

Better Buses

Webster Avenue, E 174 St – E 176 St Improvements

Bronx Community Board 5 | May 22, 2019



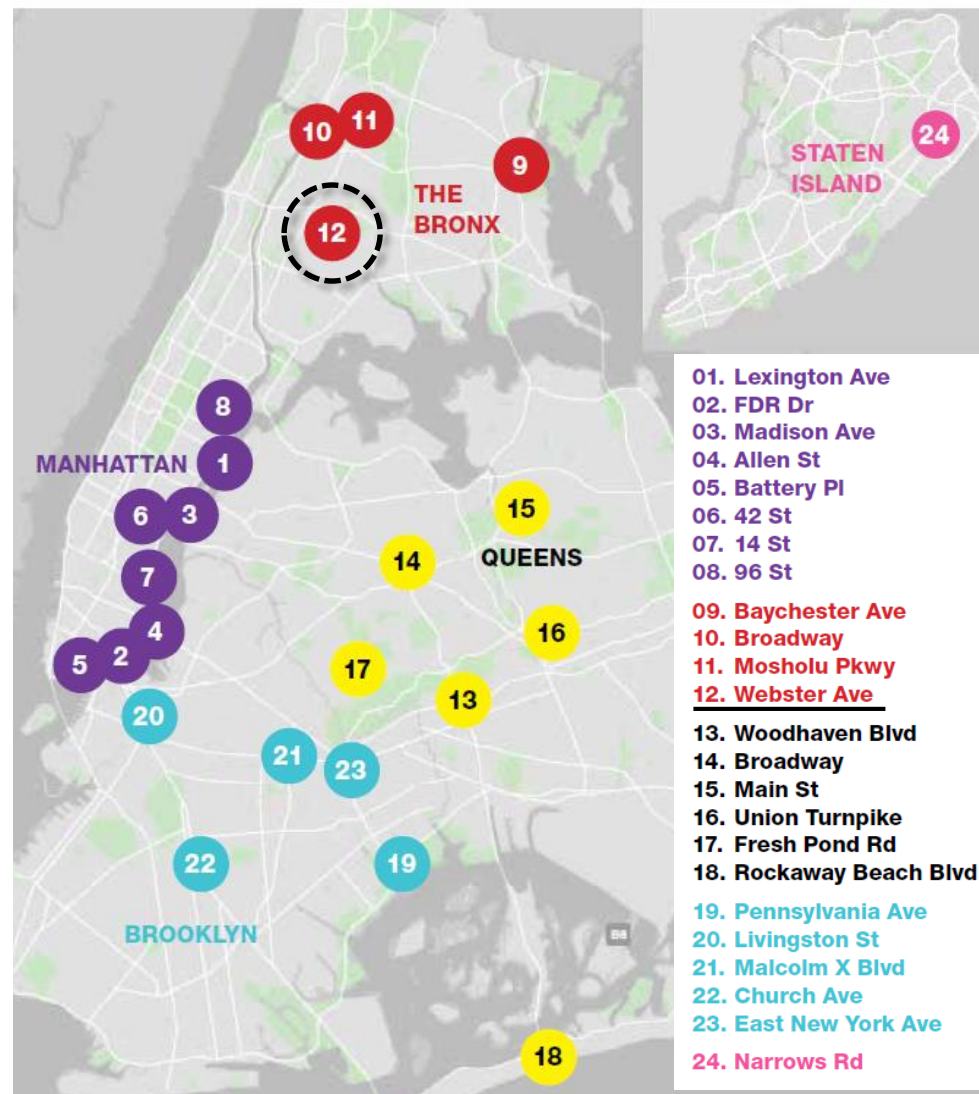
BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

- 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



BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

- Webster Avenue between E 176 St and E 174 St identified as priority 2019 project due to:
 - Declining bus speeds
 - Unreliable bus travel times
 - Numerous traffic injuries, particularly at the intersection of the Cross Bronx Expressway



