

# Church Ave Transit & Traffic Improvements

Project Update | Community Board 14 Transportation Committee

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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# Project Background

# 1

# Why Church Ave?

- Identified as a 2019 priority project due to:

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



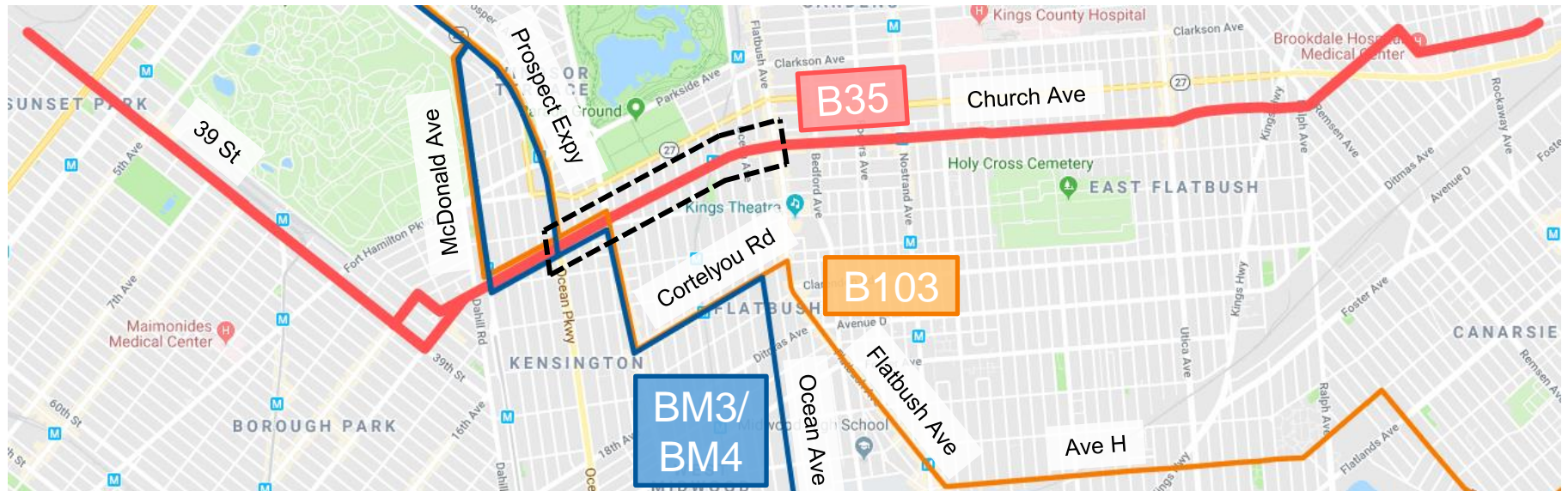
Church Av & E 21<sup>st</sup> St (Pre-Implementation)

- Project implemented October 2019:
  - **E 7<sup>th</sup> St to Marlborough Rd:** added curbside bus lanes + updated curb regulations
  - **Marlborough Rd to Flatbush Ave:** updated curb regulations only



