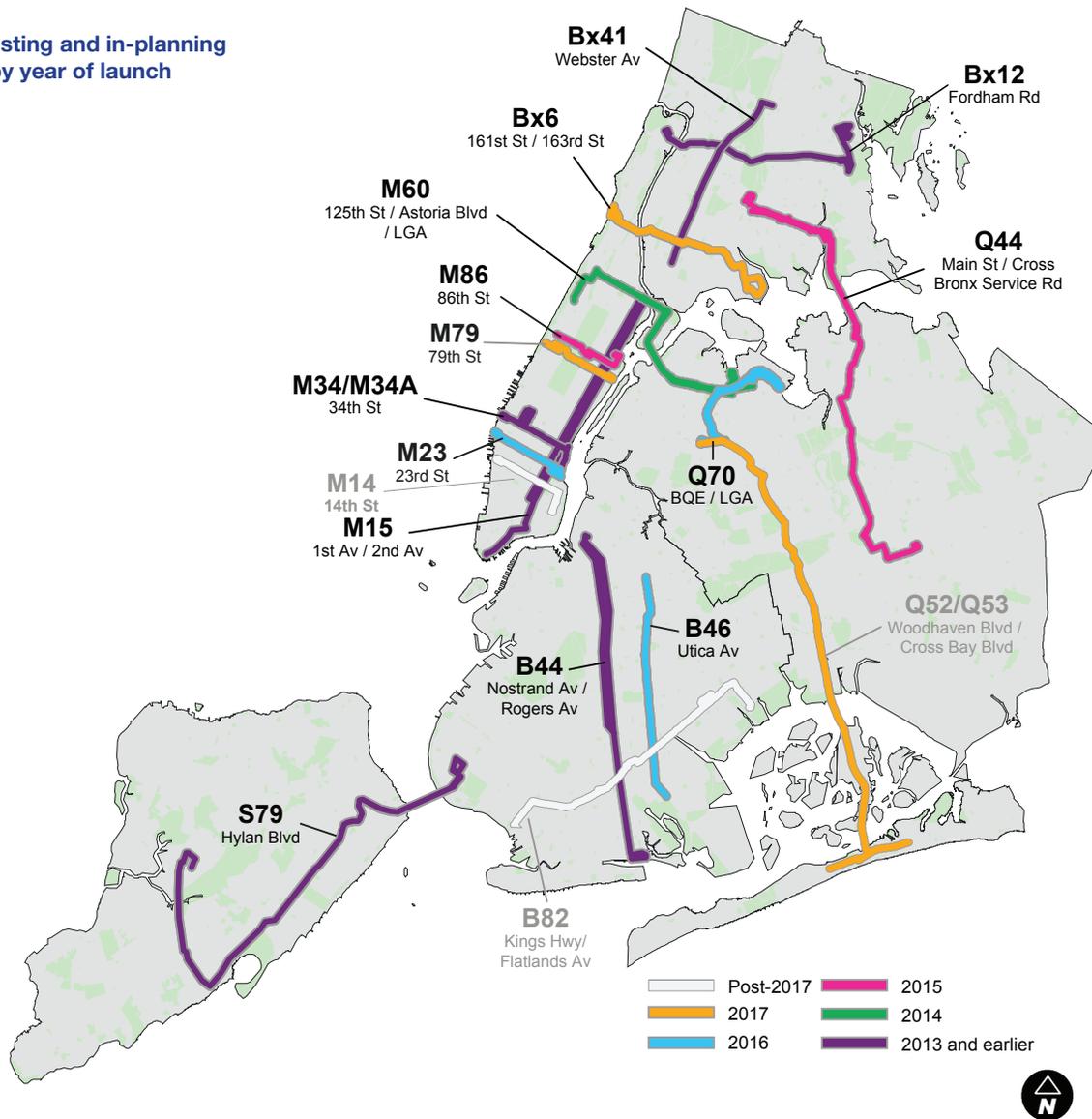
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selectbus service  
BUS STATION

The existing SBS network has over 309,000 daily riders, 12% of city bus ridership. With the addition of the new proposed SBS routes, over 800,000 bus riders would be on routes with fast and reliable service, over 32% of city bus ridership.

