

Church Ave Transit & Traffic Improvements

Project Update: Implementation Plan | October 1, 2019



BETTERBUSES



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Project Background
2. Public Outreach
3. Flatbush Ave to E 16 St
4. E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy
5. Next Steps

Project Background

1

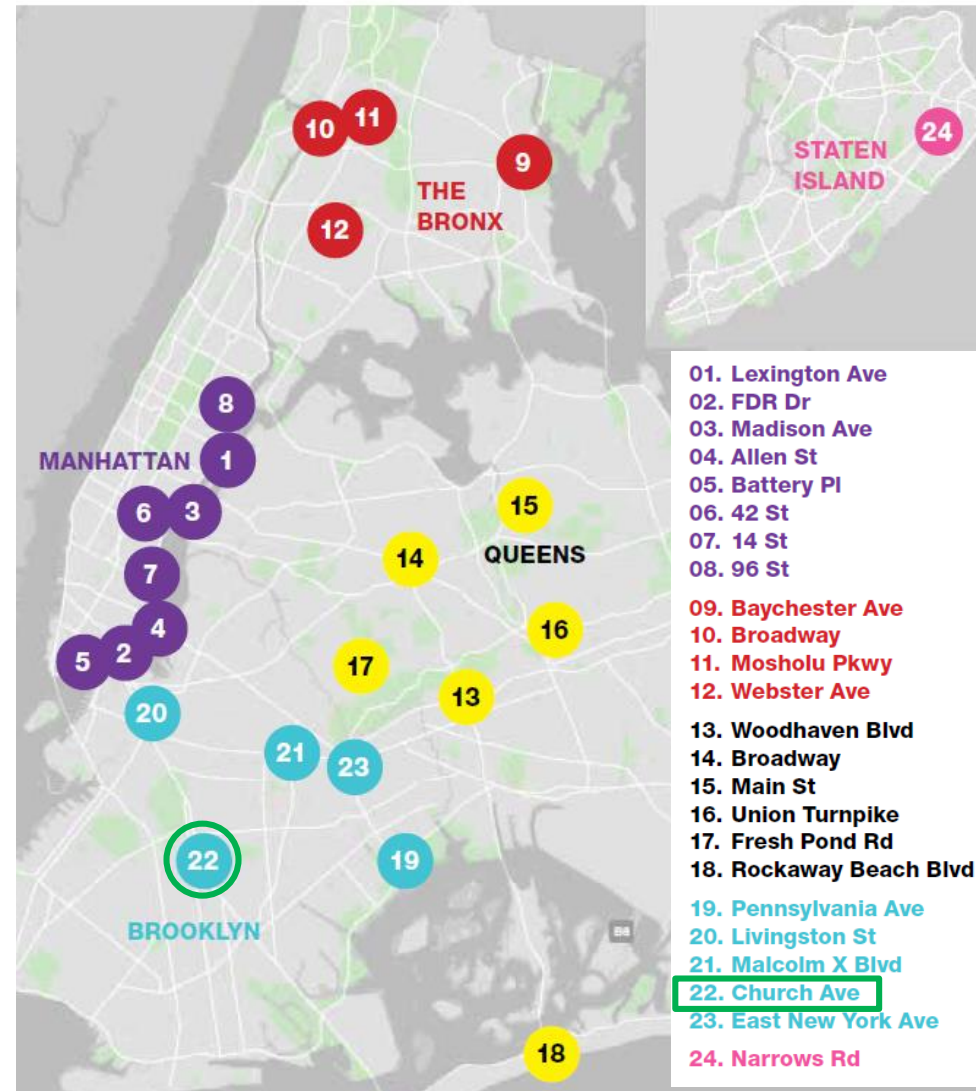
BUS SPEEDS

- 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



