

# M79 Select Bus Service

Manhattan Community Board 7 | March 22, 2017



New York City Transit

+selectbusservice



# Overview

- **Select Bus Service in New York City**
- **M79 Select Bus Service Background**
- **M79 SBS Draft Street Designs**
- **Next Steps**
- **Questions**

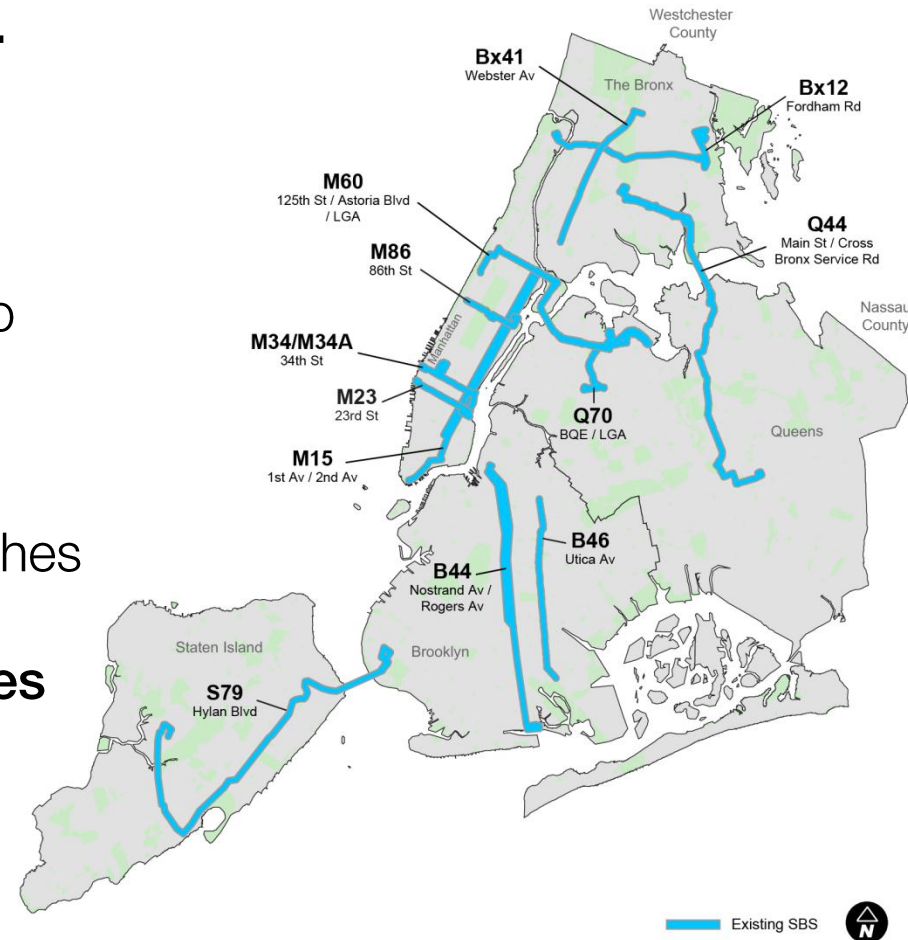
# Select Bus Service in New York City

Select Bus Service (SBS) is New York City's brand name for Bus Rapid Transit: an improved bus service that offers fast, frequent, and reliable service on high-ridership bus routes.

SBS has brought:

- 10-30% faster bus speeds
- About 10% increase in ridership
- More reliable service
- Customer satisfaction of 95%
- Safer streets / reduction in crashes

There are 12 Select Bus Service routes in operation serving all 5 boroughs.





# Select Bus Service Features

Dedicated Bus Lanes



Signal Priority for Buses



- **Faster** bus rides
- **Reduced traffic conflicts** between buses and traffic
- **More reliable** bus service
- Buses spend **less time stopped** at red lights

Off-Board Fare Collection



All-Door Boarding



- **Quicker** bus boarding
- Buses spend **less time waiting** at bus stops

# Select Bus Service Features

Improved Station Amenities



Real-Time Passenger Information



- **More attractive, appealing** bus stops
- **Better trip information** for riders to **know when** the bus is coming
- **More comfortable wait** for the bus

Pedestrian Safety Improvements



- **Better visibility** for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
- **Clearer, shorter** pedestrian crossings

# M79 Project Background

The M79 bus corridor was identified as a potential candidate for Select Bus Service in the “Bus Rapid Transit: Phase II Study” (2009).

- Request for M79 SBS from local elected officials and community
- Heavily used route with slow trips
- Carries over 18,000 passengers per day over about 2 miles
- Crucial connection to **1** **6** **B** **C** trains
- Serves areas far from the subway
- Connection to 16 bus routes including M15 SBS