Background

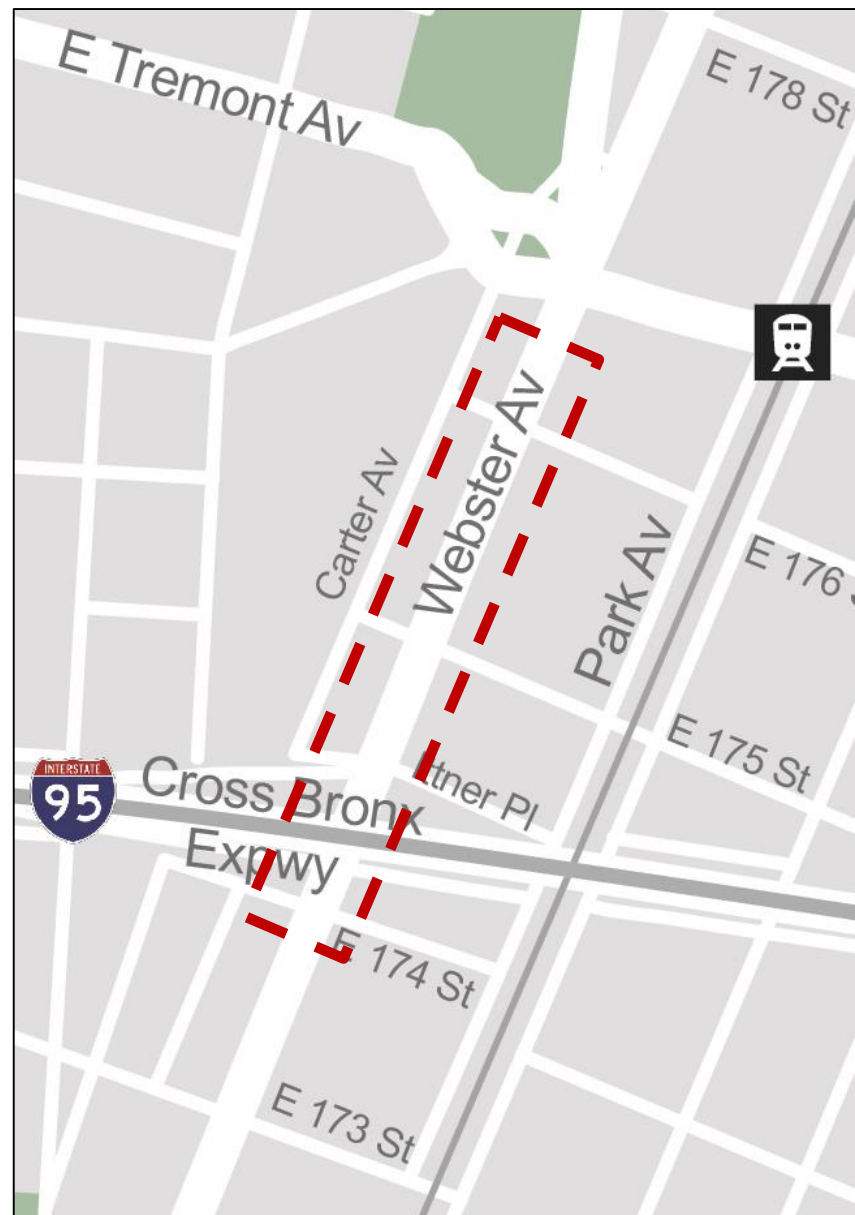
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SAFETY

- Webster Avenue near the Cross Bronx Expressway is a heavily trafficked corridor, creating numerous conflicts between all roadway users
- Vision Zero Priority Area
- 195 traffic injuries, including 3 pedestrian fatalities (2013-2017)
- April 2018 cyclist fatality

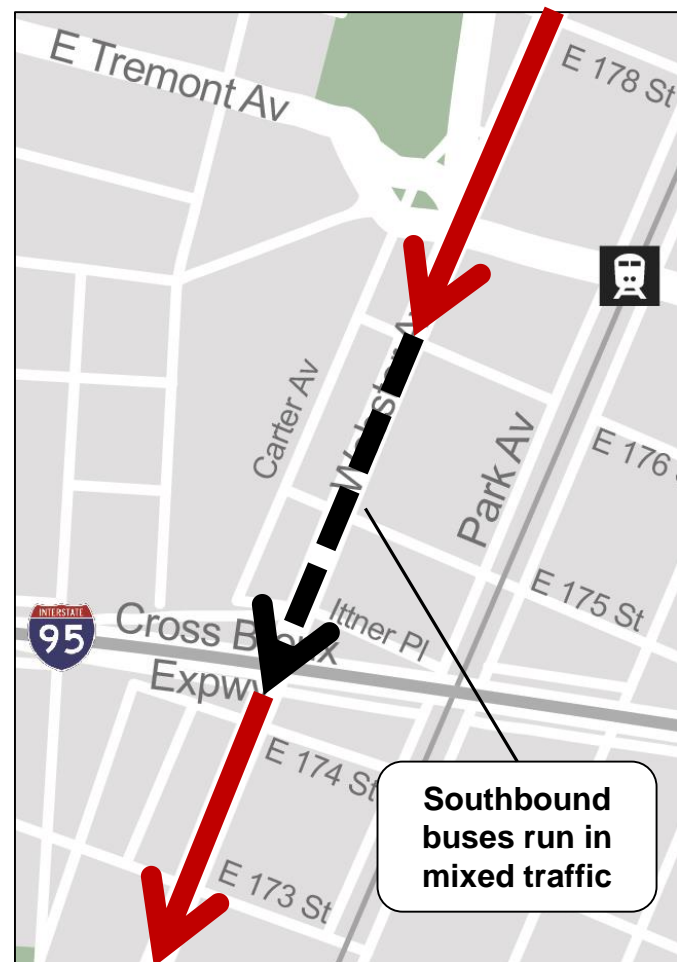
Webster Avenue, E 176 St – E 174 St
Injury Summary, 2013-2017 (5 years)

