

# First Avenue Bus Lane Enhancement

Community Board 8 Transportation Committee | July 12, 2022



# Agenda

---

1. Background
2. Proposal
3. Summary/Next Steps

Background

1



# First Ave Bus Service

---

- Served by the M15 Local and M15 SBS
- Total daily ridership: 48,000
- Bus scheduled every 3 minutes in AM and PM peaks
- **Average bus speeds: 5.4 mph (AM) / 7.8 mph (PM)**



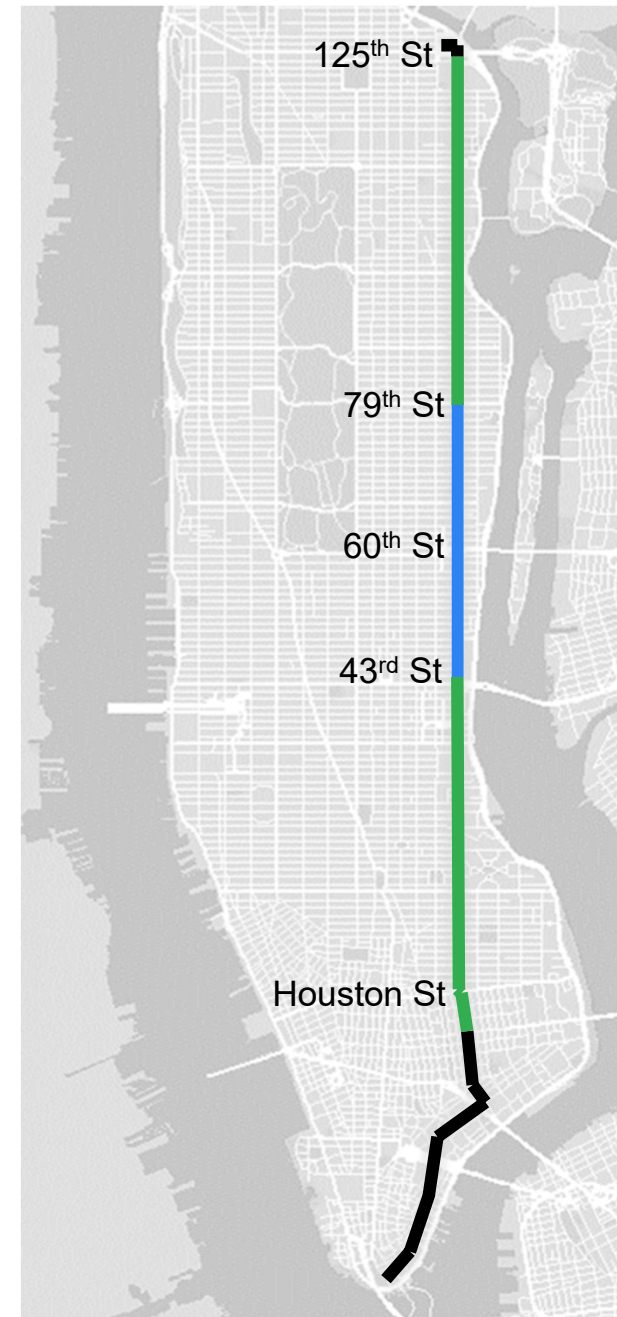
*Bus lane during PM Peak, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave @ 68th*



