

# M86 and M79 Select Bus Service

Manhattan Community Board 7 | October 6, 2016



# Overview

- **Select Bus Service in New York City**
- **M86 Select Bus Service Update**
- **M79 Select Bus Service Introduction**
- **Project Timeline**
- **Questions**

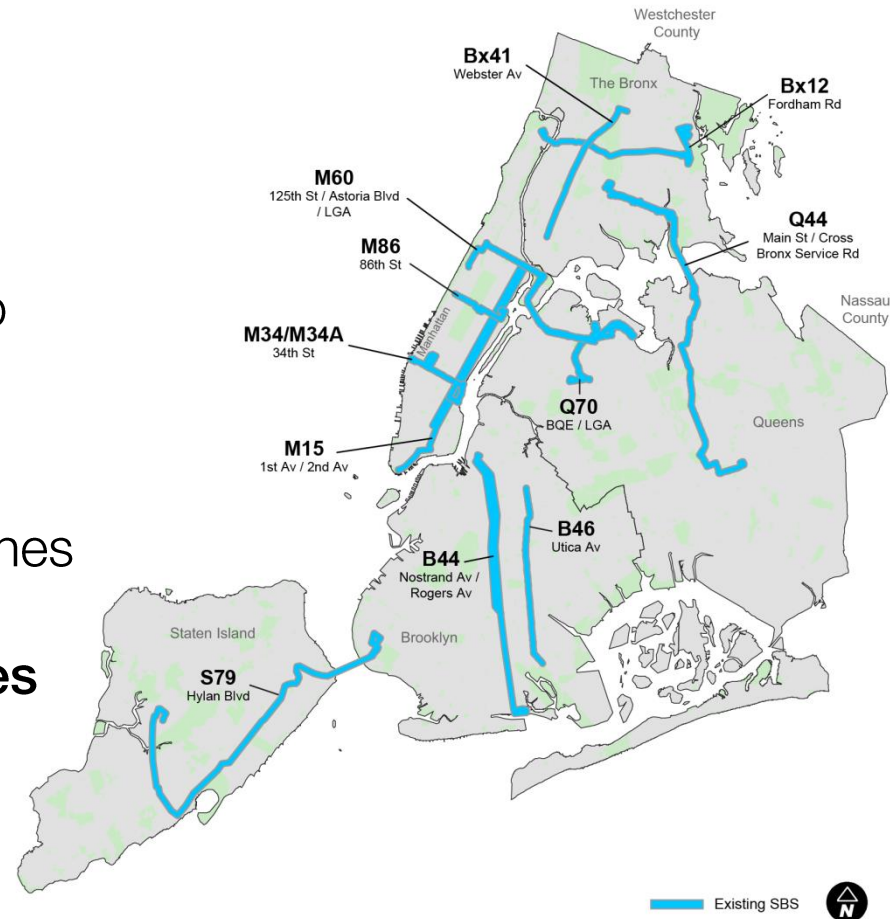
# Select Bus Service in New York City

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:

- 10-25% faster bus speeds
- About 10% increase in ridership
- More reliable service
- Customer satisfaction of 95%
- Safer streets / reduction in crashes

There are 11 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

# M86 SBS Project Background

- Carries over 25,000 passengers per day
- Most passengers per mile of any bus route in NYC
- Crucial connection to **1** **4** **5** **6** **B** **C** trains and 12 bus routes



