

# Better Buses Restart – 181<sup>st</sup> Street Busway Pilot

Community Board 12 Traffic & Transportation Committee – February 7, 2022



# Table of Contents

---

## 1. Background

## 2. Post-Implementation Updates

- Improvements since Busway launch
- Bus speeds
- Traffic speeds
- Travel time

## 3. Next Steps

# Background



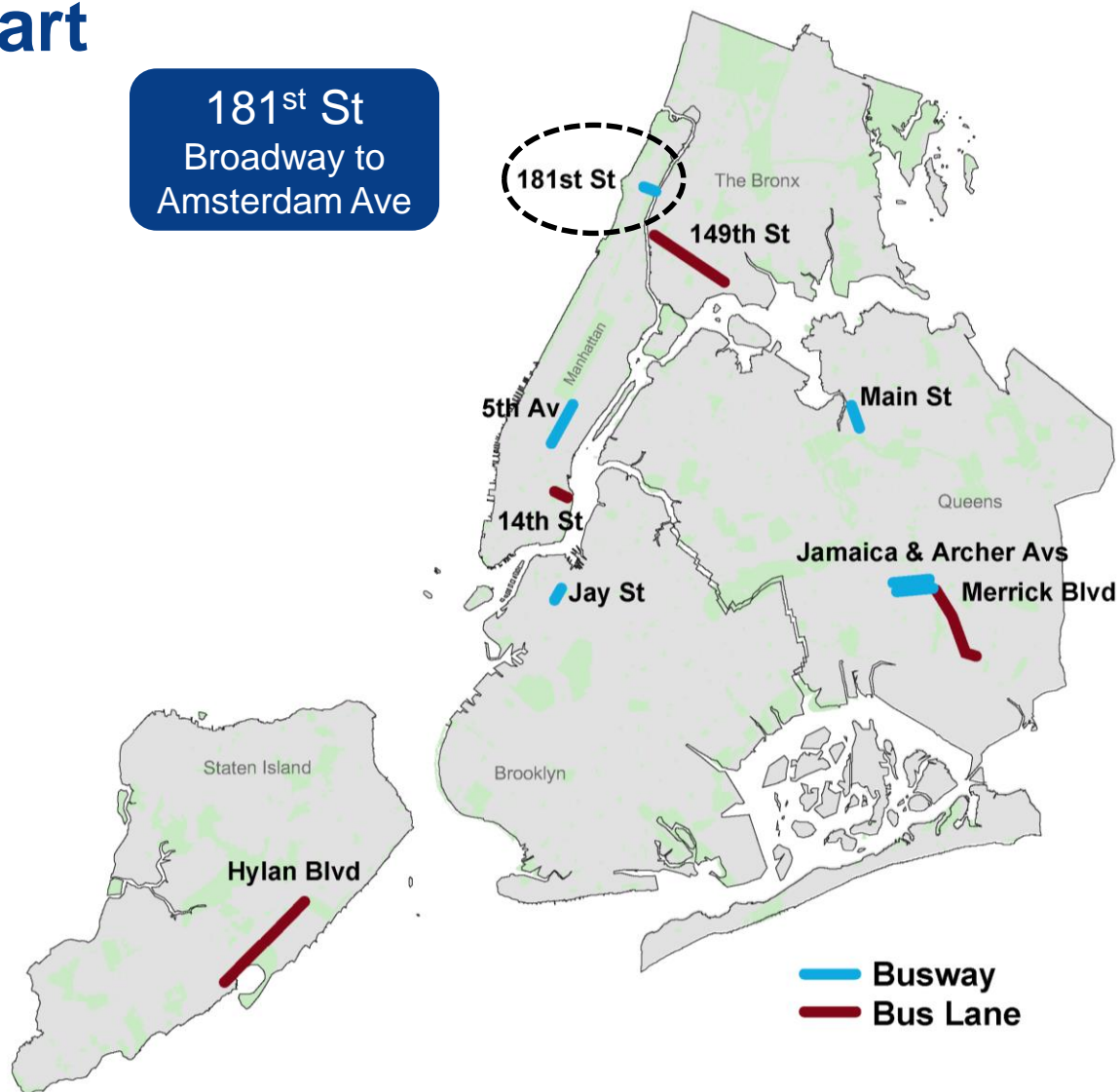
# Better Buses Restart

## Recovery Plan

### 10 busway & bus lane projects focused on:

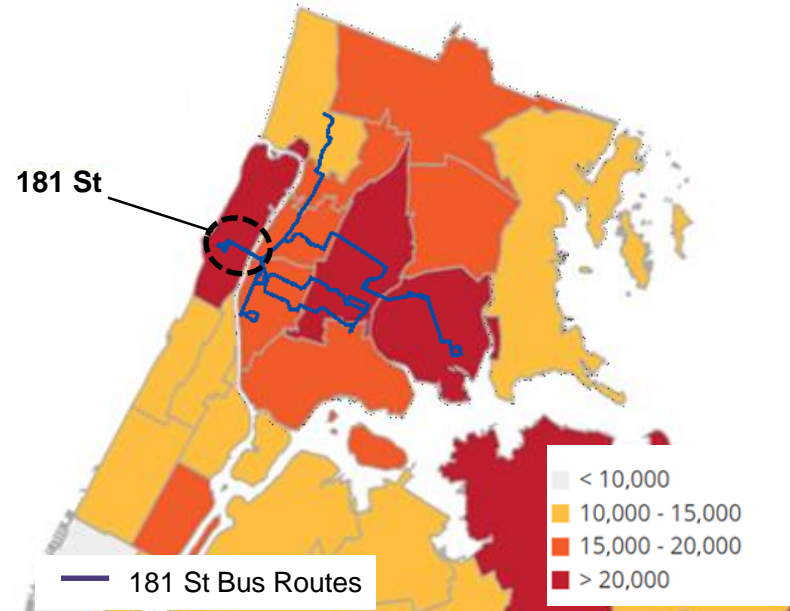
- Vulnerable populations, essential workers
- Number of bus passengers served
- Ability to implement quickly
- Geographic equity