	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	12	2	3	5
Bicyclists	6	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Occupant	177	10	0	10
Total	195	13	3	16



BUS SPEEDS

- Bx41 Select Bus Service (SBS) launched in June 2013
- After initial speed improvements due to SBS implementation, southbound Bx41 travel times have increased ~11% along this stretch of Webster Avenue
- Current southbound bus lane stops at E 176 St and does not resume until E 174 St. Buses run in mixed traffic causing slowdowns



Bx41 SBS – Southbound Speeds

	Project Segment Average (MPH)	Route Average (MPH)	Difference
7-10am	8.64	9.4	-9.2%
4-7pm	7.32	8.7	-19.3%

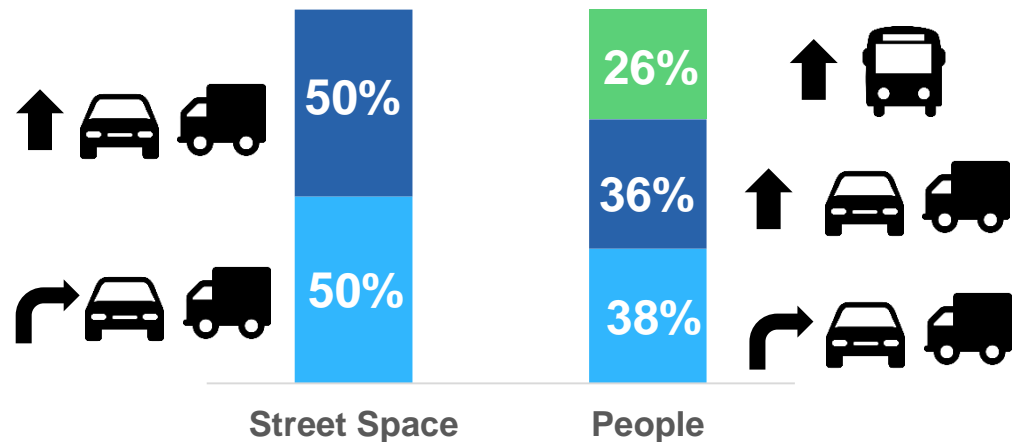
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- On/off ramps for the Cross Bronx Expressway create traffic pinchpoint
- Unclear lane designations lead to sideswipes and rear-ends (51.6% of vehicle crashes on this stretch of Webster Av)
- In southbound direction, similar amount of vehicles turning right onto the Cross Bronx Expressway and going straight on Webster Av
- On average 26% of people traveling southbound are on transit vehicles (33% in AM Peak hour)



Webster Av & E 175 St, looking South

Southbound Traffic*



*Source: Oct 2013 traffic counts balanced with Feb 2019 ATRs. MTA Ridership Data. Occupancy factors: 16.8 persons/non-MTA bus, 1.3 persons/other

PROJECT GOALS

- Improve safety for all roadway users
- Enhance bus priority to improve bus speeds and reliability
- Improve traffic flow