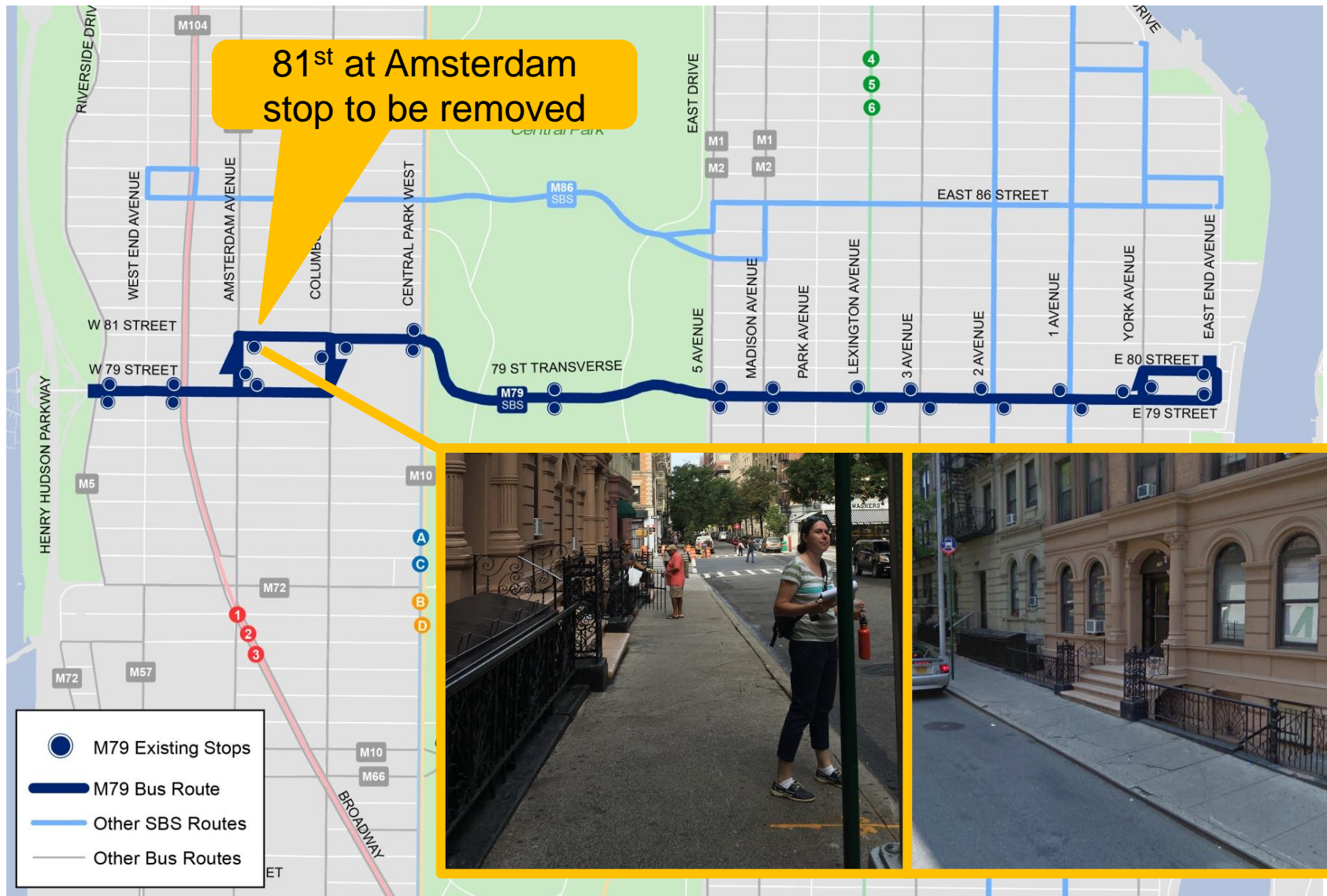
# M79 SBS Project Goals

- Increase bus speeds and reliability
- Improve pedestrian and traffic safety
- Enhance customer experience with better station amenities, reduced wait times, and travel times