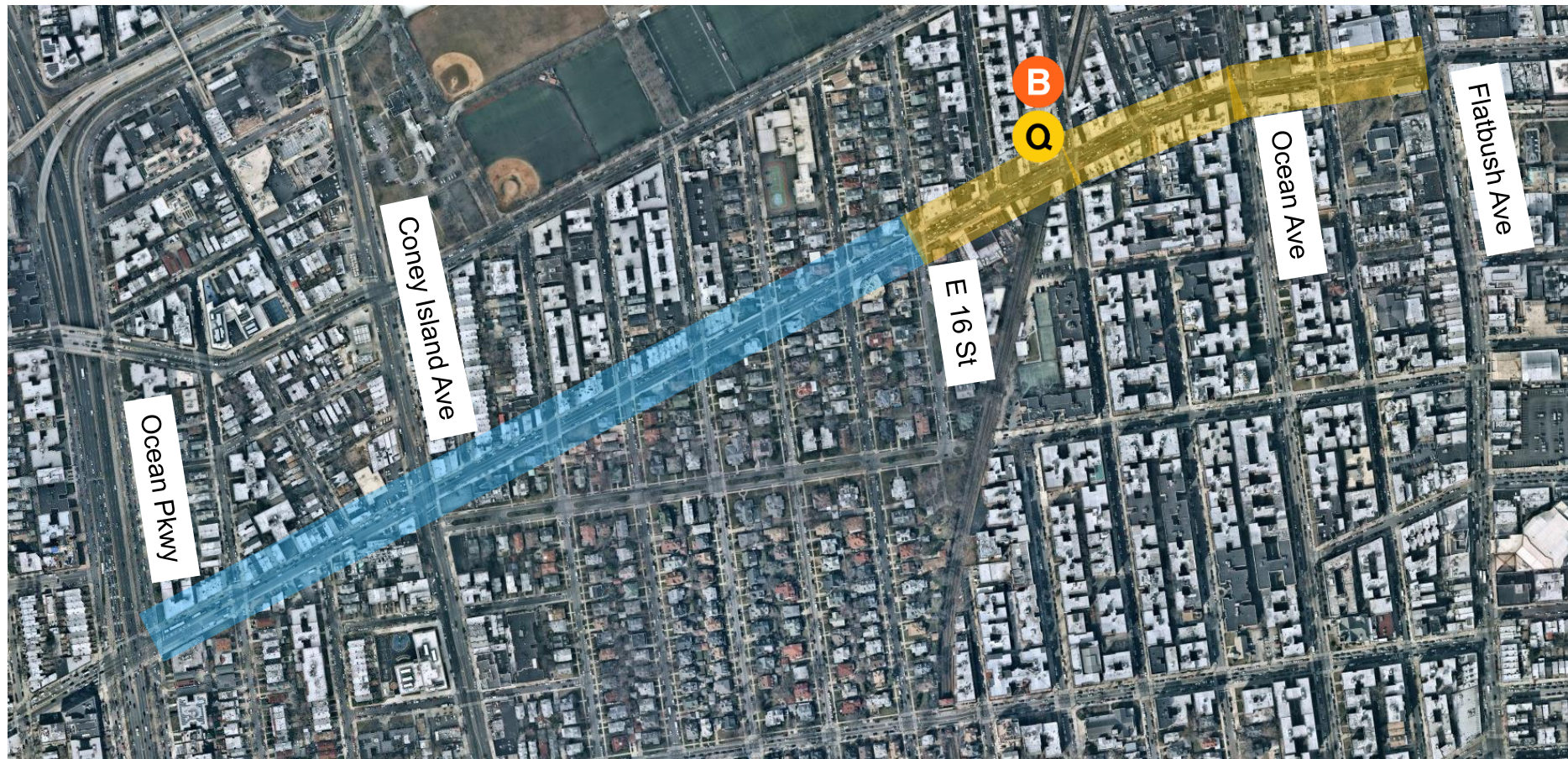
BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

- Church Ave (Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy) identified as 2019 priority project due to:
 - Slow bus speeds: **4.25 mph** during peak, compared to 6.7 mph peak Brooklyn avg.
 - High route ridership (**45,000 daily**) & high volume of buses



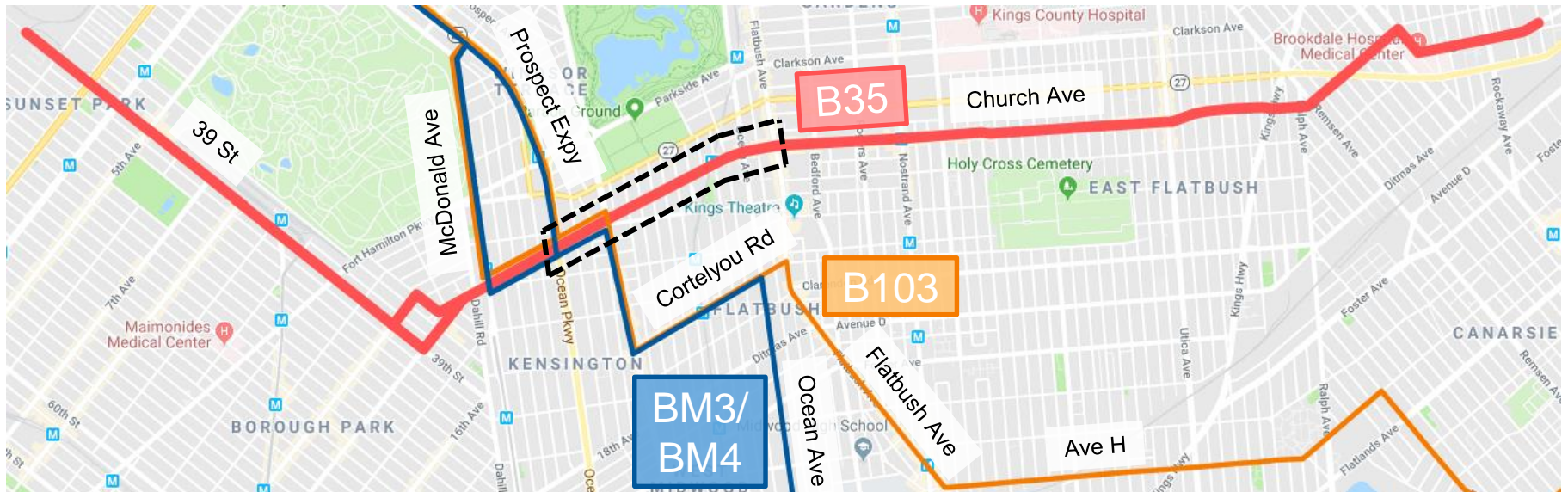
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

- Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy (0.9 miles)
 - Flatbush Ave to E 16 St – Commercial Core
 - E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy – Residential & Neighborhood Stores



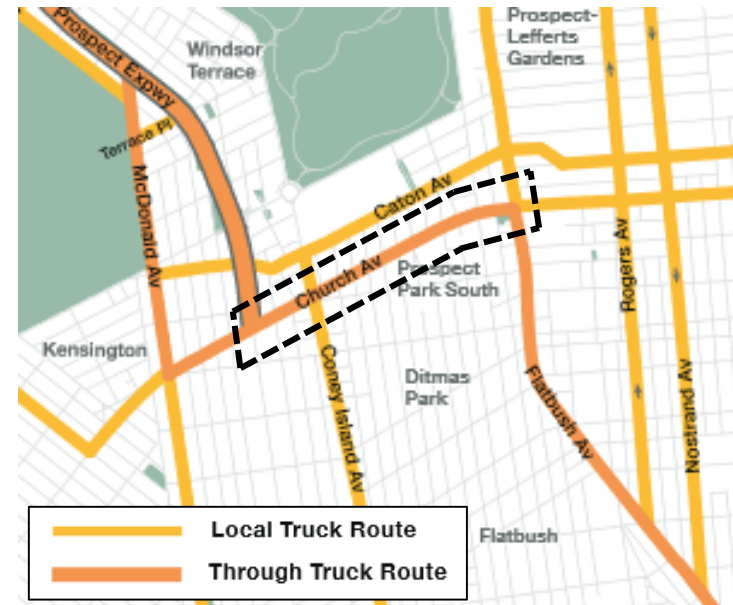
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

- B35: 29,000 daily riders (Brooklyn's 3rd 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



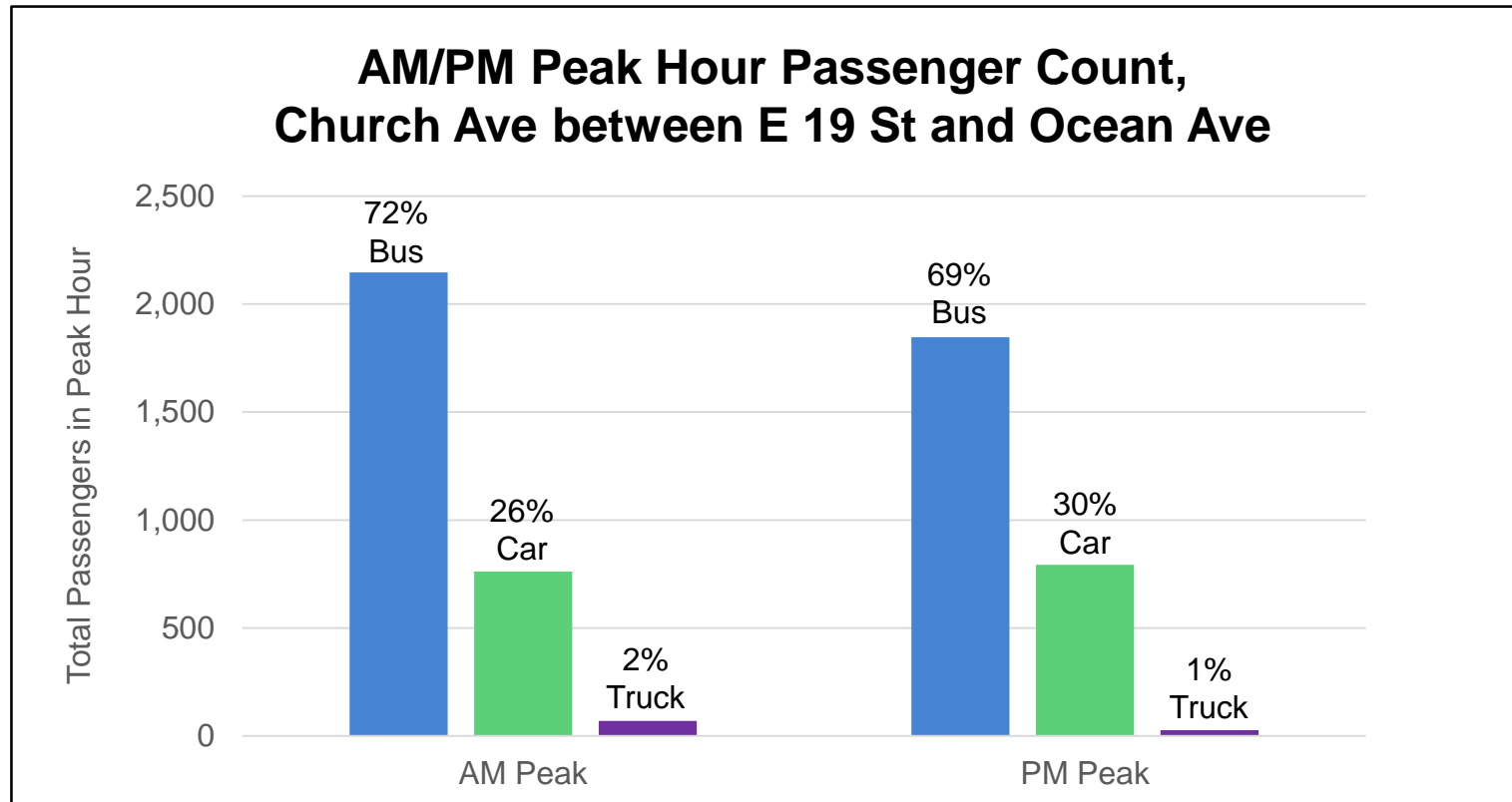
CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