TOOLBOX

Qwik Kurb



Signal Timing Changes



Pedestrian Islands



Painted Curb Extensions with Delineators



Proposal

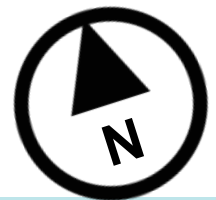
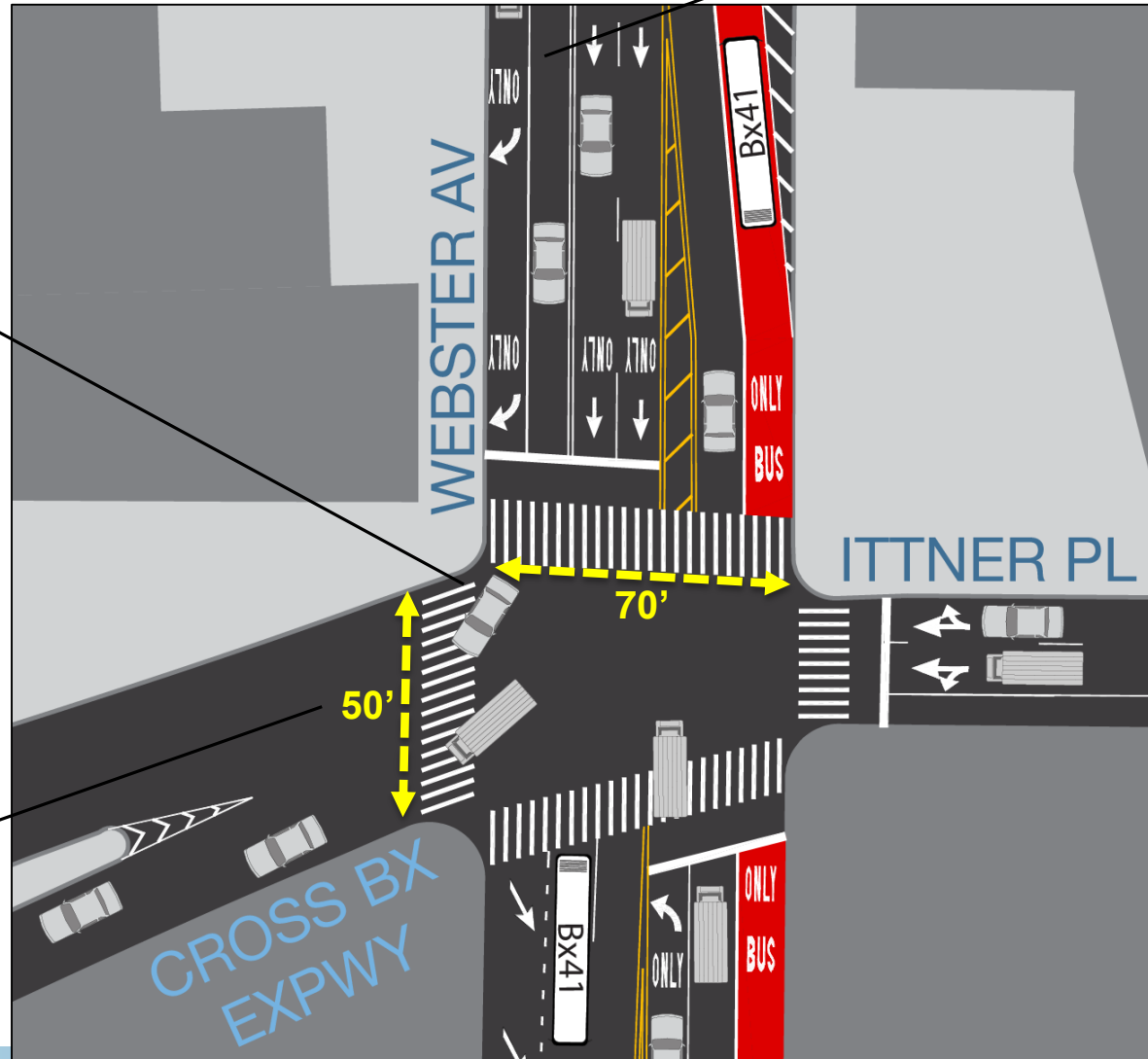
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EXISTING ISSUES