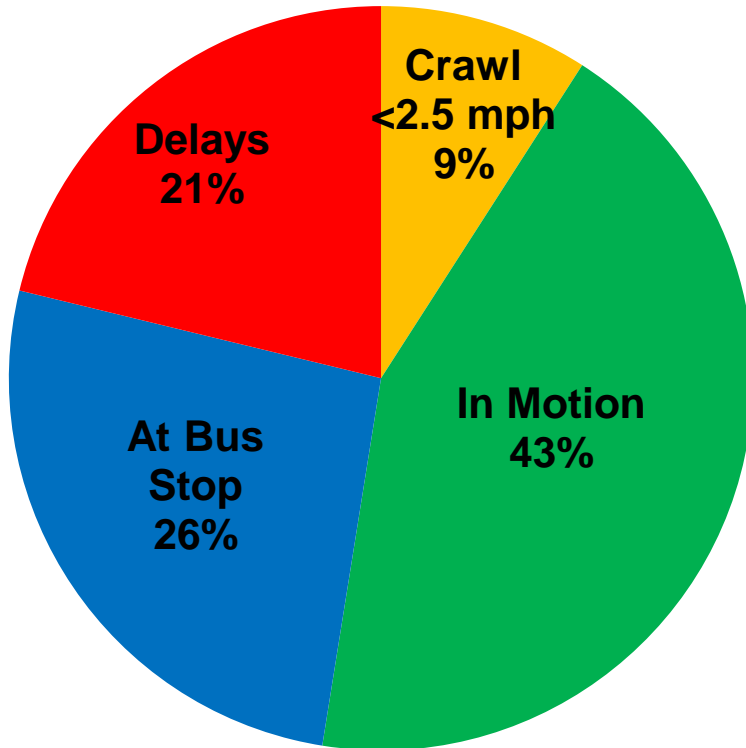
# M79 Bus Operations



# M79 Route



# Transit Issues

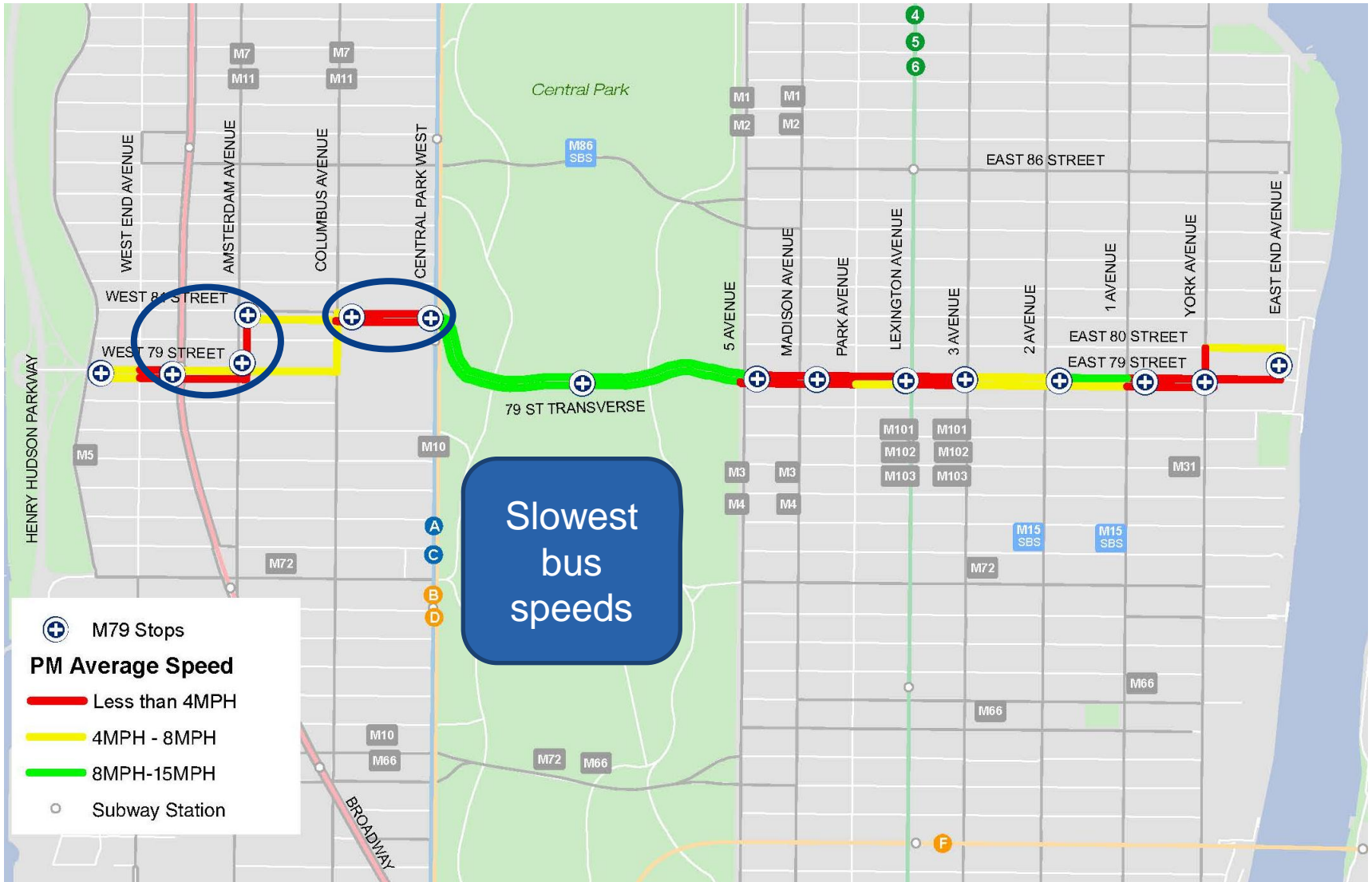


- Over 50% of trip spent delayed, crawling, or at bus stop
- Bus is moving well only 43% of the trip



- Customers wait in long lines to pay on board

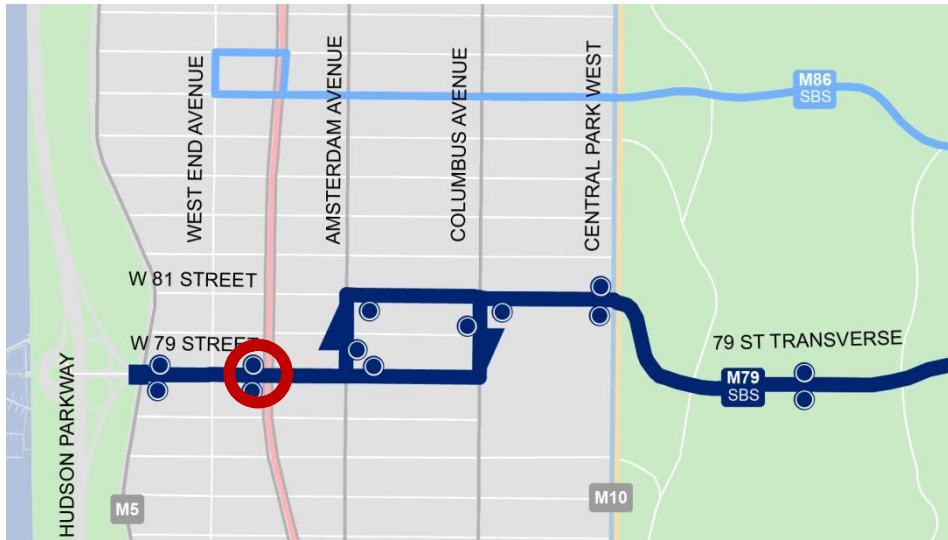
# M79 Average Speeds



# M79 Street Operations

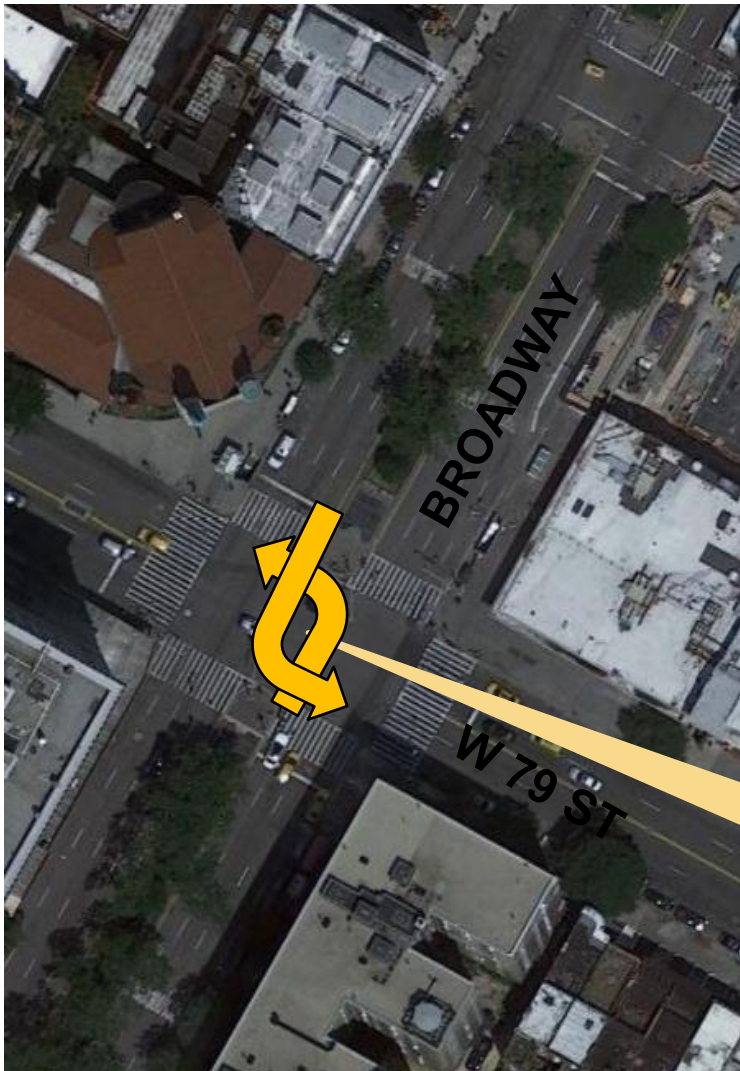


# Safety Issues



- Multiagency effort to reduce traffic fatalities
- 5 intersections:
  - 79<sup>th</sup> St and Broadway
  - 79<sup>th</sup> St and Lexington Ave
  - 79<sup>th</sup> St and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave
  - 79<sup>th</sup> St and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave
  - 79<sup>th</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

