Church Ave Transit & Traffic Improvements
Council Member Eugene Public Forum | July 30, 2019
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Project Background
2. Public Outreach
3. Flatbush Ave to E 16 St
4. E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy
5. Next Steps
Project Background
BUS SPEEDS

• Mayor’s 2019 State of the City
  • Improve bus speeds 25% by 2020

• Better Buses Action Plan released April 2019
  • 24 priority projects announced for 2019 to increase bus speeds across all 5 boroughs
Church Ave (Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy) identified as 2019 priority project due to:

- Slow bus speeds: **4.25 mph** during peak, compared to 6.7 mph peak Brooklyn avg.
- High route ridership **(45,000 daily)** & high volume of buses
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

• Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy (0.9 miles)
  • Flatbush Ave to E 16 St – Commercial Core
  • E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy – Residential & Neighborhood Stores
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

• **B35:** 29,000 daily riders (Brooklyn’s 3rd busiest bus route)
  - Connects to D N R F G B Q 2 5 L

• **B103:** 13,000 daily riders
  - Serves Downtown BK, Park Slope, Kensington, Flatbush, Canarsie

• **BM3 & BM4 express buses**
  - Direct service along Ocean Ave to Midtown & Downtown
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

• Continuous traffic backups in both directions, AM peak through PM peak

• Through truck route connecting Flatbush Ave to Prospect Expwy

• Commercial corridor with frequent deliveries

• Other local and through traffic for commuting, shopping, etc.
CHURCH AVE IS MULTI-MODAL

- Bus passengers make up 72% of travelers during AM peak, and 69% during PM peak.

*Car/truck source: 12/6/17 traffic counts; occupancy factor 1.3 persons/vehicle. Bus source: MTA scheduled B35 bus frequency and average B35 passenger loads during AM and PM peak; other buses counted on 12/6/17 use occupancy factor of 10 persons/vehicle. Peak hour is 8am-9am and 5:30-6:30pm, based on total number of vehicles counted.*
BUS SPEEDS
Ocean Pkwy to Flatbush Ave

B35 is consistently slow (3-5 mph) 7 AM-7PM, both directions
Public Outreach
PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY

1. Merchant Survey
2. Double Parking Survey
3. Shopper Survey
4. Church Ave BID Introductory Meeting
5. Church Ave BID Follow-Up Meeting
6. NYPD Briefing with:
   - 70th Precinct
   - 66th Precinct
   - Traffic Enforcement Brooklyn South
7. Community Board 14 Transportation Committee
8. Elected Officials Briefing
9. Church Ave BID Board Meeting
10. Elected Officials/Stakeholders Bus Ride
11. Community Board 12 Transportation Committee
12. CM Eugene Briefing
13. CM Eugene Public Forum
MERCHANT SURVEY

• Street Ambassadors visited every business on Church Ave from Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy

• 76 merchants took a survey on their delivery and loading schedules, vehicles, challenges/needs, and loading zone preferences

• 81% of respondents were owners or managers; 19% employees
MERCHANT SURVEY

- Flatbush Ave to E 16 St:
  - 70% say their average delivery takes 15+ minutes
  - 49% requested additional loading zones

- E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy:
  - 22% say their average delivery takes 15+ minutes
  - 27% requested additional loading zones
DOUBLE PARKING SURVEY

- Street Ambassadors surveyed double parked and illegally parked drivers
- Trip purpose:
  - 72% are personal cars
  - 73% did not attempt to find a legal metered space
  - 57% plan to stay for under 15 mins.
**SHOPPER SURVEY**

“What modes of transportation do you use to get to Church Ave?” (select all that apply)

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Flatbush Ave to E 16 St
SUMMARY: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

- 1-hour metered parking w/ loading zones; 2-hour on spurs
  - Overnight street sweeping 12am-3am, 3x weekly
- High curb demand; frequent double parking & illegal parking
  - 1-2 double-parked vehicles can shut down traffic
- Most stays are short; long-term parking occupies limited curb space
TIME LAPSE: OCEAN AVE TO E 21 ST

- Typical commercial core block with 1-hour metered parking
- 16-space block used by 416 vehicles in 14 hours
  - On average, a new vehicle every 2 minutes
TIME LAPSE: OCEAN AVE TO E 21 ST