- Continuous traffic backups in both directions, AM peak through PM peak
- Through truck route connecting Flatbush Ave to Prospect Expy
- Commercial corridor with frequent deliveries
- Other local and through traffic for commuting, shopping, etc.



CHURCH AVE IS MULTI-MODAL

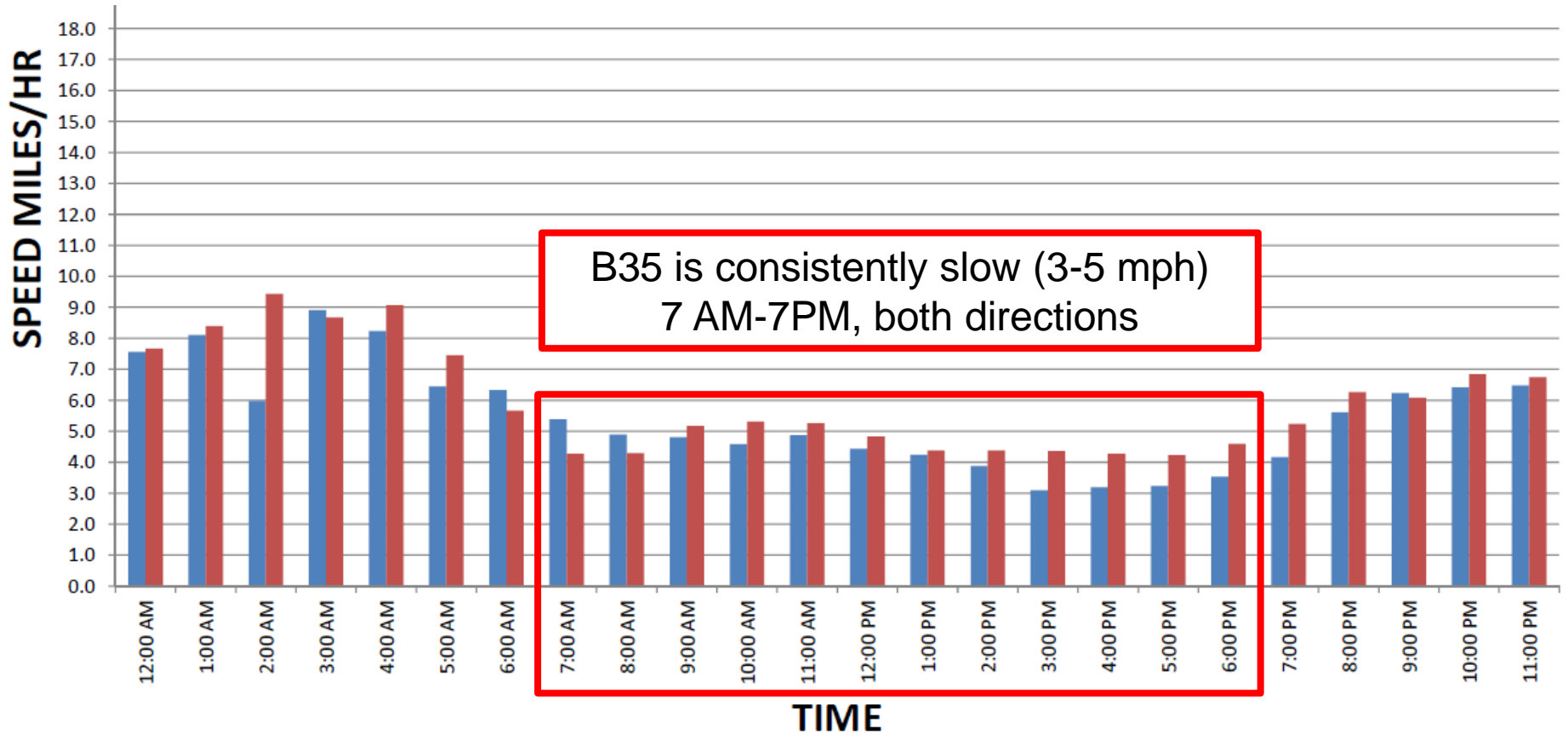
- Bus passengers make up 72% of travelers during AM peak, and 69% during PM peak