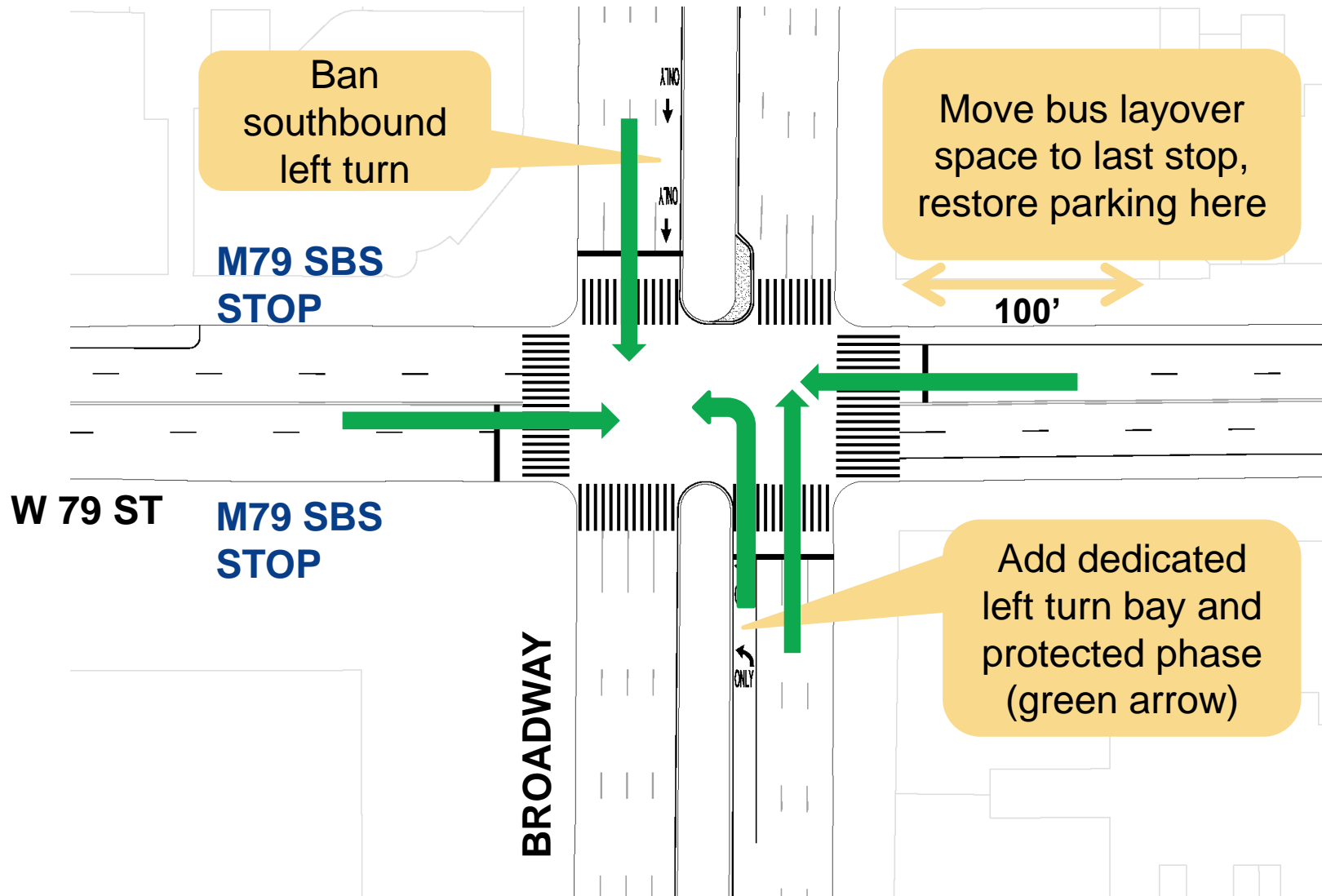
# Issues: W 79 St and Broadway



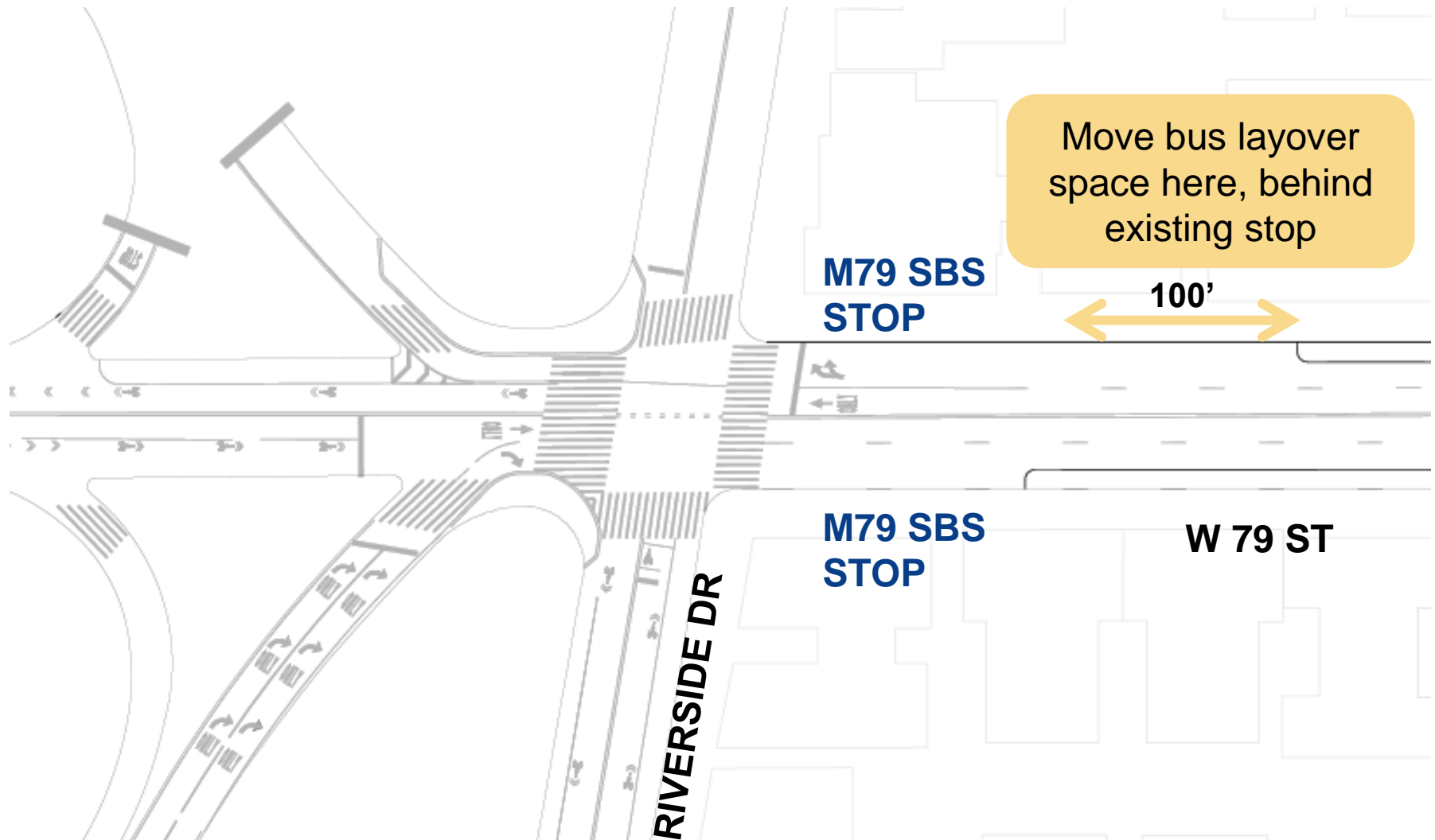
W 79 St at Broadway, looking west

Overlapping turns  
(yellow) queue in center  
– high crash location