**Figure 2: Existing and in-planning SBS routes by year of launch**



**Mayor de Blasio has committed significant funds toward the implementation of SBS, allowing for the launch of 2-3 SBS routes per year**

- \$9.4M per year is dedicated to SBS projects in NYC DOT’s annual expense budget
- Additional DOT funds are also used to fund the launch of SBS and bus priority projects
- The de Blasio administration has increased capital funding by \$196M to date for SBS-related projects

## What Tools do NYC DOT and the MTA Use to Improve Bus Service?

- Off-board fare collection and all-door boarding to speed passenger loading
- Bus-only lanes and queue jumps to speed up buses
- Transit signal priority to reduce the time buses spend waiting at red lights
- Wider stop spacing to reduce the time buses are stopped and ensure they can travel faster between stops
- Bus route changes to ensure that passengers are efficiently connected to the destinations most important to them
- Improved curb regulations to facilitate efficient deliveries and reduce double parking
- Concrete islands and curb extensions to improve pedestrian safety
- Real time bus arrival information and improved wayfinding to enhance passenger experience
- Bus bulbs and enhanced station amenities like benches, shelters, and additional trees and plantings to improve passenger comfort
- Bus dispatching to continue to adjust to real time traffic conditions
- Updated relief locations to reduce impact on passengers where possible