181<sup>st</sup> St  
Broadway to  
Amsterdam Ave

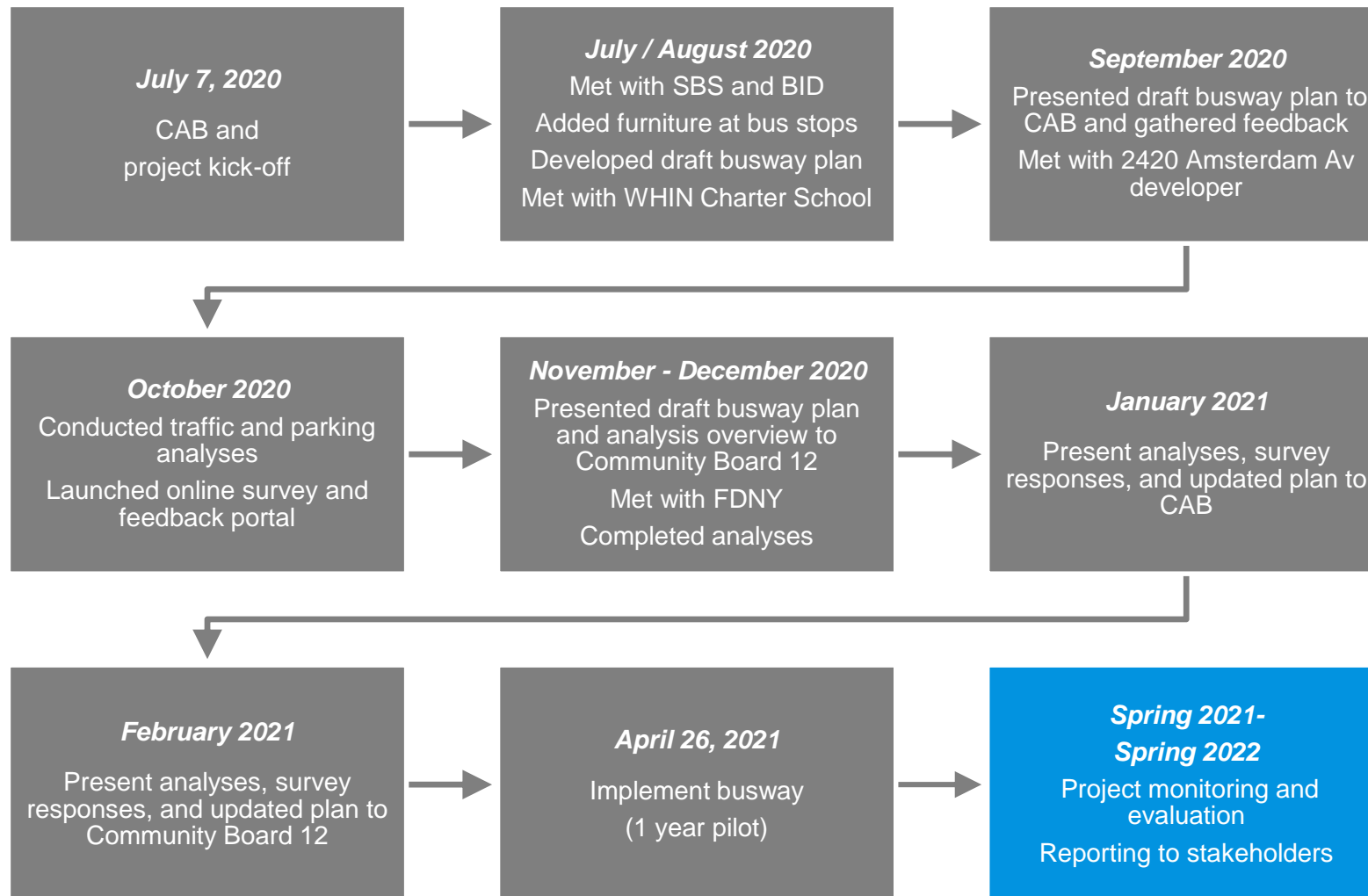


# Why 181<sup>st</sup> Street?

- 5 MTA bus routes
- 68,000 weekday passengers on average
- Routes serve neighborhoods with high concentrations of essential workers
- Bus passengers comprise 62%-70% of roadway users
- Pre-Busway, average bus speeds were 3.7 mph
- 69% of Washington Heights and Inwood households do not have access to a car



# Project Timeline



# Outreach

---

- CAB Kickoff Meeting – July 7, 2020
- Meeting with Small Business Services (SBS) – July 2020
- Meeting with Washington Heights BID – August 2020
- Presented draft Busway plan
  - CAB Meeting #2 – September 3, 2020
  - Presented to Community Board 12 Transportation Committee – November 2, 2020
- Meeting with FDNY – November 13, 2020
- Presented final Busway plan
  - CAB Meeting #3 – January 7, 2021
  - Presented to Community Board 12 Transportation Committee – February 1, 2021
- Meeting with Yeshiva University – February 2021
- Meeting with Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) – April 2021
- Presented post-implementation updates
  - CAB Meeting #4 – February 4, 2022

# Post-Implementation Updates



# Busway Recap

---

- Busway launched on **April 26, 2021**
- Camera enforcement began on **July 17, 2021**



# Updates Since Busway Launch

## June 2021:

- Signal timing changes along Broadway to help facilitate traffic flow

## October 2021:

- Bus stop consolidation on 181<sup>st</sup> St/St. Nicholas Ave
  - Included bench relocation and new Leaning Bar