# Proposed: W 79 St and Broadway

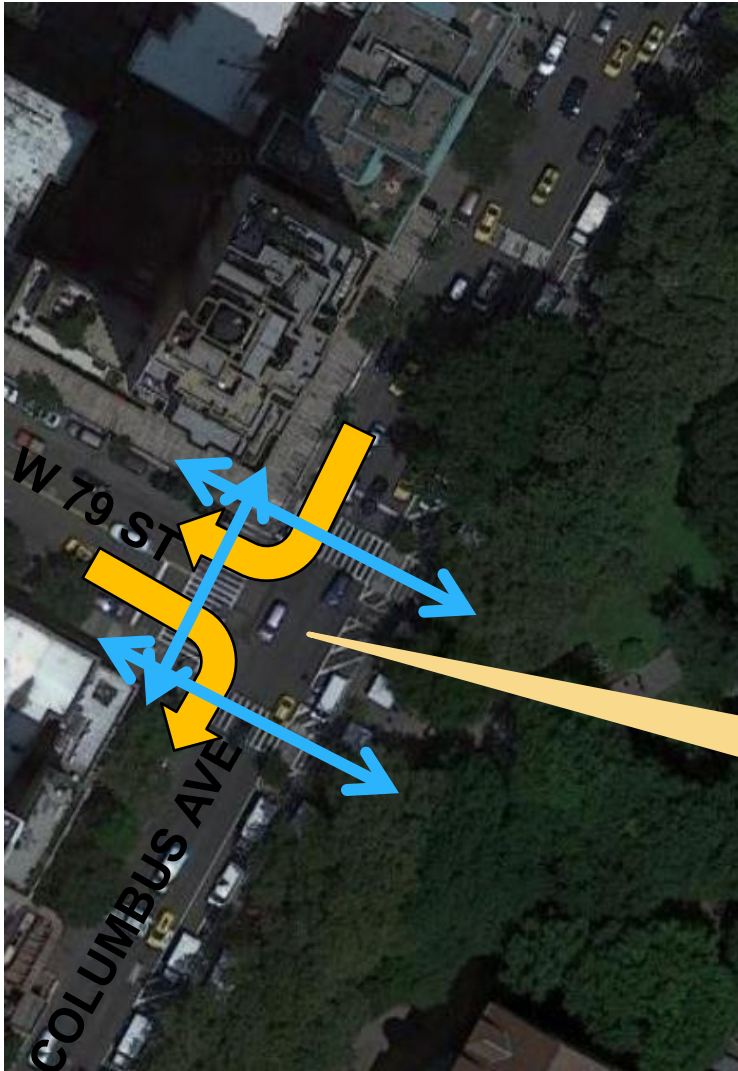


# Proposed: W 79 St and Riverside





# Issues: W 79 St and Columbus Ave



W 79 St at Columbus Ave

Heavy right turns (yellow)  
overlapping with heavy  
pedestrian crossings (blue)