# M86 SBS Project Features



## Street Design:

- Bus queue jump lanes
- Lane realignments
- Upgraded crosswalks

## Station Amenities:

- Shelters
- Wayfinding signs
- Bus arrival information
- Off-board fare payment



Before

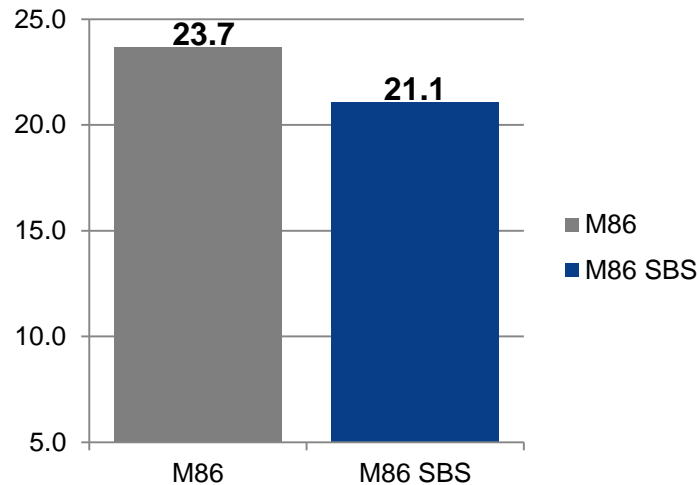


After

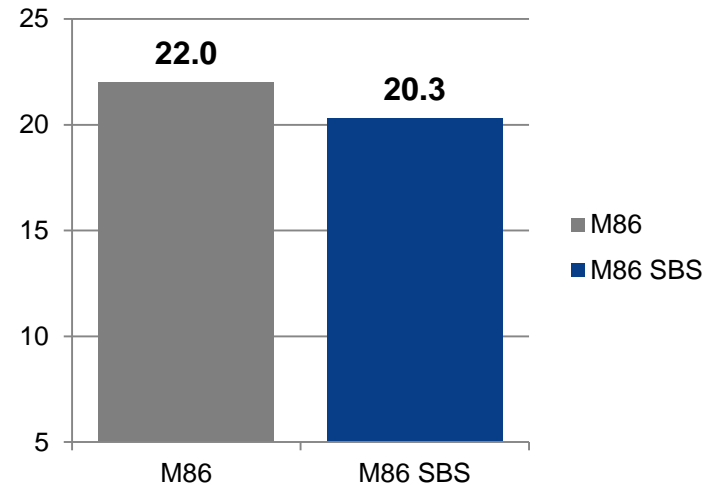


# M86 SBS Update - Travel Times

**Eastbound Travel Time  
(6:00am-7:00pm)  
in minutes**

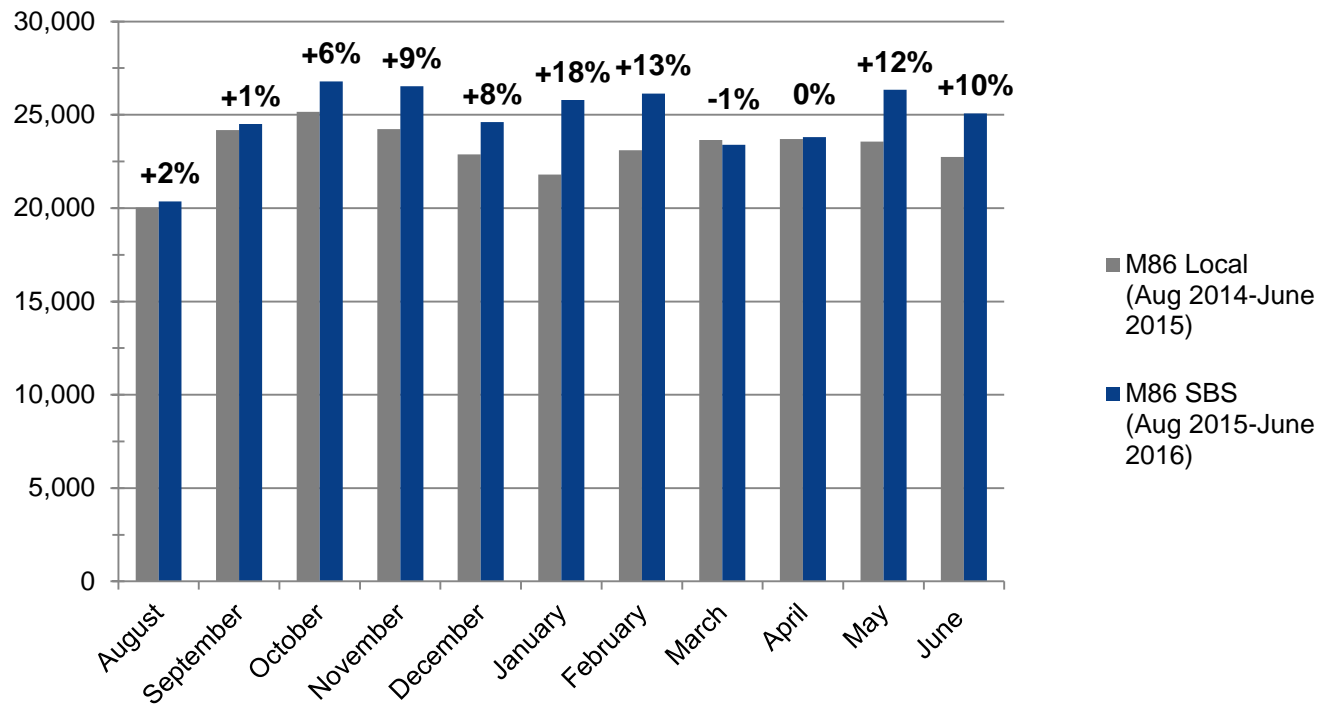


**Westbound Travel Time  
(6:00am-7:00pm)  
in minutes**



- Due to SBS improvements, M86 SBS operates 8-11% faster than M86
- Queue jump bus lanes and off-board fare collection have led to decreased travel times