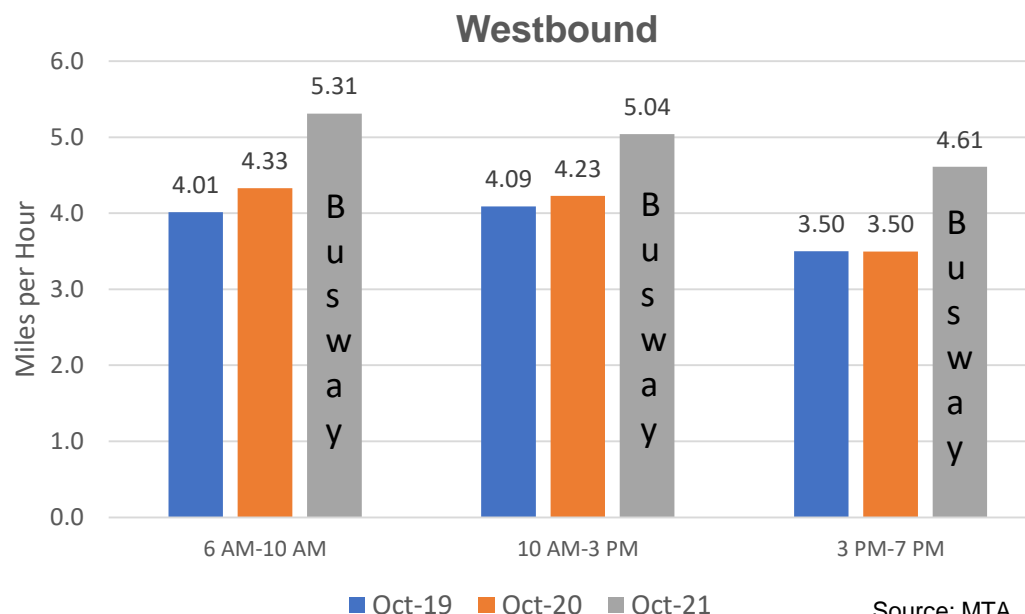
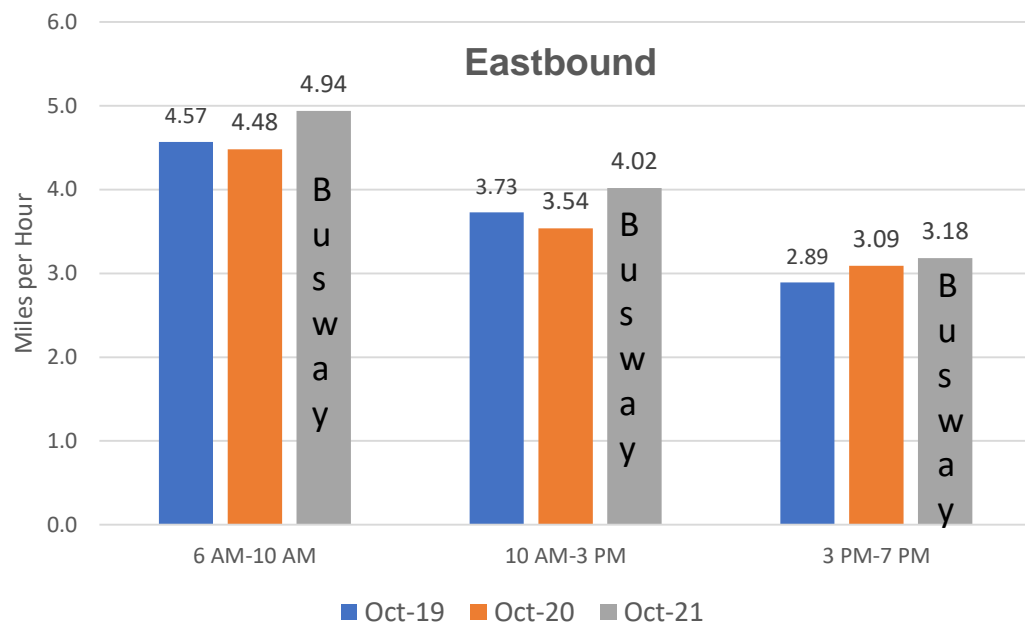
## December 2021:

- Gantry signage installation



# Bus Speeds

- Average bus speed for all routes using the busway increased at all times of the day compared to the same periods in both 2019 (pre-Covid) & 2020 (Covid).
- Bus speeds increased significantly as customers returned throughout the recovery in 2021.



Source: MTA

# Bus Speeds

- Greatest speed gains were in the WB direction
- Compared to 2019, WB speeds were over 30% faster in the AM and PM peaks
- Compared to 2020, WB speeds were over 20% faster in the AM peak and over 30% faster in the PM peaks
- EB speed gains were more modest as boardings are very heavy here.