Requests from CB 7 and  
American Museum of Natural  
History to address safety

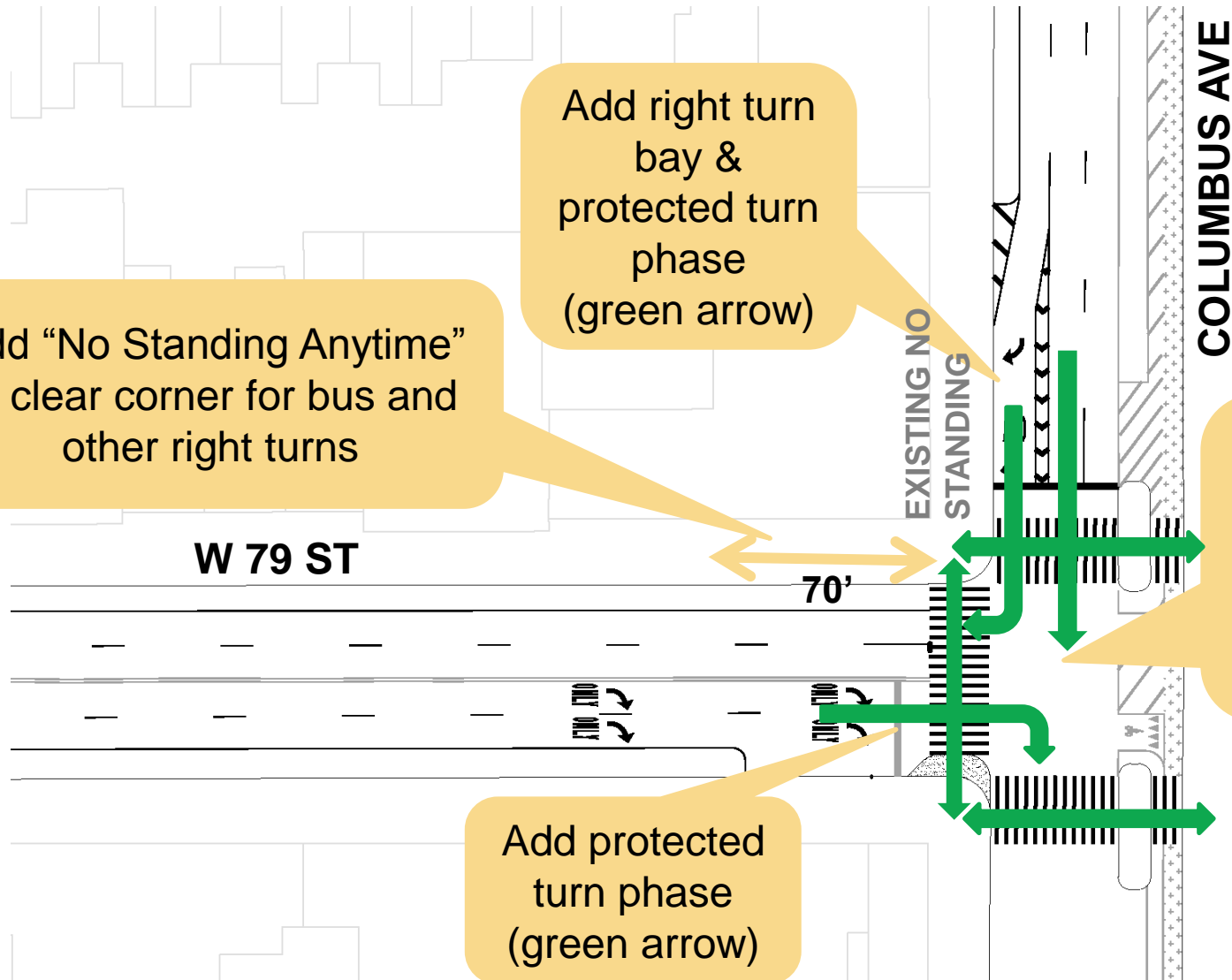
# W 79 St and Columbus Ave

Add "No Standing Anytime" to clear corner for bus and other right turns

Add right turn bay & protected turn phase (green arrow)

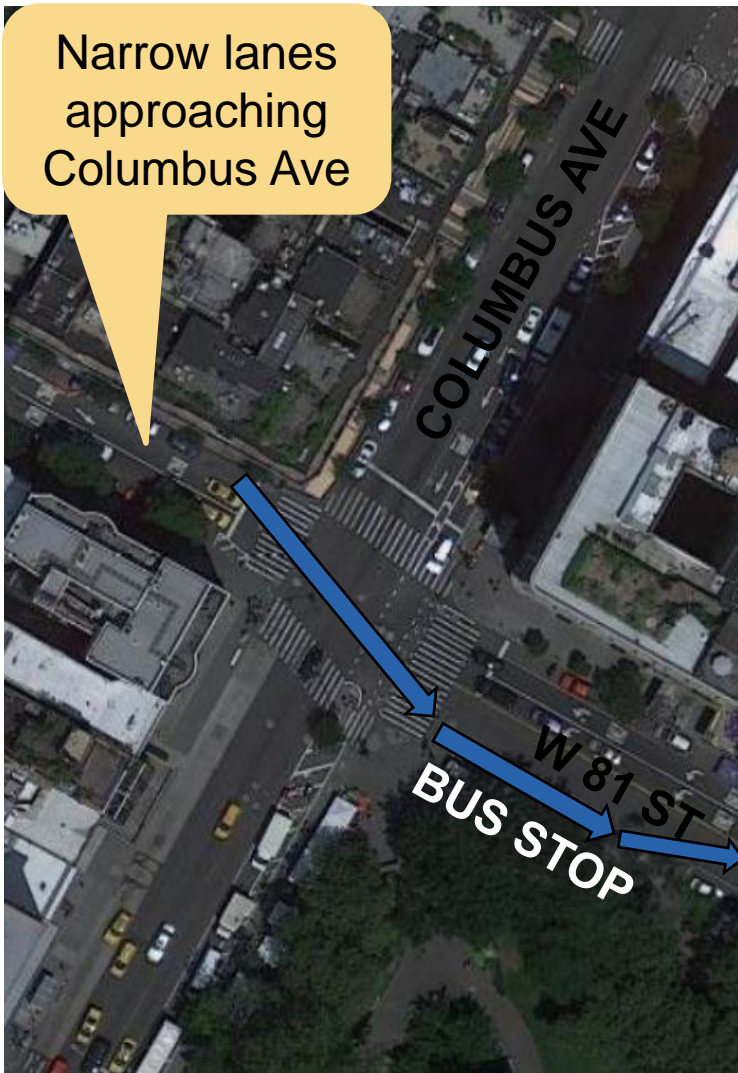
Add protected turn phase (green arrow)

Change signal timing to have protected turn phases & separate all-way pedestrian phase