# Existing Bus Priority

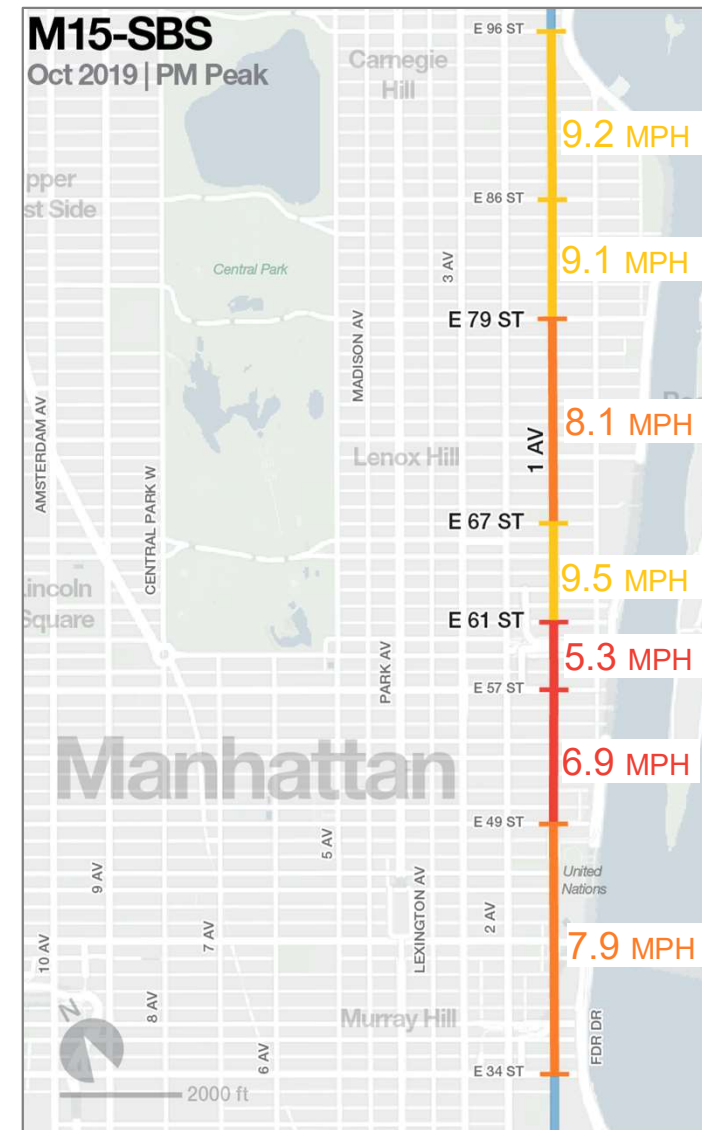
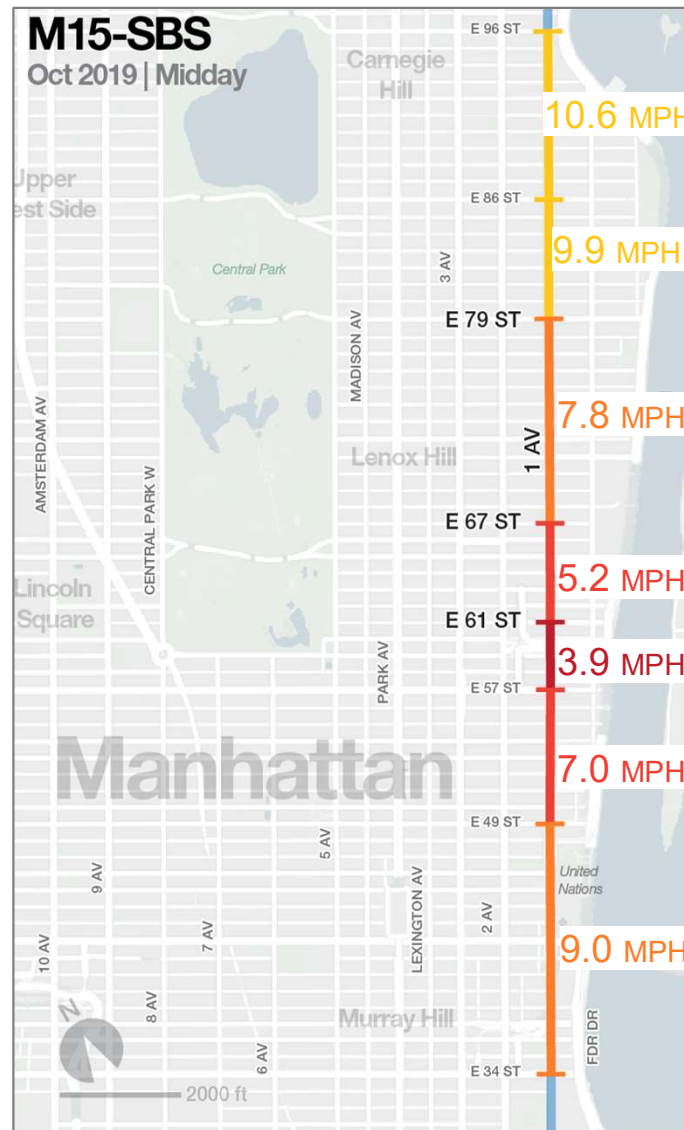
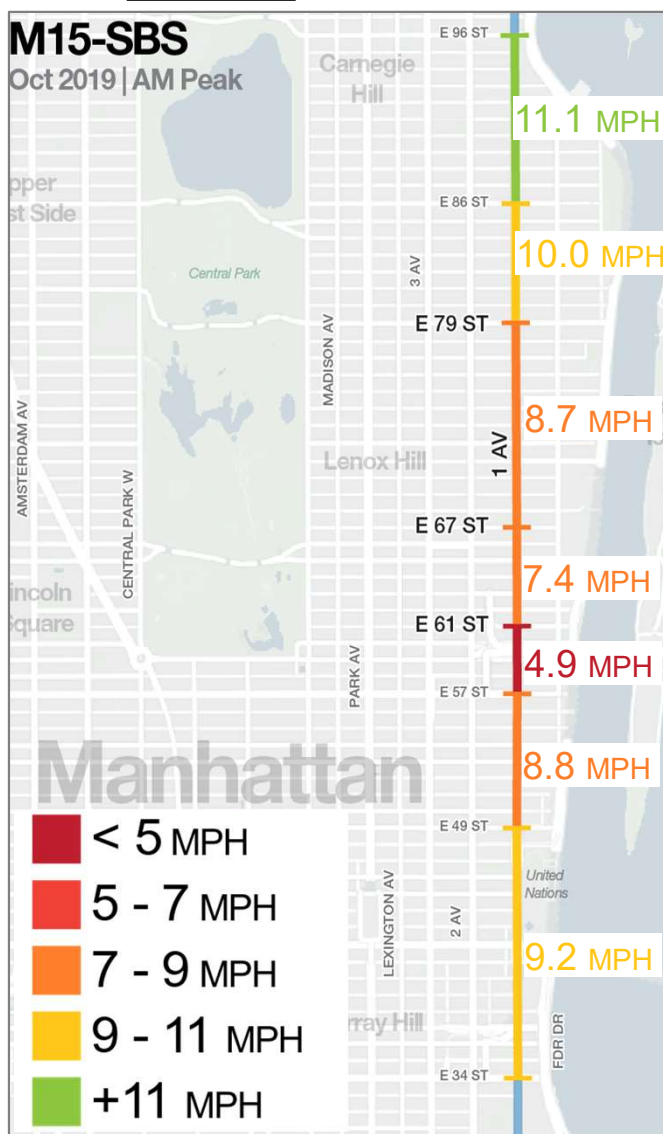
- M15 Select Bus Service (SBS) launched October 2010 with a mix of **curbside** and **offset bus lanes** along the corridor