2019 vs. 2021	6 AM-10 AM	10 AM-3 PM	3 PM-7 PM
W 181 St-Broadway-Amsterdam Av (WB)	32.3%	23.2%	31.7%
W 181 St-Broadway-Amsterdam Av (EB)	8.0%	7.8%	10.1%

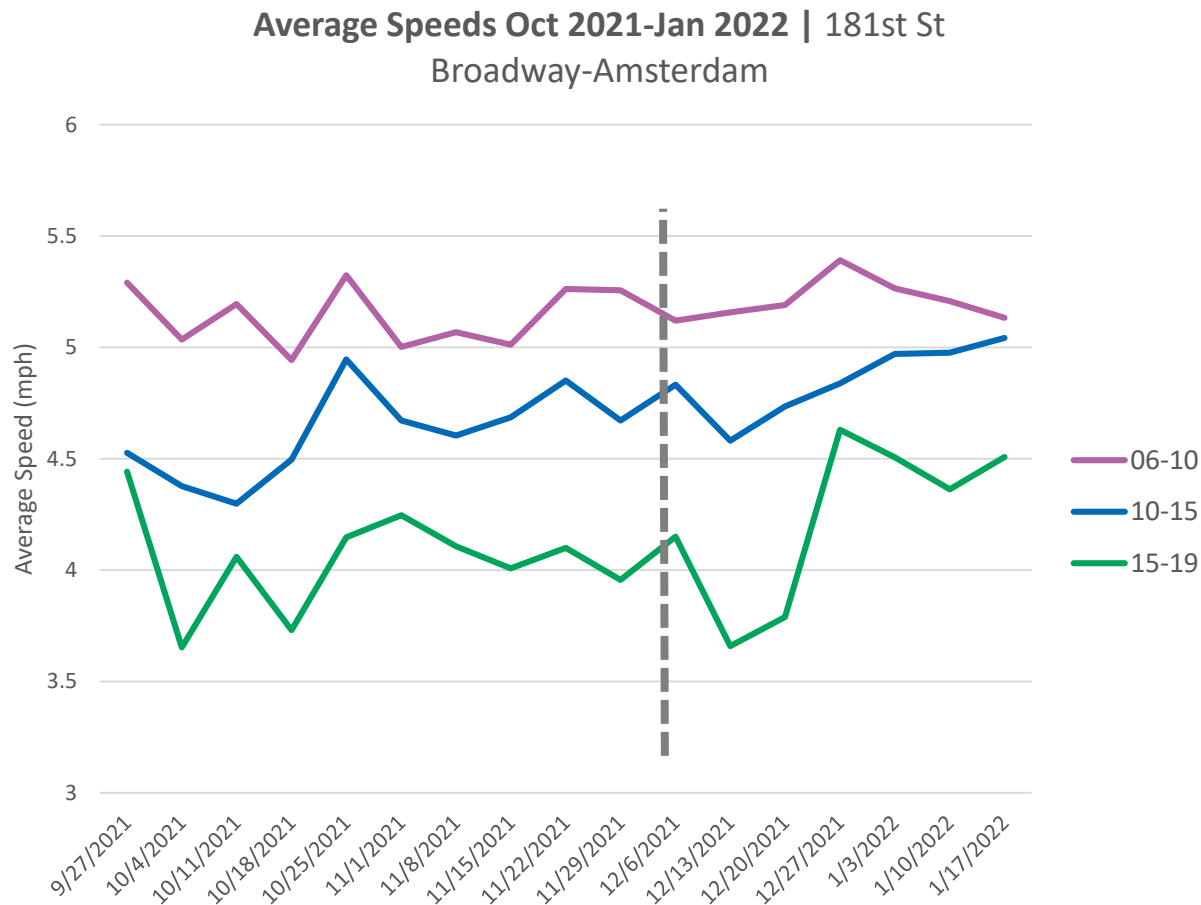
2020 vs. 2021	6 AM-10 AM	10 AM-3 PM	3 PM-7 PM
W 181 St-Broadway-Amsterdam Av (WB)	22.7%	19.2%	31.9%
W 181 St-Broadway-Amsterdam Av (EB)	10.2%	13.6%	3.0%

Source: MTA



# Bus Speeds

- The 1 Train Station at 181<sup>st</sup> St reopened in December 2021
- Bus speeds have remained relatively stable since October 2021
- Any increased boardings since the station reopening have not had any significant impacts on bus speeds