# Issues: W 81 St and Columbus Ave



W 81 St at Columbus Ave, looking east

Bus stop blockages prevent M79 from pulling fully out of traffic and into bus stop

# W 81 St and Columbus Ave

Widen travel lanes to relieve congestion & improve visibility

COLUMBUS AVE

"No Parking 9a-5p M-F" for standing deliveries, pickups/dropoffs (parking all other times)

60'

NO STANDING  
HOTEL LOADING  
ZONE

W 81 ST

160'

"No Standing Anytime" for length of turn bay

M79 SBS LOCAL BUS STOP

Separate SBS/Local stop space

130'

M79 SBS STOP

270'

Add EB curbside bus lane b/w Columbus Ave and CPW (7a-7p M-F, parking all other times)



# Issues: W 81 St and CPW

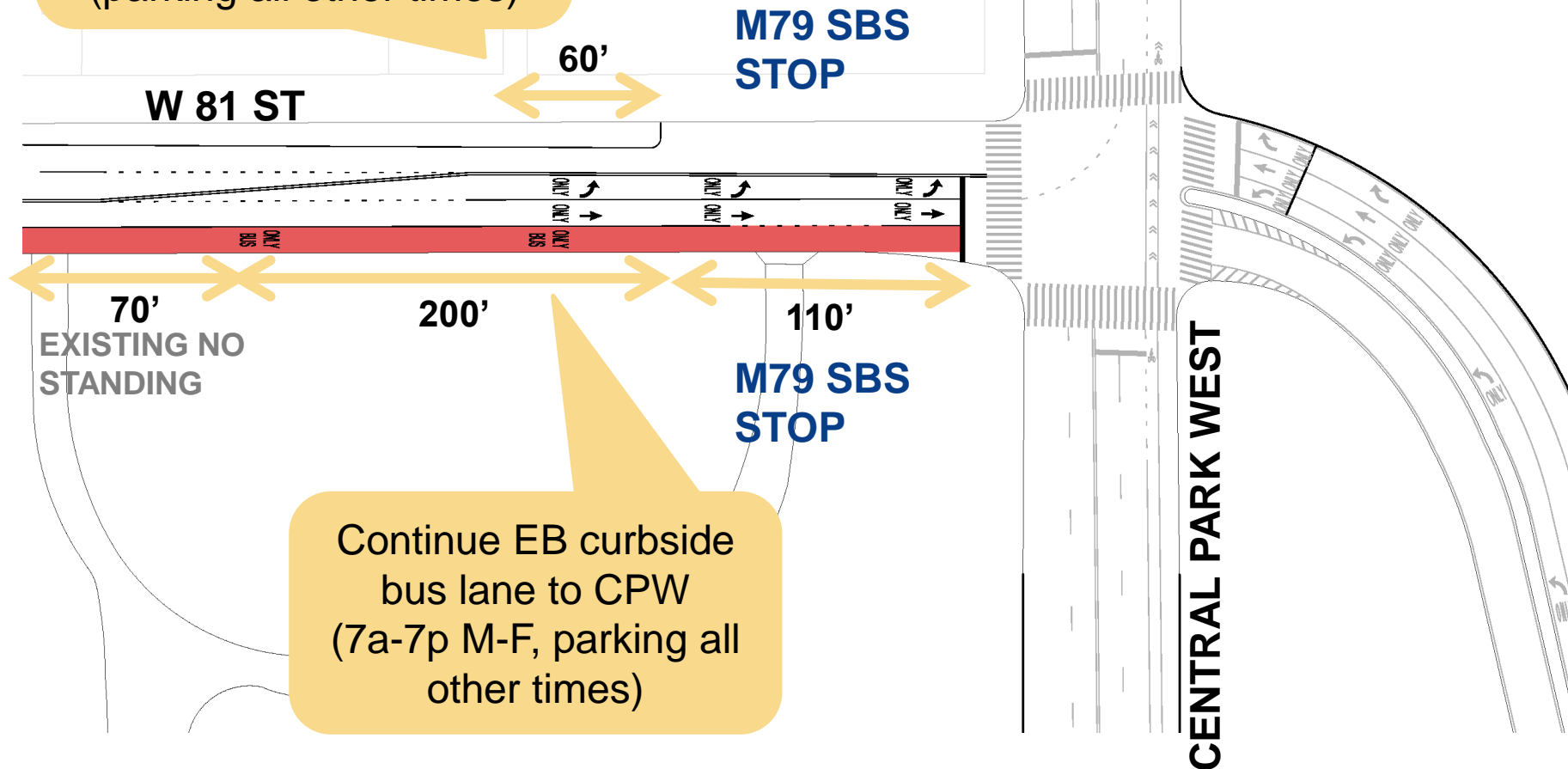


W 81 St at CPW, looking west

Daytime service trucks lack curb space, block 81 St westbound traffic

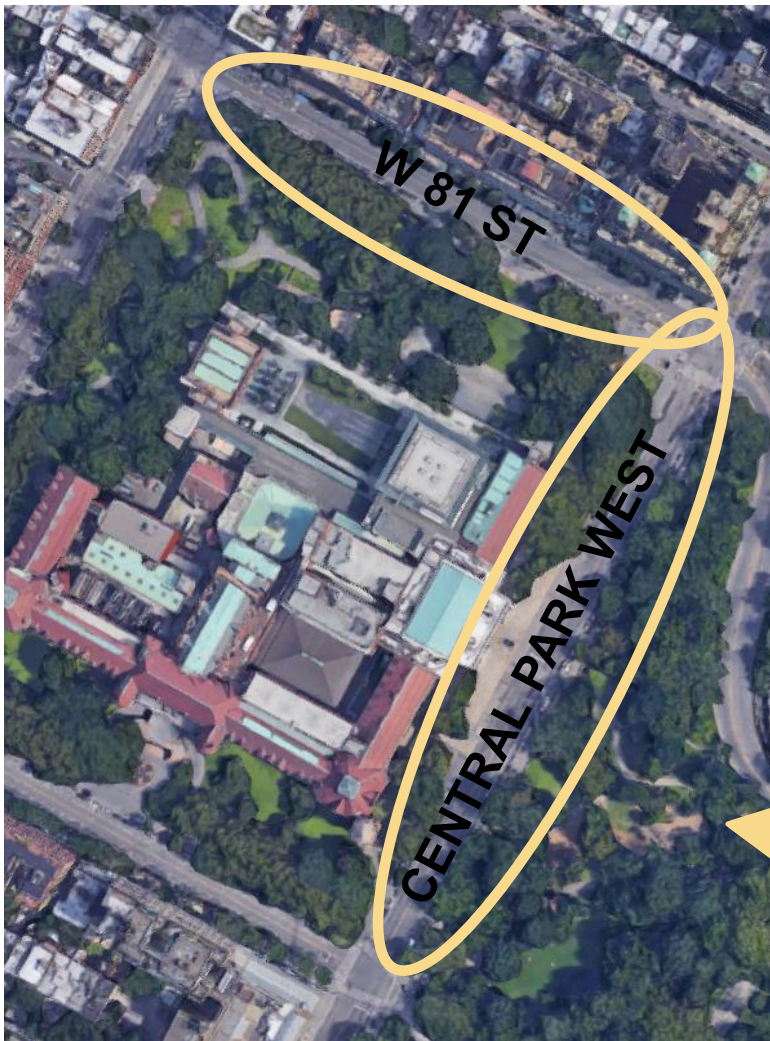
# W 81 St and CPW

“No Parking 9a-5p M-F”  
for standing deliveries,  
pickups/dropoffs  