# Bus Routes Served

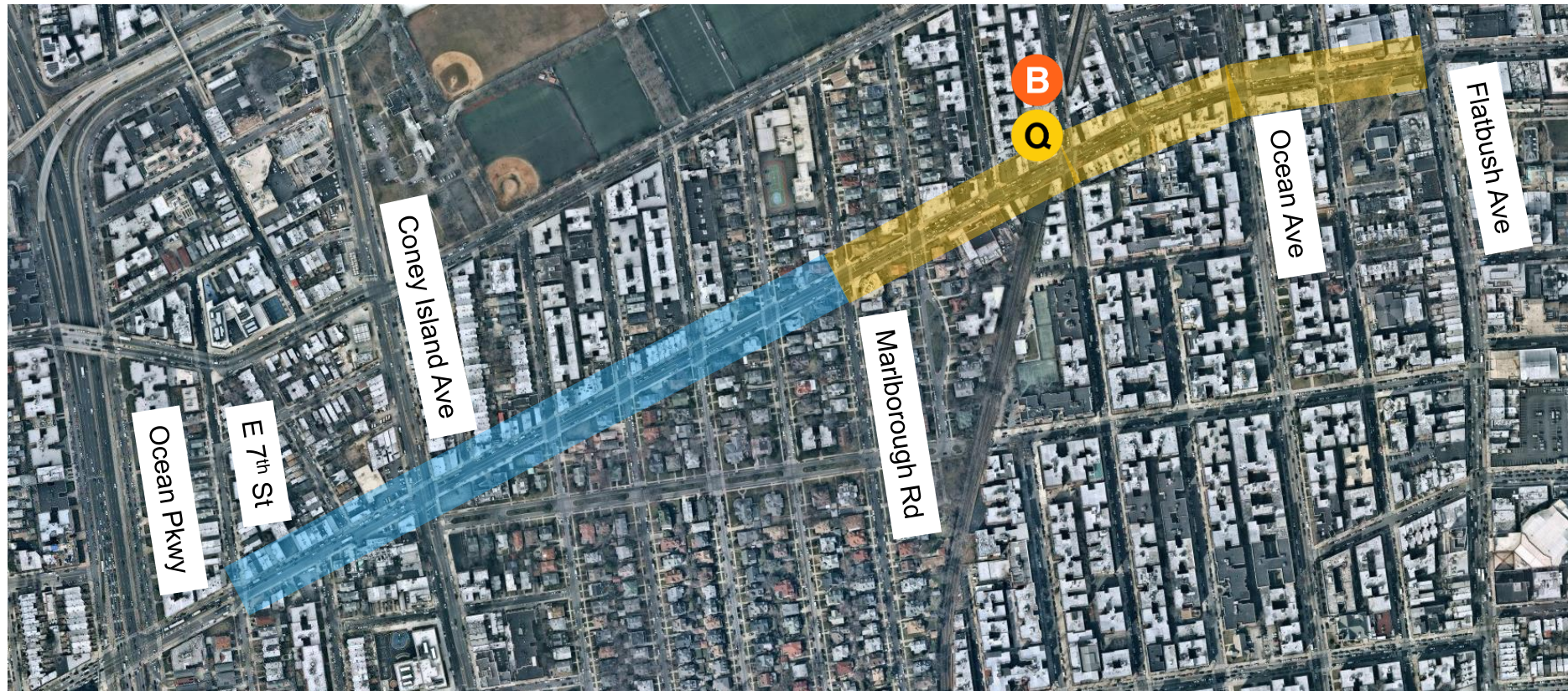
- B35: 29,000 daily riders (Brooklyn's 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest bus route)
  - Connects to **D** **N** **R** **F** **G** **B** **Q** **2** **5** **L**
- B103: 13,000 daily riders
  - Serves Downtown BK, Park Slope, Kensington, Flatbush, Canarsie
- BM3 & BM4 express buses
  - Direct service along Ocean Ave to Midtown & Downtown





# 2019 Project Details

- E 7<sup>th</sup> St to Flatbush Ave (0.9 miles)
  - E 7<sup>th</sup> St to Marlborough Rd – added curbside bus lanes + updated curb regulations
  - Marlborough Rd to Flatbush Ave – updated curb regulations only





# Bus Lane Design

- Implemented curbside bus lanes in both directions from Marlborough Rd to E 7<sup>th</sup> St
- Active from 7am-7pm, Mon-Sat; parking allowed other times
- Buses can now pass traffic congestion, reach stops quickly, and easily access the curb
- Improved traffic flow for all vehicles on Church Ave
  - Bus lanes can be used for right turns, expeditious passenger pick-up/drop-off, and by emergency vehicles & school buses



# Ocean Pkwy to Coney Island Ave (CB 12)





# Coney Island Ave to E 16<sup>th</sup> St

Overnight Parking Restored, Coney Island Ave to Marlborough Rd: Department of Sanitation shifted street sweeping from overnight (12am-3am, 3 days/week) to daytime hours while bus lane is in effect



- Added **Curbside bus lane**, active 7am-7pm, Mon-Sat
- Added **new metered spaces** around the corner
- Added **new loading zones** to accommodate deliveries



