DOWNTOWN JAMAICA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Existing Conditions & Preliminary Recommendations
Public Meeting #2
March 20, 2017

NEW YORK CITY DOT
MEETING PURPOSE

- Provide an Update and Present Findings of Existing Conditions Analysis
- Present Preliminary Recommendations
- Obtain Feedback
WHY JAMAICA?

Mayor/BP (Jamaica Now Action Plan)

NYCDCP (Jamaica Plan Rezoning)

NYCEDC (Development Projects)

GJDC (Studies & Initiatives)

NYMTC - RTP (Desired Growth Areas)

City Council (Study Request)
RECENT REZONING ACTIONS
NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- 92-61 165th Street
- The Crossing at Jamaica Station
- 160-16 Jamaica Avenue
- 92-18 150th Street
- Mary Immaculate Hospital Campus
- Hilton Inn
STUDY GOAL & OBJECTIVES

GOAL:
➢ To improve traffic and transportation (travel) conditions, enhance mobility, safety, and quality of life for residents/visitors, taking account of elected official and community concerns

OBJECTIVES:
➢ To analyze and document existing traffic and transportation conditions including traffic characteristics, travel demand and travel needs.

➢ To assess future traffic conditions taking account of area demographics, land use, socio-economic characteristics, and transportation infrastructure.

➢ Develop recommendations to enhance network capacity, reduce congestion, and improve travel conditions and safety for both vehicular and non-vehicular modes of travel
STUDY AREA

Primary Study Area
• Hillside Avenue
• 183rd Street
• Liberty Avenue
• Van Wyck Expwy

Secondary Study Area
• Union Turnpike
• 193rd St/Farmers Blvd
• Linden Blvd
• 130th St
JAMAICA STREETSCAPE PLAN

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[Map of Jamaica streets showing Streetscape Plan Focus and Jamaica NOW Request areas]
STUDY PROCESS

Study Initiation & Scope of Work

Data Collection

Community Input

Existing Conditions Analysis - 2016
(Problem Identification & Short Term Recommendations)

Future Conditions Analysis - 2026
(Long Term Recommendations)

Draft Final Report

Develop and Evaluate Improvement Measures

Implement Short-Term Recommendations

Project Development, Design, and Implementation

Final Report
EXISTING CONDITIONS
SUBJECTS OF ANALYSIS

• Demographics
• Zoning and Land Use
• Traffic
• Transit
• Pedestrian and Bicycles
• Parking
• Trucks/Goods Movement
• Crashes/Safety
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Overall growth in major demographic factors (population, median income, household size)
- Heavy use/dependence on public transit

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Primary Study Area</th>
<th>Secondary Study Area</th>
<th>Queens</th>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>49,517</td>
<td>185,001</td>
<td>2,229,379</td>
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<td>H’old Size</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>Median Income</td>
<td>$38,464</td>
<td>$41,871</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1+ Vehicles</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<td>Population</td>
<td>51,585</td>
<td>190,217</td>
<td>2,230,722</td>
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<td>Median Income</td>
<td>$41,870</td>
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<td>1+ Vehicles</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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</table>

Journey to Work Mode Choice

- Auto: 62.0%, 55.8%, 51.3%
- Public Transportation: 2.60%, 3.0%, 0.4%
- Bicycle: 9.0%, 5.4%, 5.8%
- Walked: 0.1%, 0.1%, 4.4%
- Other: 0.4%
LAND USE
TRAFFIC DATA COLLECTION

- Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATR) - 40
- Manual Turning Movement Classification Counts – 82 intersections
- Pedestrian Count – 27 intersections
- Travel Speed Corridors – 11
- Time Lapse Camera - 17 Locations
PM PEAK HOUR APPROACH VOLUME
AM/PM PEAK HOUR APPROACH LOS
CORRIDOR TRAVEL SPEED – PM PEAK
TRAFFIC CIRCULATION CHALLENGES
NORTH/SOUTH CONNECTIVITY
NARROW ROADWAY WIDTHS
LESS THAN 30 FEET

Legend
- Two-way <30'
- Primary Study Area
- Secondary Study Area
1. Physical Geometric Constraints
   - Limited N/S Access
   - Narrow Streets
   - Offset Streets
   - Irregular Street Network
2. High Number of Buses
3. Trucking Activity
4. Pedestrians
TRANSIT SERVICE
SUBWAY/BUS/LIRR/AIRTRAIN

- Over 40 bus lines
- 3 subway lines (E, F, J/Z)
- LIRR
- Airtrain
TRANSIT HUBS & RIDERSHIP
TRANSIT
AM BUS VOLUME & PERCENTAGE

[Map showing transit bus volumes and percentages in different areas of the city.]
TRANSIT
PM BUS VOLUME & PERCENTAGE

nyc.gov/dot
INFORMAL TRANSIT SERVICES
NEEDS & CHALLENGES

- Commuter vans and black cars serve areas with transit service gaps
- Commuter vans make up approx. 20% of traffic stream in AM peak hour
- Commuter vans provide service to approx. 1,500 commuters travelling into Jamaica during AM peak hour
- Preponderance of illegal maneuvers warrant increased enforcement
- Commuter vans need functional and adequate space for operations
COMMUTER VANS
AM PEAK HOUR VOLUME & PERCENTAGE

[Diagram showing vehicle flows and volumes with arrows indicating directions and numbers.]