(parking all other times)





# Issues: W 81 St and CPW



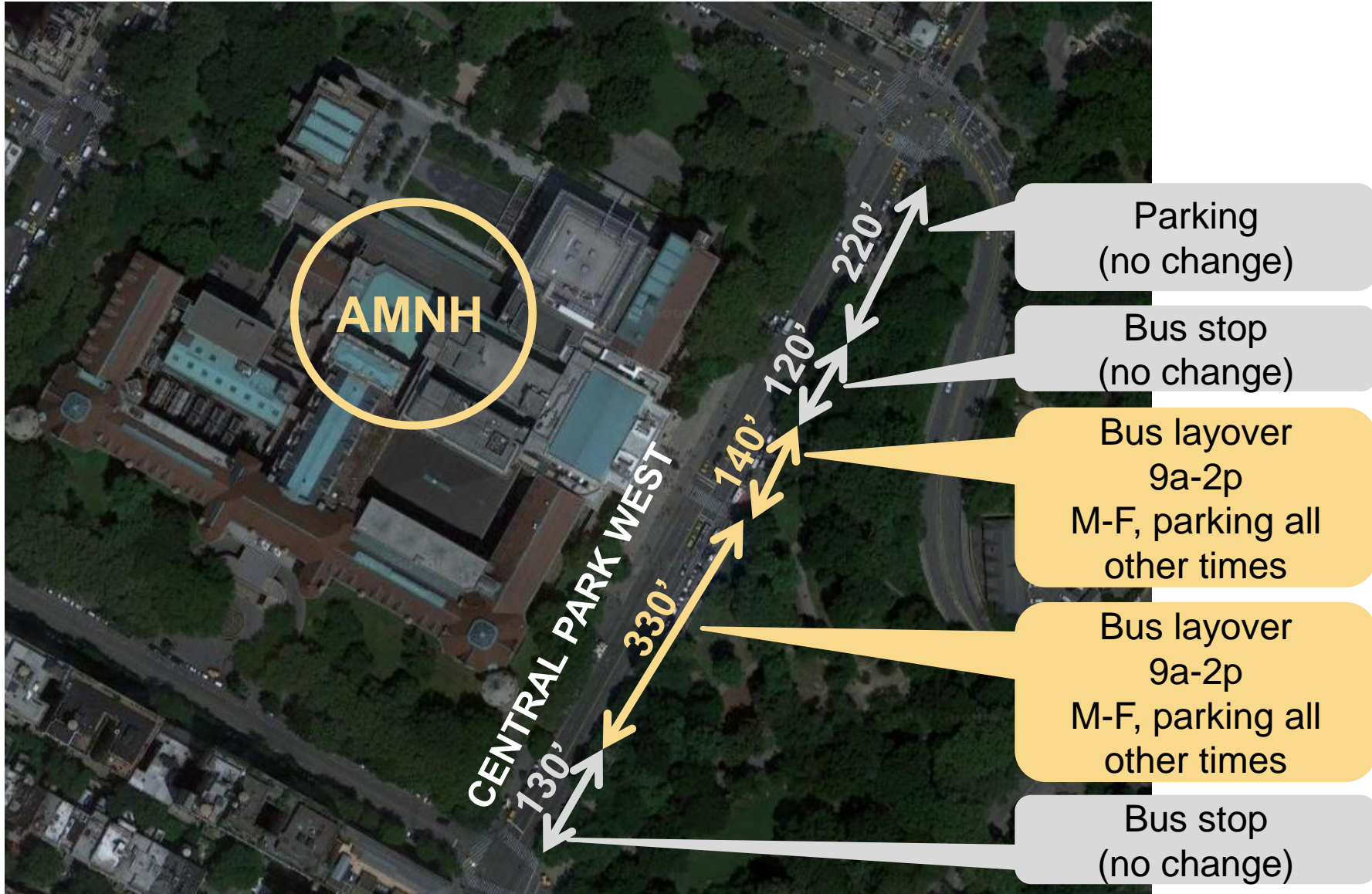
W 81 St b/w Columbus Ave & CPW

Contributes to mid-day congestion on W 81 St and on CPW bordering the museum

AMNH-bound buses seek out layover space on weekdays mid-AM to early PM



# W 81 St and CPW





# M79 SBS Project Benefits

- Improve M79 bus speeds and reliability
- Improve traffic & pedestrian safety along corridor
- Increase daytime access to curb for buses & deliveries
- Reduce school/tour bus circulation and congestion around AMNH
- Better organize traffic and transit to meet daytime demands of the M79 corridor

# Next Steps

## March-Early April 2017

- Finalize street designs
- Continue SBS bus stop construction
  - Fare machines, wayfinding, real time passenger info

## April 2017

- Begin roadway and signage work

## Late Spring 2017

- Complete project implementation
- Launch M79 SBS service

# Questions?