# E 16<sup>th</sup> St to Flatbush Ave



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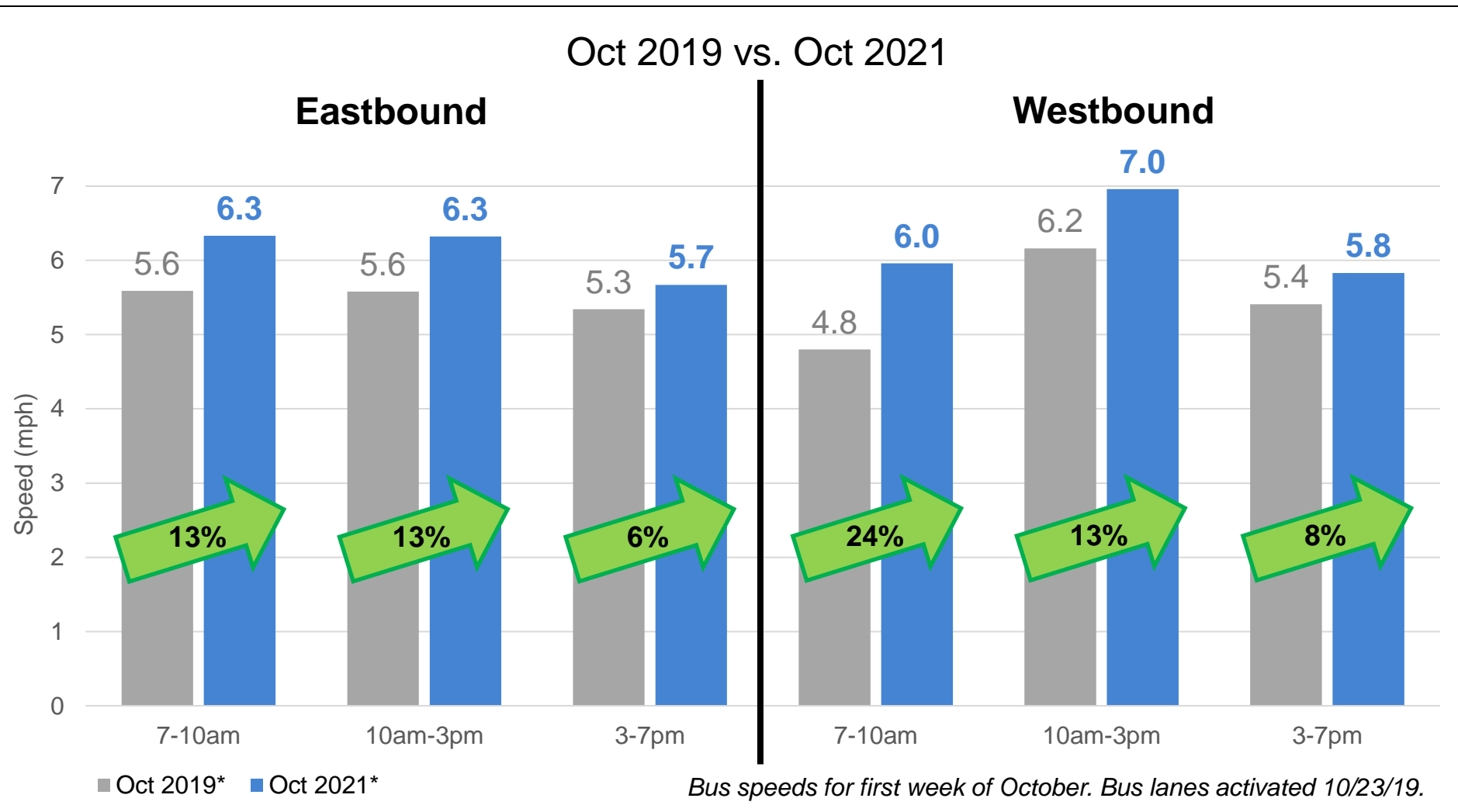
Results