- Existing Offset Bus Lane
- Existing Curbside Bus Lane
- No Existing Bus Lane

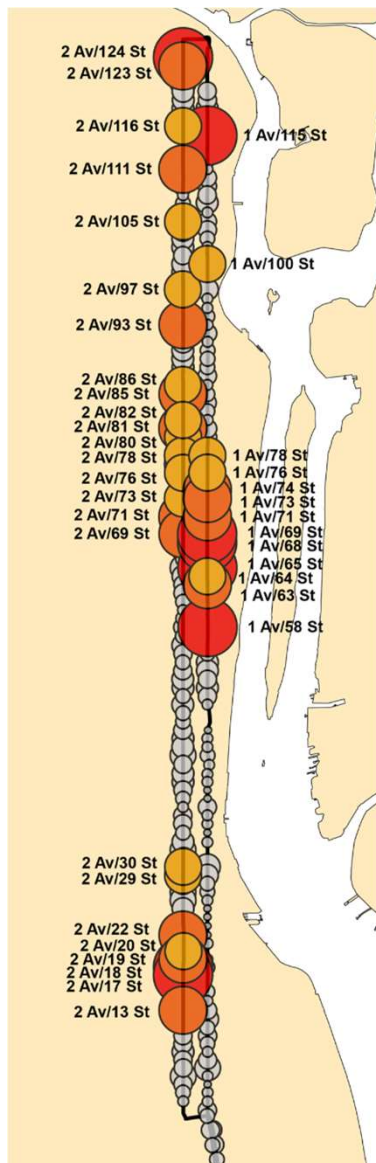


*Existing Northbound M15 and M15 SBS Route*

# Bus Speeds throughout the Corridor



# Why 61<sup>st</sup> St to 79<sup>th</sup> St?



- Automated Bus Lane Enforcement (ABLE) bus-mounted camera violations
  - Vehicles parked in the bus lane
- Large concentration of violations on First Ave from **58<sup>th</sup> St to 78<sup>th</sup> St**
- Highest violation hotspots:

1	1 Av/68 St
2	1 Av/69 St
3	2 Av/124 St
4	2 Av/18 St
5	1 Av/65 St



# Existing Conditions: First Ave, 61<sup>st</sup> St to 79<sup>th</sup> St

- **Curbside Bus lane** in effect  
7am-10am & 2pm-7pm, Mon-Fri
- **Parking & Loading** permitted  
10am-2pm
- **Bus lane often blocked** by  
delivery vehicles, cars & for-hire  
vehicles
- **Slow bus speeds** and high  
ridership
- **Current street design is  
insufficient** for bus passengers  
& curb access



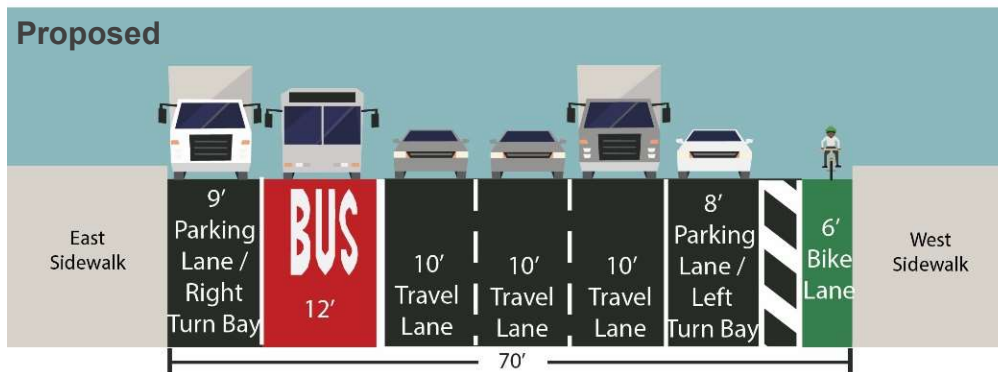
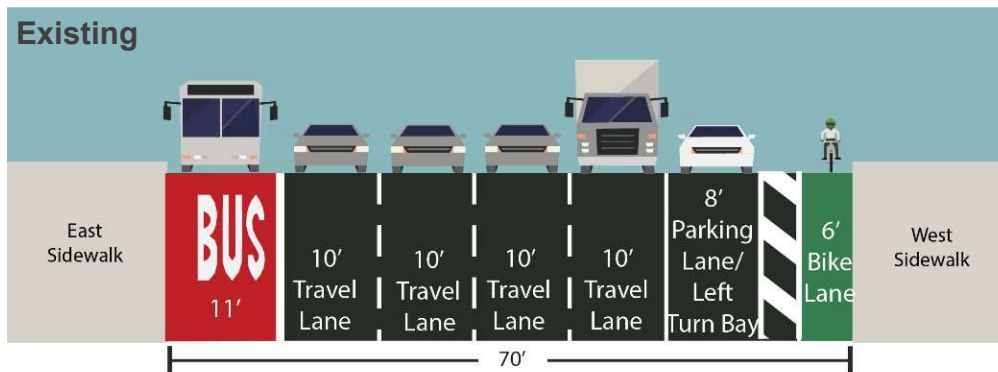
*Bus lane during AM Peak, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave at 63<sup>rd</sup> St*