Unclear travel
lane alignment

Double
southbound
right turns onto
Cross Bronx
Expressway

Long
pedestrian
crossing
distances

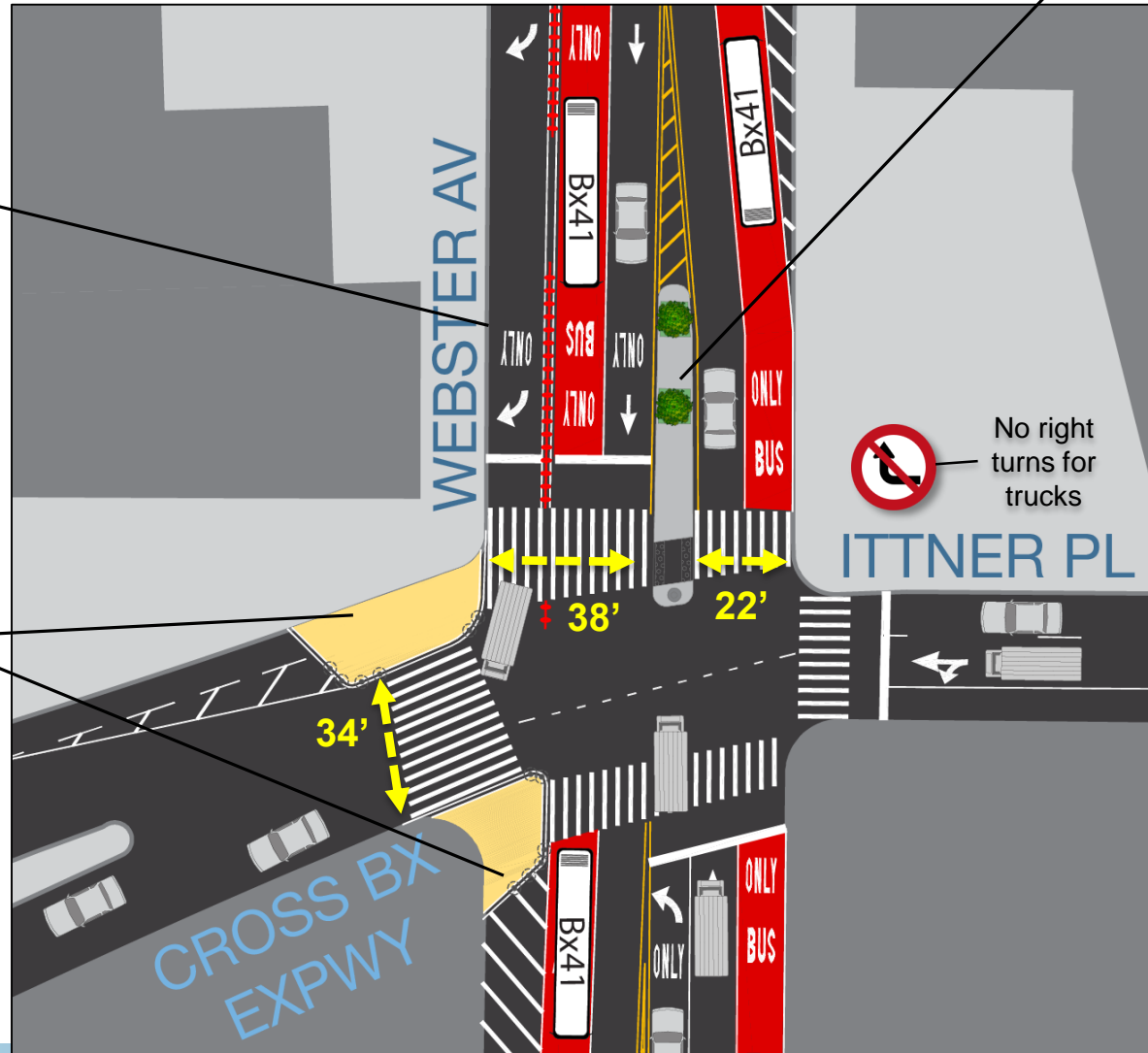


PROPOSAL

Create single right turn lane lined with quik kurb