Car/truck source: 12/6/17 traffic counts; occupancy factor 1.3 persons/vehicle. Bus source: MTA scheduled B35 bus frequency and average B35 passenger loads during AM and PM peak; other buses counted on 12/6/17 use occupancy factor of 10 persons/vehicle. Peak hour is 8am-9am and 5:30-6:30pm, based on total number of vehicles counted.

BUS SPEEDS

Ocean Pkwy to Flatbush Ave



Public Outreach

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PUBLIC OUTREACH SUMMARY

1. Merchant Survey
2. Double Parking Survey
3. Shopper Survey
4. Church Ave BID Introductory Meeting
5. Church Ave BID Follow-Up Meeting
6. NYPD Briefing with:
 - 70th Precinct
 - 66th Precinct
 - Traffic Enforcement Brooklyn South
7. Community Board 14 Transportation Committee
8. Elected Officials Briefing
9. Church Ave BID Board Meeting
10. Elected Officials/Stakeholders Bus Ride
11. Community Board 12 Transportation Committee
12. CM Eugene Briefing
13. CM Eugene Public Forum
14. B'ShERT Stakeholder Meeting
15. NYPD Follow-Up Briefing



MERCHANT SURVEY

- Street Ambassadors visited every business on Church Ave from Flatbush Ave to Ocean Pkwy
- 76 merchants took a survey on their delivery and loading schedules, vehicles, challenges/needs, and loading zone preferences
- **81%** of respondents were owners or managers; **19%** employees



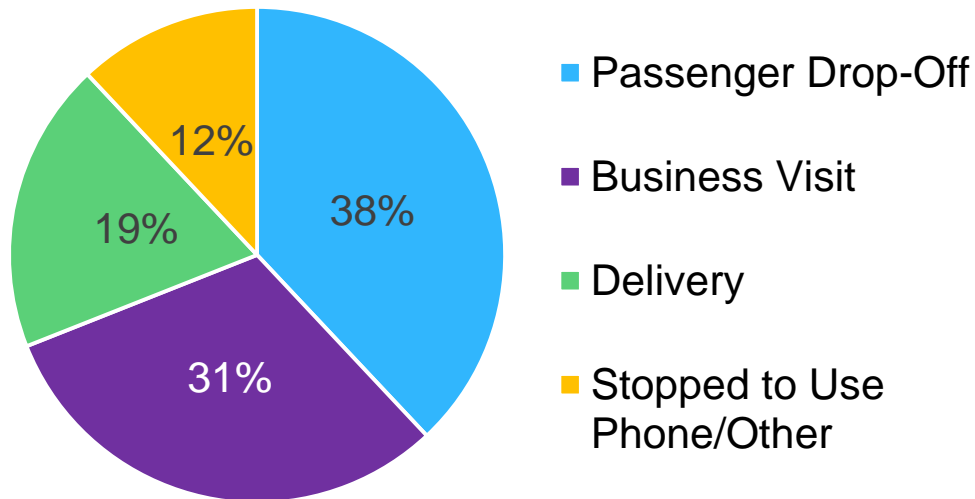
MERCHANT SURVEY

- Flatbush Ave to E 16 St:
 - **70%** say their average delivery takes 15+ minutes
 - **49%** requested additional loading zones
- E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy:
 - **22%** say their average delivery takes 15+ minutes
 - **27%** requested additional loading zones



DOUBLE PARKING SURVEY

- Street Ambassadors surveyed double parked and illegally parked drivers
- Trip purpose:



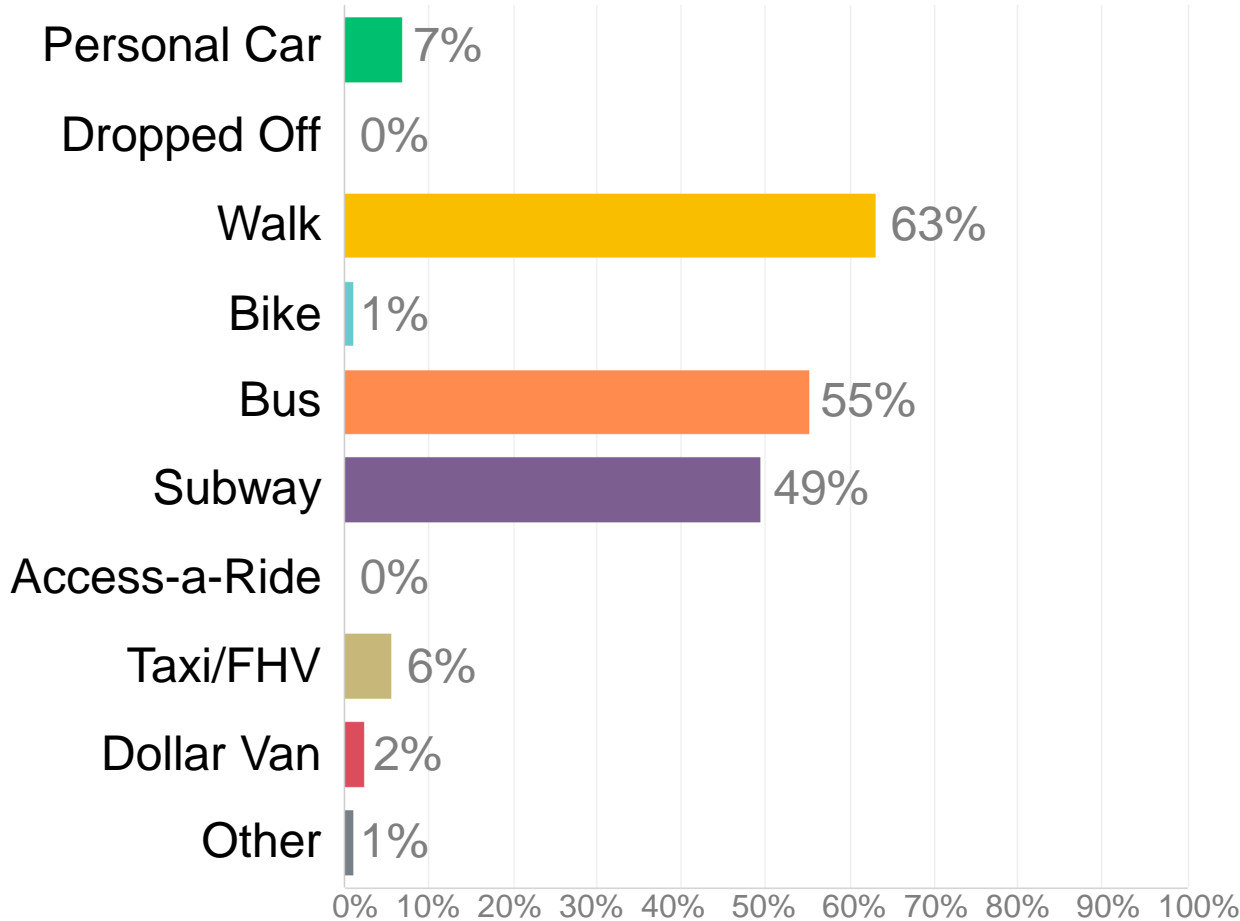
- **72%** are personal cars
- **73%** did not attempt to find a legal metered space
- **57%** plan to stay for under 15 mins.



SHOPPER SURVEY

“What modes of transportation do you use to get to Church Ave?” (select all that apply)

87 Responses



Flatbush Ave to E 16 St

3

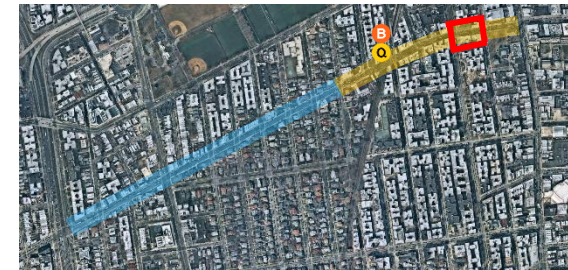
SUMMARY: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

- 1-hour metered parking w/ loading zones; 2-hour on spurs
 - Overnight street sweeping 12am-3am, 3x weekly
- High curb demand; frequent double parking & illegal parking
 - 1-2 double-parked vehicles can shut down traffic
- Most stays are short; long-term parking occupies limited curb space