Proposal

2

# Proposal: Offset Bus Lane

- Shift bus lane **from east curb to the “offset” lane** from 61<sup>st</sup> St to 79<sup>th</sup> St
- Upgrade bus lane from existing part-time to **full-time**, improving service throughout the day
- Connect to the existing offset bus lane north of 79<sup>th</sup> St





# Offset Bus Lane

---

An offset bus lane:

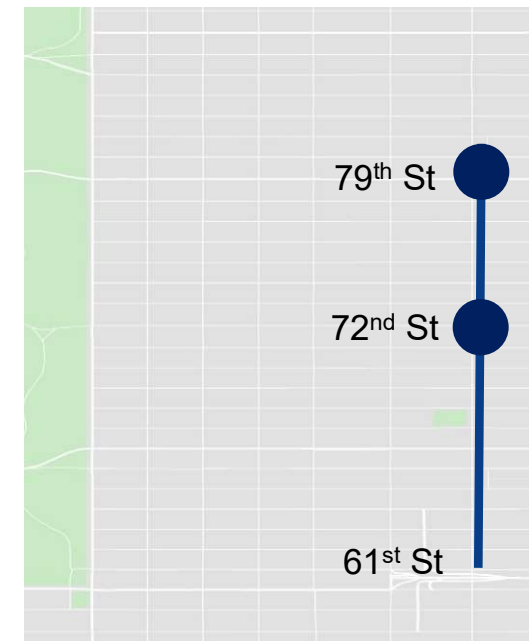
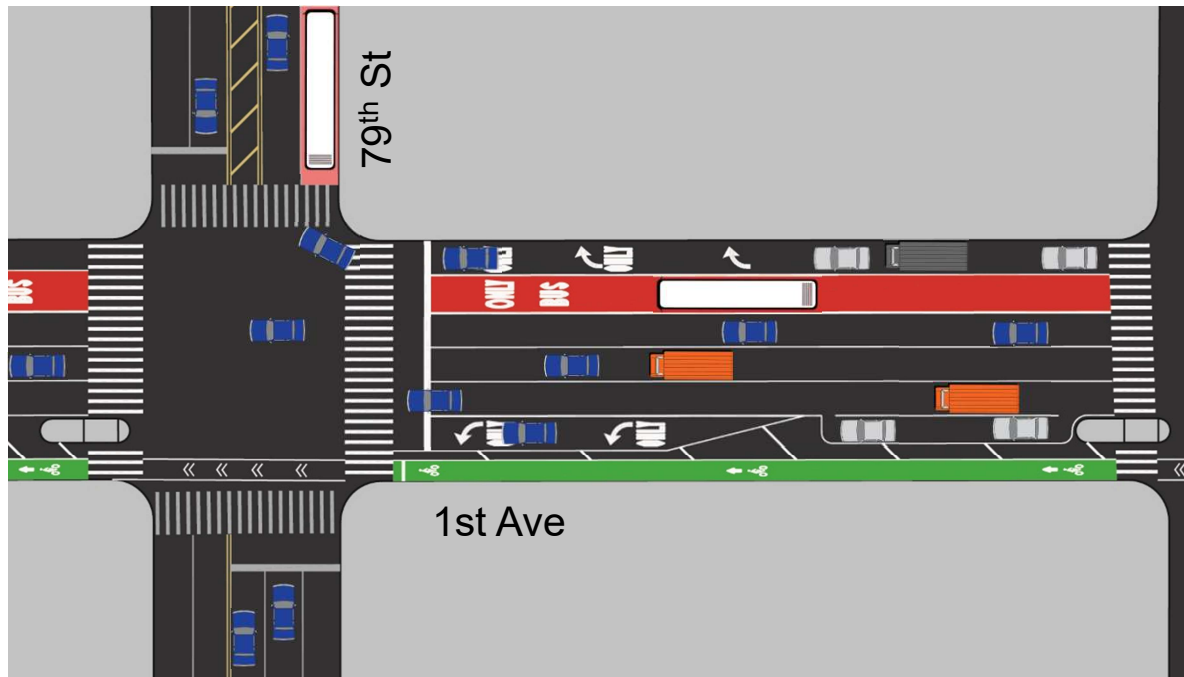
- **Allows buses to use bus lane** unimpeded by parked or standing vehicles
- **Restores curb access** for parking, truck loading, and passenger drop-offs/pickups
- **Keep No Standing** regulation during busiest hours (7am-9am)