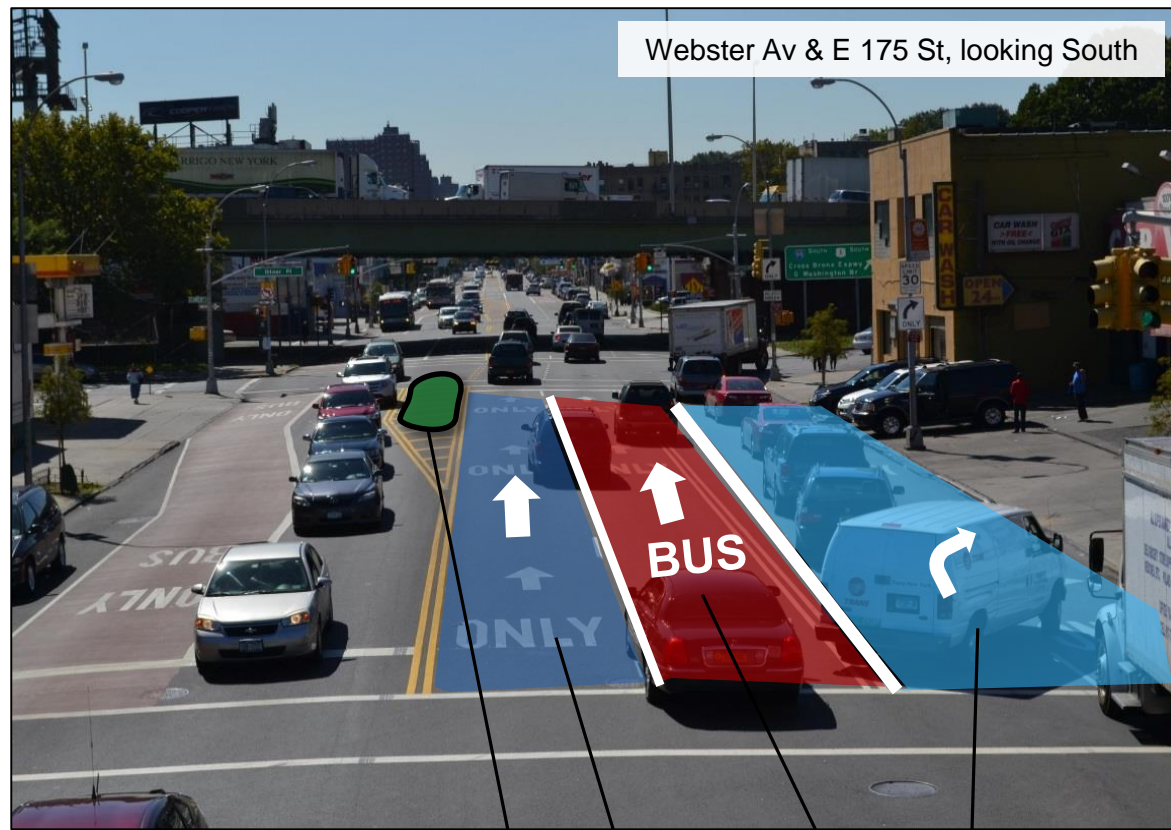
Add painted curb extensions

Add pedestrian island



BUS LANES

- Re-allocate existing lanes to better manage thru traffic and improve transit service