TIME LAPSE: OCEAN AVE TO E 21 ST

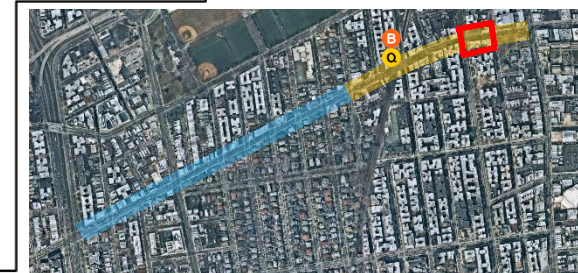
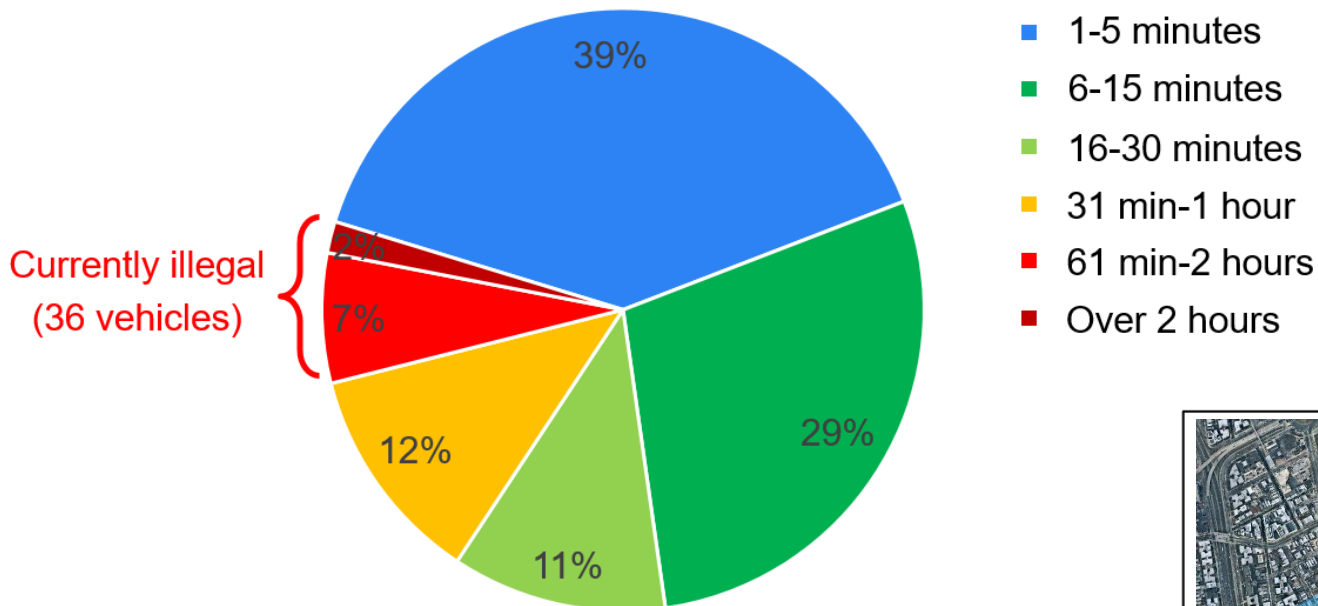
- Typical commercial core block with 1-hour metered parking
- 16-space block used by 416 vehicles in 14 hours
 - On average, a new vehicle every 2 minutes



TIME LAPSE: OCEAN AVE TO E 21 ST

- Heavy curb demand; frequent double parking & illegal parking
- Average stay 20 minutes, but a few vehicles stay 1-2+ hours

Parking Duration in Minutes
Ocean Ave to E 21 St, Both Directions



TIME LAPSE: E 16 ST TO E 17 ST (BOBBY'S)

- Mix of loading zones and 1-hour metered parking
- 25 vehicles double parked, for an average of 11 minutes
- Cars frequently block truck loading zones
 - Forces trucks to double park and block traffic



DESIGN: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

- Update curb regulations to increase available parking/loading and reduce congestion through commercial core
- Plans include:
 - Convert 1-hour metered to new short-term parking regulation for select spaces between E 21 St & E 18 St (3 blocks): Unmetered 15-minute zones
 - Add/extend loading zones on blocks w/ high delivery demand
 - Add metered parking to select side streets



DESIGN: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST

- On busiest blocks between E 21 St & E 18 St, new shorter-term parking zone on each block would be beneficial for parking and business access:
 - Provides a designated zone for very short-term parking, such as pickups & drop-offs or quick errands, without blocking metered spaces
 - Shorter time limit allows more vehicles to use the same space at the curb throughout the day
 - Use of a 1-hour parking space over 12 hours: 12 cars
 - Use of a 15-min parking space over 12 hours: **48 cars**