Example numbers:
- 134 (17%)
- 150 (22%)
- 151 (21%)
- 139 (20%)
- 76 (15%)
- 91 (11%)
- 48 (10%)
- 22 (4%)
- 21 (5%)
- 3 (1%)

Key:
- > 50
- > 10
- < 10

Source: nyc.gov/dot
PEDESTRIANS
AM/PM PEAK HOUR VOLUME (CROSSWALK)
PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

- Long distance between crosswalks on Hillside Ave
- Narrow sidewalks and mobility challenges on Archer Ave
- Heavy pedestrian volume close to transit hubs and Jamaica Ave
PARKING
ON-STREET OCCUPANCY

- 3,500 parking spaces available in peak hours
- 60% are unmetered
- 40% are metered ($0.25/15 mins.)
PARKING
OFF-STREET PARKING

- 20 garages/ lots with 4,200 spaces
- Average cost: $3.00 - $19.00 per hour
- Occupancy highest during the midday peak
PARKING
ILLEGAL PLACARD USE

- Approximately 170 spaces designated for placard use
- More than 800 vehicles are found using placards during AM/MD peaks
TRUCKS/GOODS MOVEMENT
TRUCK ROUTES
TRUCKS/GOODS MOVEMENT

TRUCK VOLUME
CRASHES

VZ Priority Areas
Priority Corridors (10)
Priority Intersection (11)
Five Fatalities (2014-Present)
High Crash Locations (16)
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – November 2015 & March 2016
- Public Meeting – December 2015
- Street Ambassadors – June 2016
- Web Portal
- Industrial Business Zone Survey
WHAT WE HEARD

PUBLIC MEETING
- Too much congestion; need TEA to direct traffic
- Too many buses – better manage buses circulating in the core
- Need to manage commuter van operations
- Insufficient parking
- Provide better lighting to make the place more inviting and safe
- Use art to beautify LIRR retaining wall

STREET AMBASSADORS
- Too much congestion
- Speeding is prevalent; speed and red light cameras are needed
- Traffic Enforcement Agents needed at busy intersections
- Poor roadway condition - potholes, etc.
- Not enough parking spaces

WEB PORTAL
- Create pickup/dropoff area near Sutphin/Archer station
- Bus only lanes on Jamaica Ave do not function as planned
- Gridlock at Archer Ave/Sutphin Bl is terrible esp. in PM peak
- Parsons Bl/Jamaica Ave – most dangerous intersection in Downtown Jamaica

IBZ SURVEY
- Douglas Ave is substandard east of 170th St
- Too much congestion on Sutphin Bl bet/ Liberty Ave & Hillside Ave
- Merrick Bl & Liberty Ave are problematic due to the number of commuter vans and buses
- Liberty Ave needs to be repaved
- Curb space for truck loading/unloading is needed
OTHER DOT INITIATIVES

- Downtown Jamaica Streetscape Plan
- Citywide Commuter Van Study
- Citywide Transit Plan
- Citywide Freight Plan
- Jamaica Bicycle Plan
- Vision Zero Initiative
VISION ZERO INITIATIVES
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Increasing Demand
- Transit Management
- Traffic Congestion
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS & EARLY ACTION
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/EARLY ACTION
150TH ST

- Convert from one-way SB to two-way between Hillside & Jamaica Avenues to create an additional thru street option

LEGEND

- Existing
- Proposed

Convert 150th St to two-way between Hillside Av & Jamaica Av
Install Access-A-Ride Stop to address congestion due to Access-A-Ride operations at the main entrance of the Fedcap We Care Program.
91ST AV/SUTPHIN BL

- Convert 91st Ave (between Sutphin Bl and 146th St) from WB to EB to address congestion due to U-turns and Left-turns from NB Sutphin Bl.
164TH ST & 162ND ST

- Install signage and change traffic direction to address circulation challenges posed by existing left turn prohibition on the SB approach at Hillside Ave and Jamaica Ave.
2017 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- One-way Conversions
- Jamaica Avenue (168th St to Francis Lewis Blvd) – Intersection Improvements
- Hillside Avenue (179th St to 208th St) – Intersection Improvements
- Liberty Avenue (Allendale St to Sutphin Bl) – Intersection Improvements
NEXT STEPS
THANK YOU!

Questions?