- Heavy southbound right turning traffic will be separated from thru traffic



Thru Lane

Bus Lane

Pedestrian island

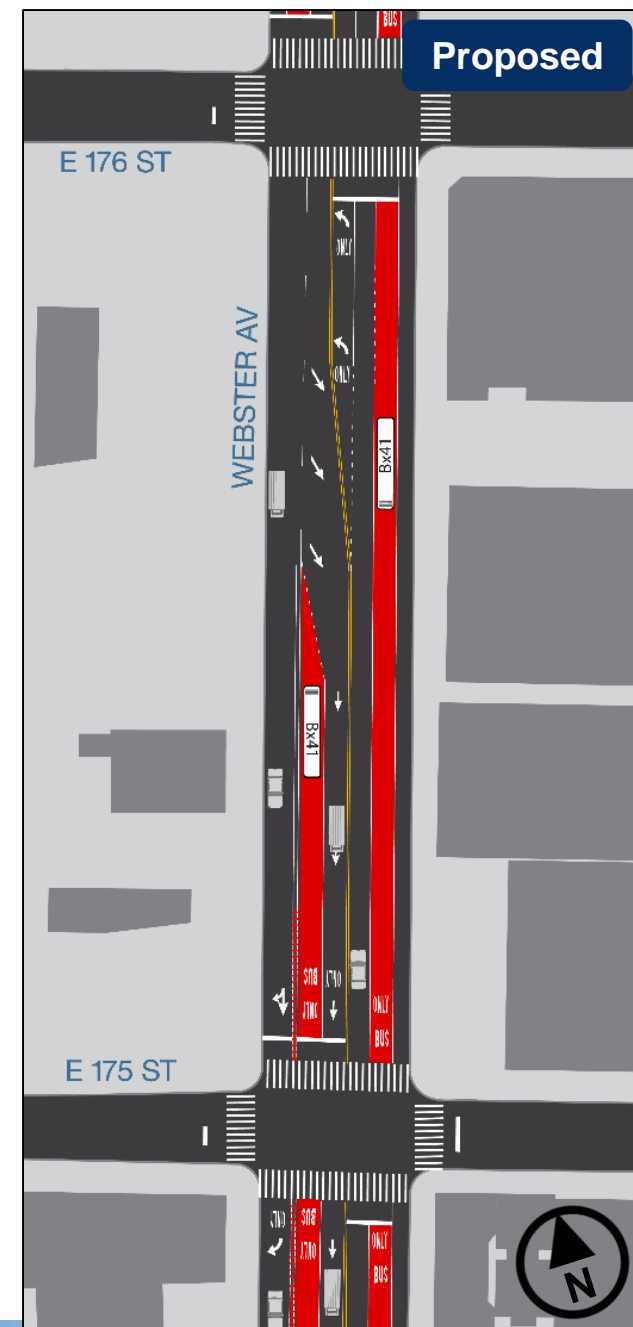
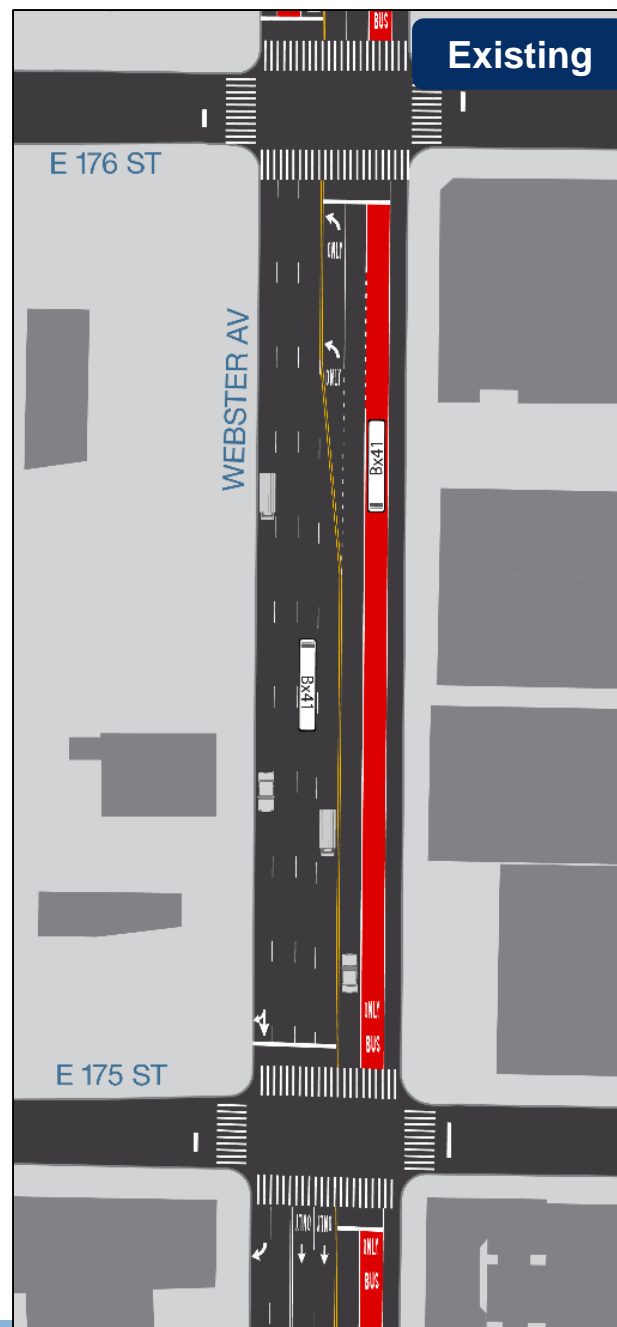
Right turn lane lined with qwik kurb