2



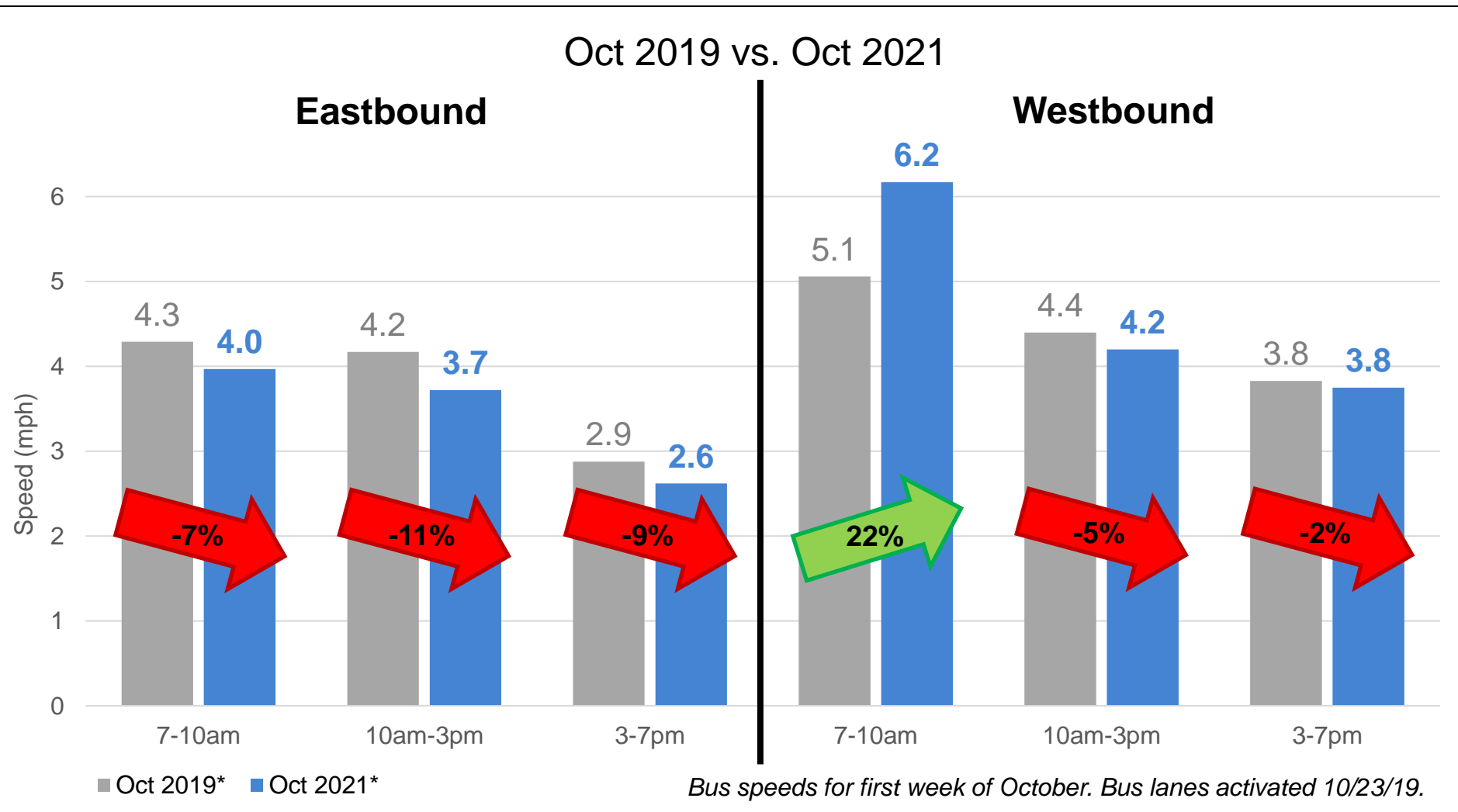
# Bus Lane Section (E 7<sup>th</sup> St to Marlborough Rd)

- 6-13% faster eastbound, 8-24% faster westbound



# Curb Regulations Only Section (Marlborough Rd to Flatbush Ave)

- Bus speeds improved in AM westbound, but became slower overall





# Before & After

- E 7<sup>th</sup> St to Marlborough Rd: curbside bus lanes + updated curb regulations
  - Bus service is faster & more reliable than in 2019
- Marlborough Rd to Flatbush Ave: updated curb regulations only
  - Slower overall than in 2019
  - Heavy traffic delays and congestion