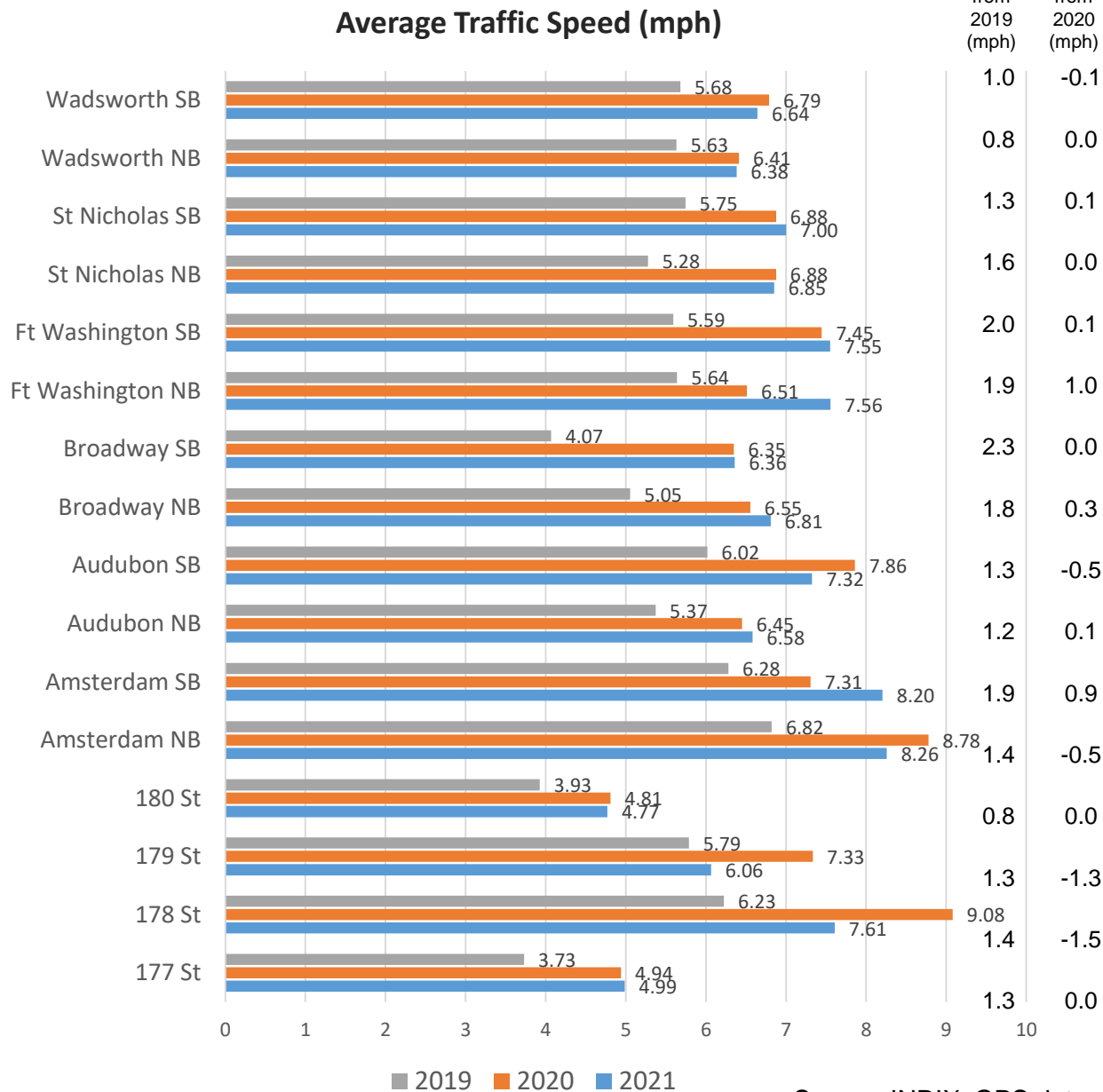


Source: MTA



# Traffic Speeds

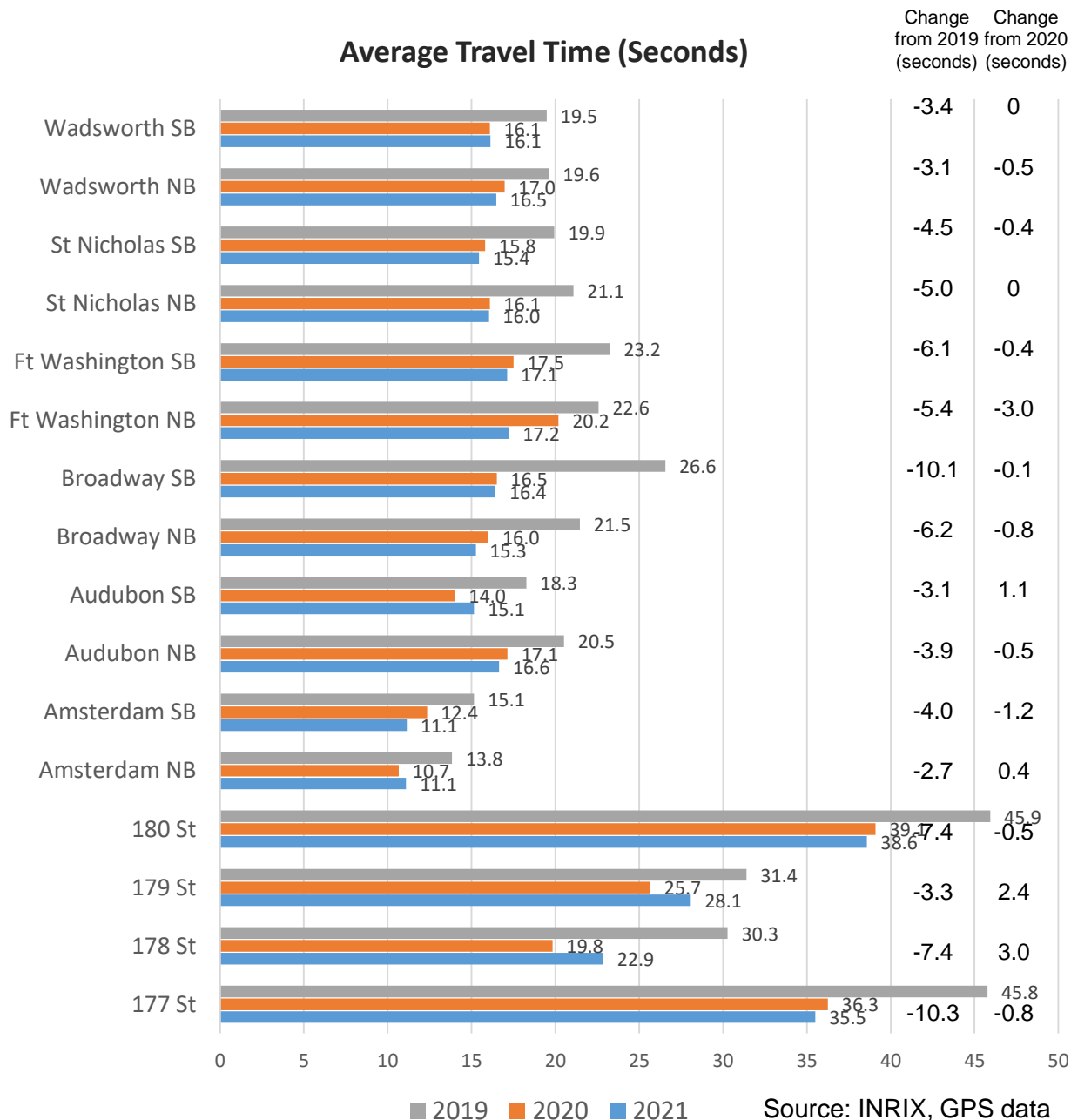
- Average traffic speeds had minor changes compared to 2020
- 178<sup>th</sup> and 179<sup>th</sup> St saw decreases in traffic speeds, while Amsterdam Ave and Ft Washington saw increases in traffic speeds
- All side streets experienced speed gains compared to pre-pandemic levels



Source: INRIX, GPS data

# Travel Time

- Similarly, average travel times had minor changes compared to 2020
- 178<sup>th</sup> and 179<sup>th</sup> St saw increases in travel time, while Amsterdam Ave and Ft Washington saw decreases
- All side streets experienced travel time savings compared to pre-pandemic levels
- DOT will continue monitoring any changes in traffic



# Next Steps

# Next Steps

---

- Continue to work with stakeholders to identify and understand community concerns
- Continue to monitor traffic volumes around side streets, traffic speeds, and bus speeds

# Thank you

---

## Questions?



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



nyc\_dot



NYC DOT