		7:30-8:30am	1-2pm	4:30-5:30pm
Southbound Vehicle Volumes	Right Turn	545	500	455
	Straight	495	500	495
Southbound Bx41 / Bx41 SBS Passengers		530	330	340

BUS LANES

E 176 ST – E 175 ST

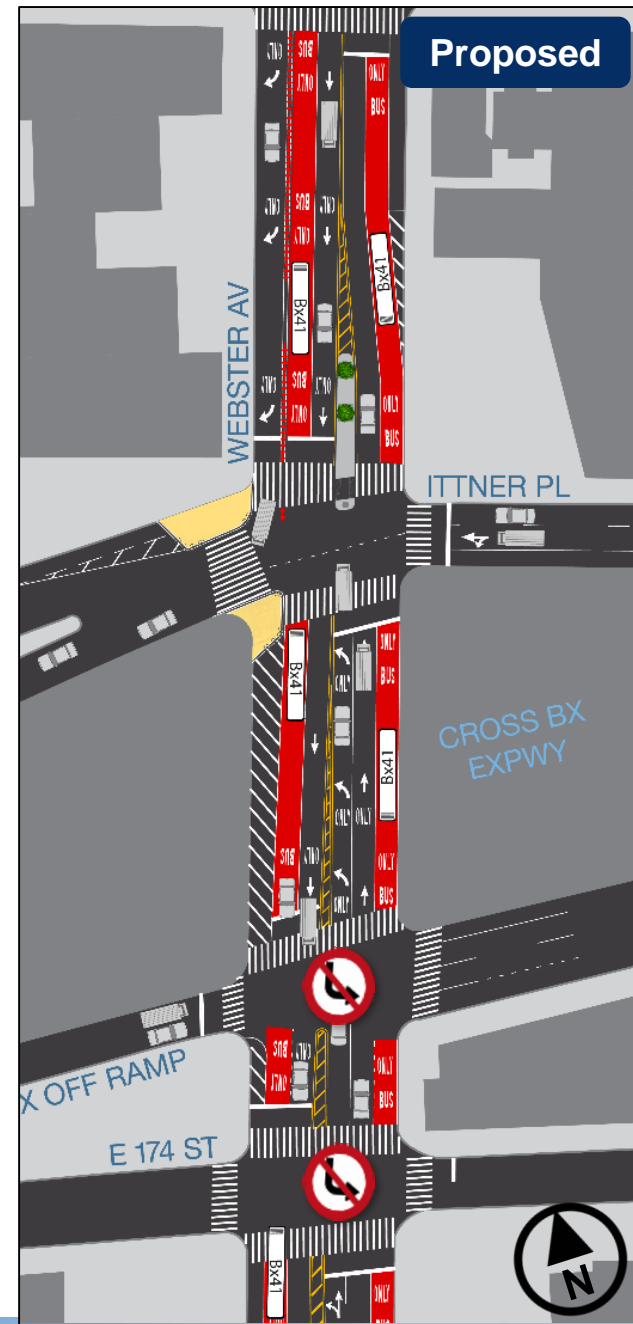
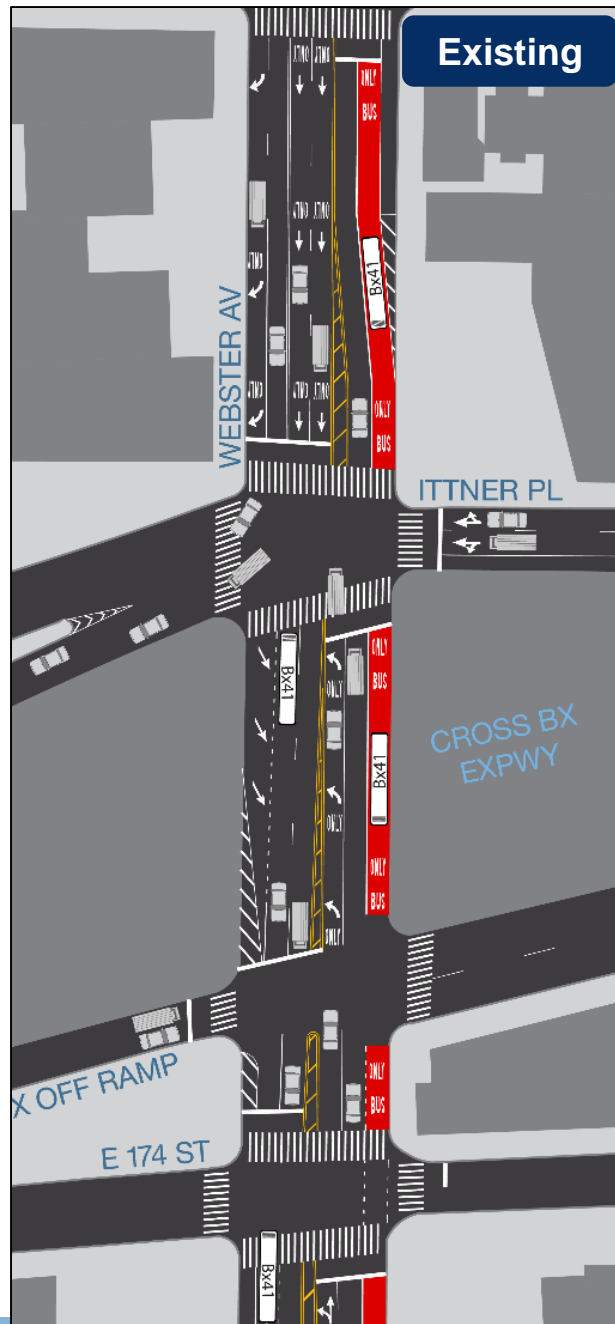
- Fill in southbound bus lane gap between E 176 St and E 174 St
- Re-allocate existing roadway space to allow thru southbound vehicles to get around vehicles turning right at the Cross Bronx Expressway



BUS LANES

E 175 ST – E 174 ST

- Fill in southbound bus lane gap between E 176 St and E 174 St
- New southbound left turn restrictions at Cross Bronx Off Ramp and E 174 St keep traffic moving (impacts <5 vehicles per hour)



TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS – CROSS BRONX ACCESS

- Add signage to encourage use of Park Ave for Cross Bronx Access
- Add westbound left turn lane at E 175 St and Park Ave (CB5 request)
- Investigating signal timing adjustments at Park Ave and Tremont Ave to ease left turn
- Reduces southbound right turn volume at Webster Avenue and Ittner Place and improves traffic



SUMMARY



- Add pedestrian island and two painted curb extensions at Webster Ave / Ittner Pl
- Add southbound bus lane between E 176 St and E 174 St
- Clarify southbound traffic lanes approaching Ittner Pl
- Provide alternate route for southbound traffic accessing the Cross Bronx Expressway

THANK YOU!

Questions?



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



nyc_dot



NYC DOT