**Since the start of the SBS program, bus lane miles have more than doubled.**

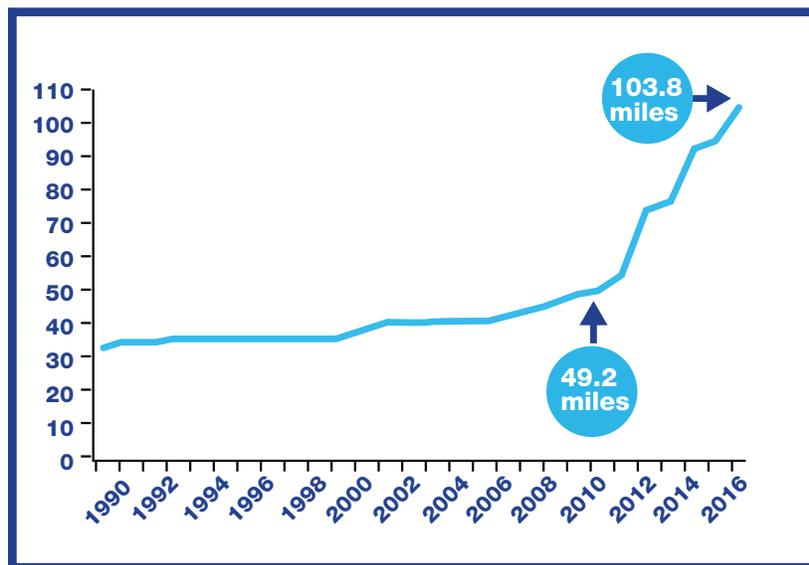


Figure 3: Cumulative Bus Lane Miles in New York City



**Off-Board Fare Collection**



**All Door Boarding**



**Bus Lanes**



**Bus Bulbs and Curb Extensions**



**Bus Shelters and Amenities**



**Real Time Information**

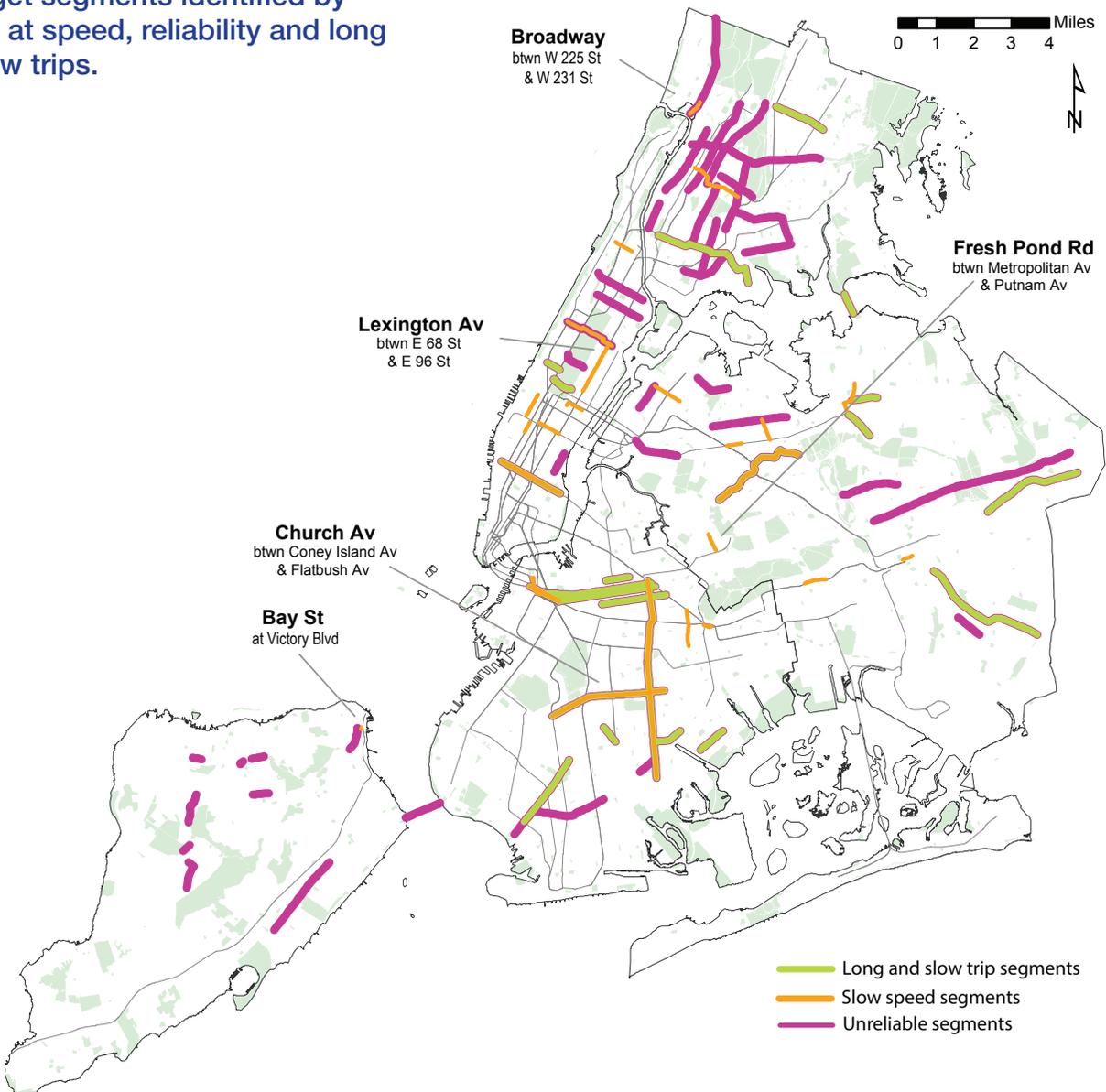
# Improving Local Bus Corridors

Many New Yorkers need to make trips that are not-well served by the existing subway system, and must rely on buses to make these trips. These trips often are slow, may require multiple transfers and often have less predictable travel times.

Complementing the interagency commitment to SBS, NYC DOT and the MTA are committed to improving the customer experience by making buses across the city faster and more reliable. Using tools from the bus priority toolkit, such as bus lanes, bus stop spacing and signal priority, we are taking tangible steps to make changes on local bus corridors to improve travel speed and reliability for riders.

NYC DOT and the MTA will be examining a first round of these priority corridors through planning and outreach that will take place over the next year, with expected implementation in 2018 and 2019.

**Figure 4: The Bus Forward program will target segments identified by looking at speed, reliability and long and slow trips.**



NYC DOT and the MTA will be addressing issues affecting bus speed on corridors such as the following. Throughout the planning and evaluation process, the list of corridors is subject to change.

<b>The Bronx</b>
<b>Broadway from W 225th St to W 231rd St</b>
<b>W Burnside Av/Jerome Av to E Tremont Av/Crotona Pkwy</b>
<b>Brooklyn</b>
<b>Malcolm X/Fulton St to Utica Av/Eastern Pkwy</b>
<b>Church Av from Coney Island Av to Flatbush Av</b>
<b>Van Sinderen Av/Fulton St to Jamaica Av/Georgia Av</b>
<b>Manhattan</b>
<b>Lexington Av from E 96th St to E 68th St</b>
<b>W 145th St from Amsterdam Av to Adam C Powell Blvd</b>
<b>E 42nd St from Lexington Av to Broadway</b>
<b>Queens</b>
<b>Jamaica Av from 153rd St to 162nd St</b>
<b>Fresh Pond Rd from Metropolitan Av to Putnam Av</b>
<b>Roosevelt Av from 82nd St to 74th St</b>
<b>Staten Island</b>
<b>Bay St from Central Av to Victory Blvd</b>



M102 VIA 3 AV

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LATE SHOW  
stephen colbert

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M102  
M103

CEMUSA  
"WINGING IT"  
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EMERGENCY PLAN