# M86 SBS Update - Ridership



- In the 5 years preceding SBS there was an 8% decrease in ridership
- Ridership grew on average 7% in the first 11 months of SBS service
- 96% rider satisfaction for overall service

# M86 SBS and M79 SBS

- **Parallel crosstown routes with similar street designs and stop patterns**
- **M79 analysis and design plan will investigate similar treatments used for M86 SBS, with the goals of:**
  - Increase bus speeds and reliability
  - Improve pedestrian and traffic safety
  - Enhance customer experience with better station amenities and reduced wait times and travel times

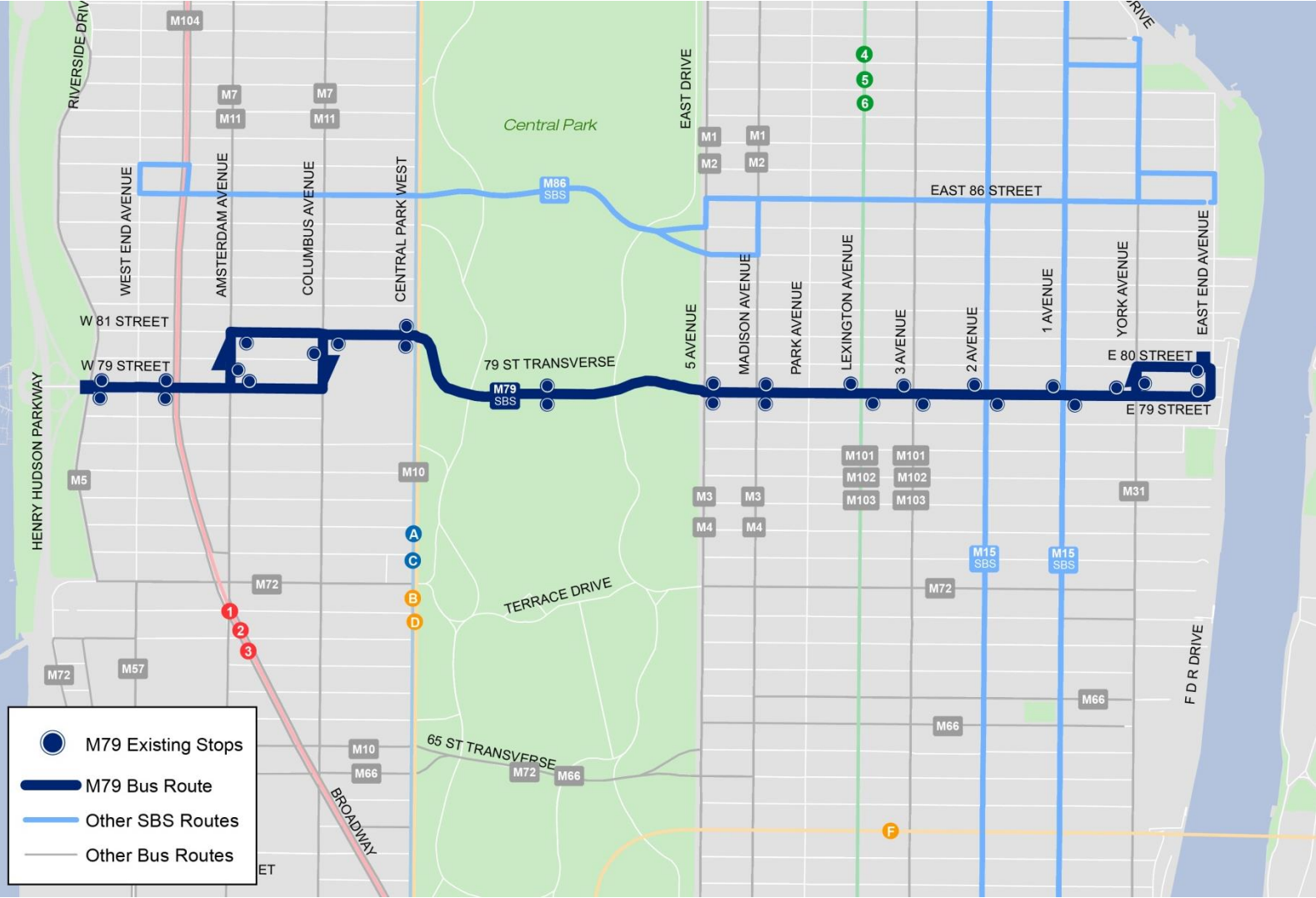
# M79 Project Background

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 Council Member Kallos
- 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 subway
- Connection to 16 bus routes including M15 SBS