Proposed Parking Regulation

DESIGN: FLATBUSH AVE TO E 16 ST



- Convert 1-hour metered parking to shorter-term parking regulation a few spaces per block
- Add/extend loading zones on blocks w/ frequent deliveries
- Add 7 new 2-hr metered spaces on side street next to MTA property

E 16 St to Ocean Pkwy

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SUMMARY: E 16 ST TO OCEAN PKWY

- **South curb:** residential side yards; alternate-side parking
 - Less parking activity, longer average stays (45-100 mins.)
 - Few spaces per block due to driveways, hydrants, bus stops
- **North curb:** neighborhood shops; 2-hour metered parking
- Little double parking, but congestion remains an issue
 - Short blocks back up into “one long traffic queue”



TIME LAPSE: ARGYLE RD TO WESTMINSTER RD

- South curb (residential): ASP + bus stop
- North curb (commercial): 2-hour metered parking
- Vehicles stayed an average of 43 minutes
 - 82% passenger vehicles (124) – average stay 48 mins.
 - 18% commercial vehicles (28) – average stay 19 mins.
- Loading & parking could be accommodated around the corner



DESIGN: E 16 ST TO OCEAN PKWY

- Curbside bus lanes, both directions from Marlborough Rd to E 7 St
- Active from 7am-7pm, Monday-Saturday; parking allowed other times
- Allows buses to bypass traffic congestion, access stops quickly, and easily pull to the curb
- Improves traffic flow for all vehicles along Church Ave
 - Bus lanes can be used for right turns, expeditious passenger pick-up and drop-off, and by emergency vehicles



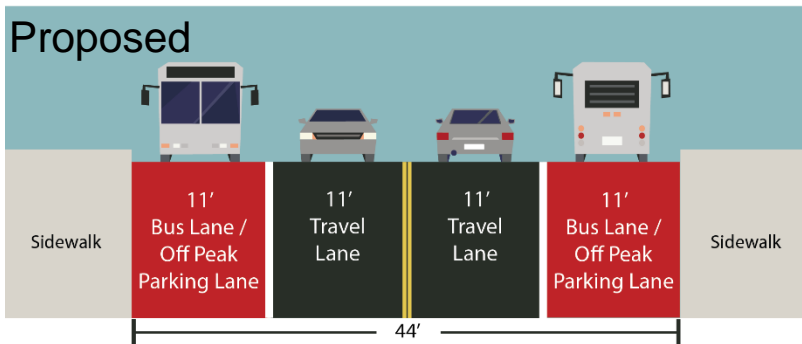
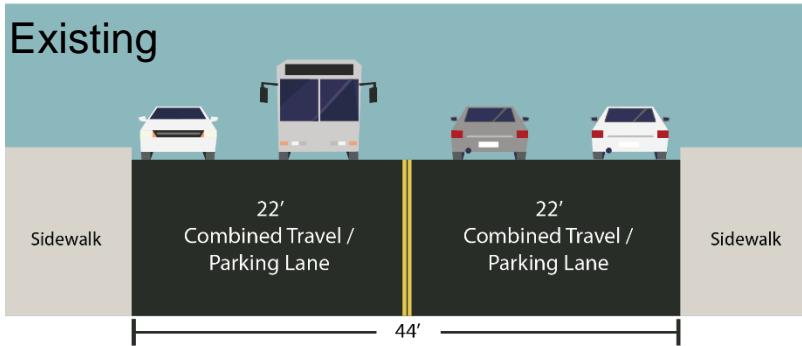
Example of curbside bus lane



BUS LANE DESIGN

- Existing curbside bus lanes nearby:
 - Fulton St, Lafayette Ave to Grand Ave (14 blocks):
 - Buses 22-31% faster during peak
 - Utica Ave, Bergen St to Atlantic Ave (3 blocks):
 - Buses 17-26% faster during peak

Example of curbside bus lane



DESIGN: E 16 ST TO CONEY ISLAND AVE

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



- **Bus lanes will be activated on October 23, 2019**
- **Bus lane** repurposes 98 spaces part-time 7a-7p M-Sa
 - 61 metered, 37 unmetered
- Mitigated by 59 **new metered spaces** around the corner
- Add **loading zones** to accommodate deliveries

DESIGN: CONEY ISLAND AVE TO OCEAN PKWY



Next Steps

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NEXT STEPS: FALL 2019

- Sept 23: Work begins to install new bus lane markings, new 15-min parking signage, new meters on side streets, truck loading
 - Work will be ongoing through mid-October
- October 23: Bus lanes will be activated, bus lane signs installed
 - Along the blocks that will have bus lane, there are Parking Notice signs posted to let the community know they are not active until October 23



THANK YOU!

Questions?



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



nyc_dot



NYC DOT