# 15-Minute Unmetered Parking

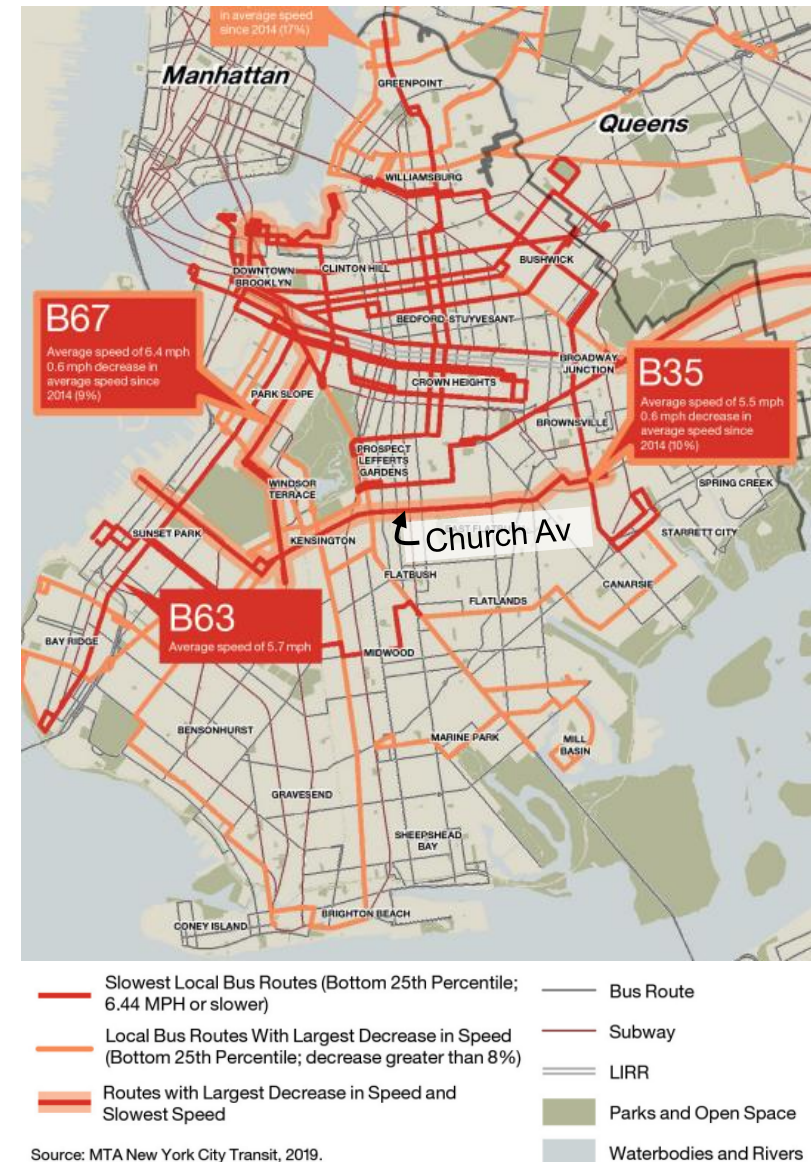
- On 4 block faces studied, 18% more vehicles parked legally
- Double parking decreased on average
  - 2 blocks nearly eliminated double-parking
  - Other 2 blocks had slight increases
- Illegal parking (in bus stop, hydrant zone) decreased
  - Fell sharply on 2 blocks; slightly on other 2
- 15-minute zones had higher turnover on all block faces
- Most motorists respected the time limit
- Pilot expanded to Bell Blvd, Queens; results forthcoming





# MTA Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign

- Jan 2020: Existing Conditions Report reviewed every bus route in Brooklyn
- Future report will identify most critical streets for investing in bus priority
- DOT & MTA will develop bus priority proposals in partnership with community boards, elected officials & neighborhood stakeholders
- **No plans yet, but B35 (Church Ave) is a likely candidate**
  - Slow buses (5.5 mph average)
  - Unreliable service (41% of rider trips take 5+ minutes longer than scheduled)
  - Getting slower over time (10% slower between 2014-19)
  - Critical crosstown route
  - Very high ridership



# Thank You!

## Questions?



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