# M79 Route

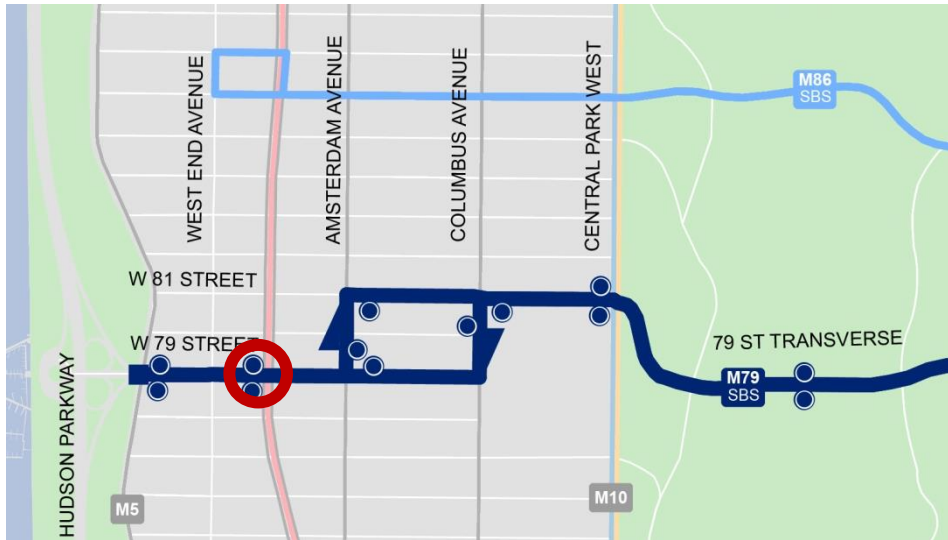


# Traffic Issues

- Congested intersections
- Travel lanes not being put to full use due to:
  - Blocked lanes from double parking, deliveries
  - Turning queues at some intersections
- Difficult turns across traffic

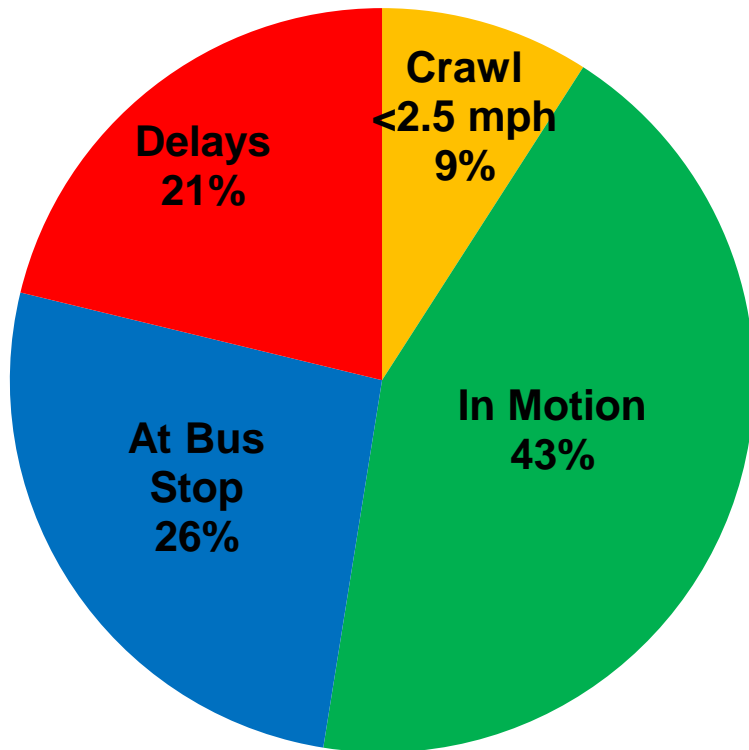


# Safety Issues



- 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

# 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



# Potential Stop Changes

- Discontinue stop on 81<sup>st</sup> St at Amsterdam Ave eastbound due to:
  - Low ridership
  - Sidewalks too narrow for fare machines
  - Close proximity to 79<sup>th</sup> St at Amsterdam Ave



81<sup>st</sup> St at Amsterdam Ave

# Next Steps

## Fall 2016

- Finalize traffic analysis
- Develop street design and service plan
- Begin construction for off-board fare equipment

## Winter 2017

- Present draft plan to CBs
- Finalize street design and service plan

## Spring 2017

- Launch SBS

# Questions?