• Heavy curb demand; frequent double parking & illegal parking
• Average stay 20 minutes, but a few vehicles stay 1-2+ hours

Parking Duration in Minutes
Ocean Ave to E 21 St, Both Directions

- 1-5 minutes: 39%
- 6-15 minutes: 29%
- 16-30 minutes: 12%
- 31 min-1 hour: 11%
- 61 min-2 hours: 7%
- Over 2 hours: 7%

Currently illegal (36 vehicles)
TIME LAPSE: E 16 ST TO E 17 ST (BOBBY’S)

• Mix of loading zones and 1-hour metered parking
• 25 vehicles double parked, for an average of 11 minutes
• Cars frequently block truck loading zones
  • Forces trucks to double park and block traffic
DESIGN: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

• Update curb regulations to increase available parking/loading and reduce congestion through commercial core

• Plans include:
  • Convert 1-hour metered to new short-term parking regulation for select spaces between E 21 St & E 18 St (3 blocks): Unmetered 15-minute zones
  • Add/extend loading zones on blocks w/ high delivery demand
  • Add metered parking to select side streets
DESIGN: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

- On busiest blocks between E 21 St & E 18 St, new shorter-term parking zone on each block would be beneficial for parking and business access:
  - Provides a designated zone for very short-term parking, such as pickups & drop-offs or quick errands, without blocking metered spaces
  - Shorter time limit allows more vehicles to use the same space at the curb throughout the day
  - Use of a 1-hour parking space over 12 hours: 12 cars
  - Use of a 15-min parking space over 12 hours: 48 cars
• Convert 1-hour metered parking to shorter-term parking regulation a few spaces per block
• Add/extend loading zones on blocks w/ frequent deliveries
• Add 7 new 2-hr metered spaces on side street next to MTA property
E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy
SUMMARY: E 16 ST TO OCEAN PKWY

• **South curb**: residential side yards; alternate-side parking
  - Less parking activity, longer average stays (45-100 mins.)
  - Few spaces per block due to driveways, hydrants, bus stops
• **North curb**: neighborhood shops; 2-hour metered parking
  - Little double parking, but congestion remains an issue
    - Short blocks back up into “one long traffic queue”
TIME LAPSE: ARGYLE RD TO WESTMINSTER RD

- South curb (residential): ASP + bus stop
- North curb (commercial): 2-hour metered parking
- Vehicles stayed an average of 43 minutes
  - 82% passenger vehicles (124) – average stay 48 mins.
  - 18% commercial vehicles (28) – average stay 19 mins.
- Loading & parking could be accommodated around the corner
DESIGN: E 16 ST TO OCEAN PKWY

- Curbside bus lanes, both directions from E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy
- Active 7am-7pm, Monday-Saturday; parking allowed other times
- Allows buses to bypass traffic congestion, access stops quickly, and easily pull to the curb
- Improves traffic flow for all vehicles along Church Ave
  - Bus lanes can be used for right turns, expeditious passenger pick-up and drop-off, and by emergency vehicles

Example of curbside bus lane
BUS LANE DESIGN

• Existing curbside bus lanes nearby:
  • Fulton St, Lafayette Ave to Grand Ave (14 blocks):
    • Buses 22-31% faster during peak
  • Utica Ave, Bergen St to Atlantic Ave (3 blocks):
    • Buses 17-26% faster during peak

*Example of curbside bus lane*
**Design: E 16 St to Coney Island Ave**

- **Bus lane** would repurpose 113 spaces part-time 7a-7p M-Sa
  - 61 metered, 52 unmetered
- **Mitigated by 59 new metered spaces** around the corner
- **Add loading zones** to accommodate deliveries
• **Bus lane** would repurpose 113 spaces part-time 7a-7p M-Sa
  • 61 metered, 52 unmetered
• Mitigated by 59 **new metered spaces** around the corner
• Add **loading zones** to accommodate deliveries
Next Steps
NEXT STEPS

• Early August – Finalize changes
  • Hours & extents of new/adjusted metered parking, new/adjusted loading zones

• Late Summer/Fall – Implementation
  • New signage for metered parking, loading zones, bus lanes
  • New markings along Church Ave
THANK YOU!

Questions?