IRISH PUB

IRISH PUB  
BAR & RESTAURANT

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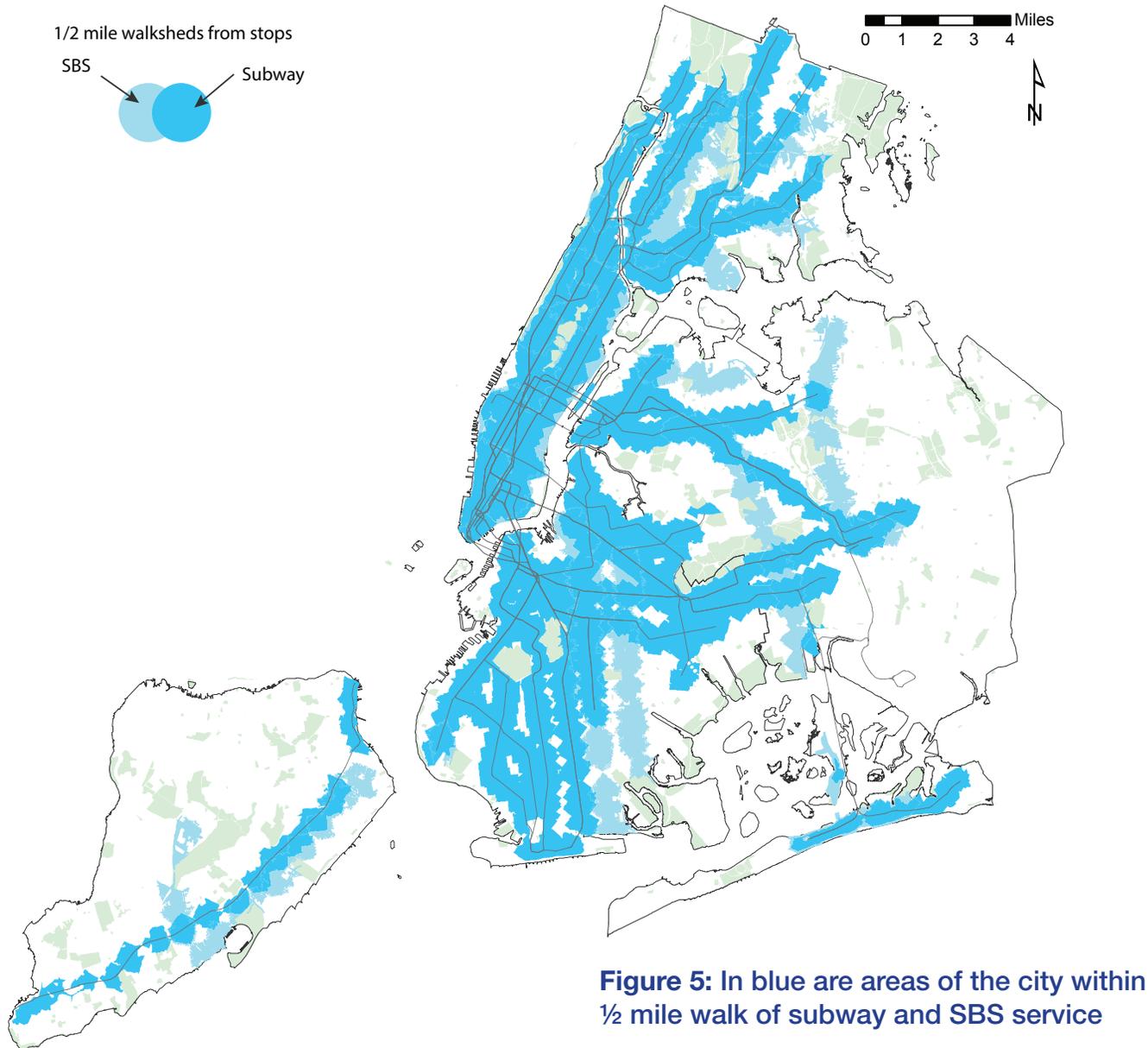
# An Assessment of NYC's Bus Service

In order to understand where to target SBS expansion and local bus service improvements, NYC DOT and the MTA identified four key analyses that projects should help address:

- Access to rapid transit service
- Long and slow bus trips
- Slow bus speeds
- Bus reliability

## Access To Rapid Transit Service

While every neighborhood in New York City has local bus service, it is not always frequent and many neighborhoods do not have access to rapid rail or bus service. Riders in these neighborhoods often face longer trips, more transfers and unreliable trip times even for short trips.





## **Slow Bus Speeds**

Bus speeds have slowed across the city and buses are usually slower than general traffic due to stops, long dwell times and other roadway factors, such as double parked vehicles. Using Bus Time data, which has been available since 2014, we are able to more precisely see the speed of buses along different segments of a route. The MTA identified the slowest corridors in each borough during the weekday PM peak based on October 2014 and 2016 speeds, prioritizing corridors with higher ridership to address through a variety of design and policy methods.

## **Bus Reliability**

Buses are particularly susceptible to delays due to traffic and other street conditions. Passengers need the bus to be reliable in order to plan their trips and be able to depend on public transportation. Not knowing whether a trip will be 30 minutes or one hour means less time to spend with your family or doing other things you enjoy. In order to calculate reliability, NYC DOT evaluated stop-to-stop travel time for stop pairs throughout the MTA bus system based on available BusTime data. The analysis includes AM, Midday and PM periods in May and October 2015 and 2016.



Route	Minutes	Destination
S53		Bay Ridge
S78		St George
+selectbusservice S79		Bay Ridge
		Hylan Bl & Norway Av



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USE  
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