Malcolm X Blvd / Utica Ave Transit Improvements
Community Board 3 Transportation Committee | May 14, 2019
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Project Background
2. Existing Conditions & Analysis
3. Proposal
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Project Background
BACKGROUND:
B46 SELECT BUS SERVICE

• B46 is Brooklyn’s busiest bus route (38,000 daily riders)
• Connects Bed-Stuy to 3 4 A C J Z and 30 bus routes
• B46 SBS launched in July 2016
• Southbound ridership has increased in Bed-Stuy, but bus speeds have slowed on blocks without bus lanes
CB 3 OUTREACH INITIATIVE

• 5-month outreach effort
  • July-Dec. 2018
• Visited 27 venues in CB 3 based on input from CB 3, elected officials, and stakeholders
• 619 participants took a survey on their transportation needs
• Conversations with 800+ members of the public
CB 3 OUTREACH INITIATIVE

- 83% of respondents regularly ride the bus
- B46 is 2\textsuperscript{nd} most used route

BUS USE

| Yes 83% | No 17% |

BUS ROUTE USE

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CITYWIDE 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
Malcolm X Blvd / Utica Ave identified as 2019 priority project due to:

- Slow bus speeds: **3.4 mph** during peak, compared to 6.7 mph Brooklyn avg.
- Unreliable travel times
- High ridership
- High volumes of buses: about every 2 minutes per direction during peak
B46 Southbound Bus Speeds, Chauncey St to Atlantic Ave

B46 is slow (2.5 - 5.5 mph) between 7am-7pm, when ridership is highest
SAFETY

• 231 injuries, 9 severely injured (2013-2017)
• Utica Ave & Atlantic Ave: 99th percentile for severe injuries & fatalities
Existing Conditions & Analysis
EXISTING CONDITIONS

• Chauncey St to Atlantic Ave (both blocks)
  • Fulton St is 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest B46 stop
    • 3,800 daily boardings
  • Bottleneck approaching Atlantic Ave
  • Southbound traffic backs up from Atlantic Ave to Fulton St and Chauncey St
EXISTING CONDITIONS

• Fulton St to Atlantic Ave
  • Dept. of Education Authorized Parking Only, 7am-4pm Mon-Fri
  • School staff parks on Fulton St and in off-street lot
  • Curb is mostly empty all day, even after DOE-only hours
  • 7am-7pm: average parking occupancy 7%
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Chauncey St to Fulton St
  - Half of block is existing bus stop
  - Southbound traffic backs up from Atlantic Ave onto this block
  - Traffic & parking prevent buses from accessing the stop
  - Buses sometimes board from through lane, causing safety and traffic concerns
  - In 12 hours, 19 vehicles parked on this block
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Bergen St to Atlantic Ave northbound
  - 3 blocks of bus lanes approaching Atlantic Ave installed in 2016; buses bypass traffic queues
  - Overnight parking remains
  - Bus speeds improved 17-26% during peak
Proposal
PROPOSAL

• Curbside Bus Lane, Fulton St to Atlantic Ave (southbound only)
  • Overnight parking remains
  • Allows buses to bypass traffic approaching Atlantic Ave
  • Improves traffic flow
PROPOSAL

• Queue Jump Signal, Utica Ave & Atlantic Ave (northbound & southbound)
  • 7-second head start for buses and pedestrians crossing Atlantic Ave
  • Pedestrian safety improvement on a Vision Zero Priority Corridor
PROPOSAL

• B46 to upgrade to longer, articulated buses in 2019/2020

• After upgrade, install curbside bus lane, Chauncey St to Fulton St (southbound only)
  • Overnight parking remains
  • Allows buses to bypass traffic approaching Atlantic Ave
  • Improves traffic flow
Next Steps
NEXT STEPS

• **2018** – CB 3 Outreach Campaign
• **Late 2018 to Early 2019** – Proposal Development

• **May 2019** – CB 3 Transportation Committee

• **June 2019** – CB 3 Full Board

• **Summer 2019** – Implement Fulton St to Atlantic Ave

• **2019/2020** – Upgrade to articulated buses

• **TBD** – Implement Chauncey St to Fulton St
THANK YOU!

Questions?