# Proposal: Right Turn Bays

At the intersections with heavy right turns (72<sup>nd</sup> St & 79<sup>th</sup> St):

- Add northbound right-turn bays to keep bus lane clear
- Repurposes ~6 parking spaces per location



Proposed right turn bay example

# Proposal: Curb Regulation Updates

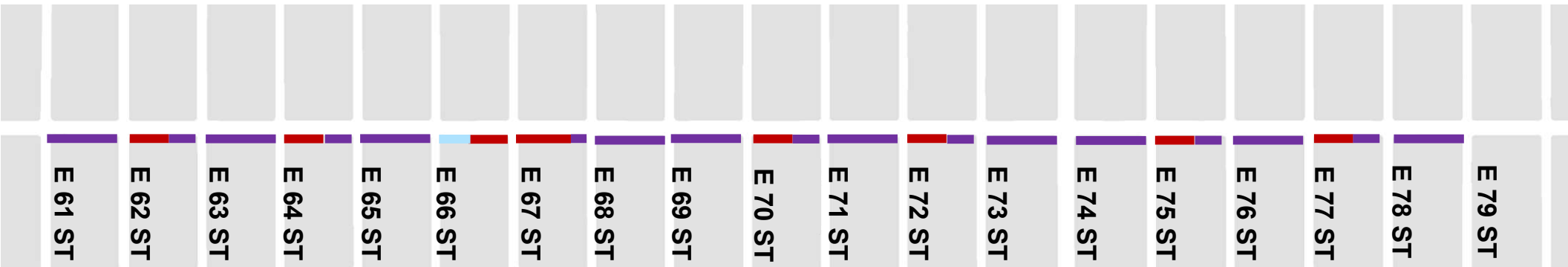
---

Land Use	Proposed Weekday Regulation	Purpose
Small Stores/ Restaurants	<b>9am-7pm</b> 2-hr metered commercial parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Facilitates turnover in locations with high number of deliveries</li><li><b>Maintains overnight &amp; weekend parking</b></li></ul>
Generic Commercial/ Large Retail Chain	<b>9am-7pm</b> 3-hr metered commercial parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Facilitates large deliveries for businesses throughout the day</li><li><b>Maintains overnight &amp; weekend parking</b></li></ul>

*Draft plan subject to change*



# Existing Curb Regulations

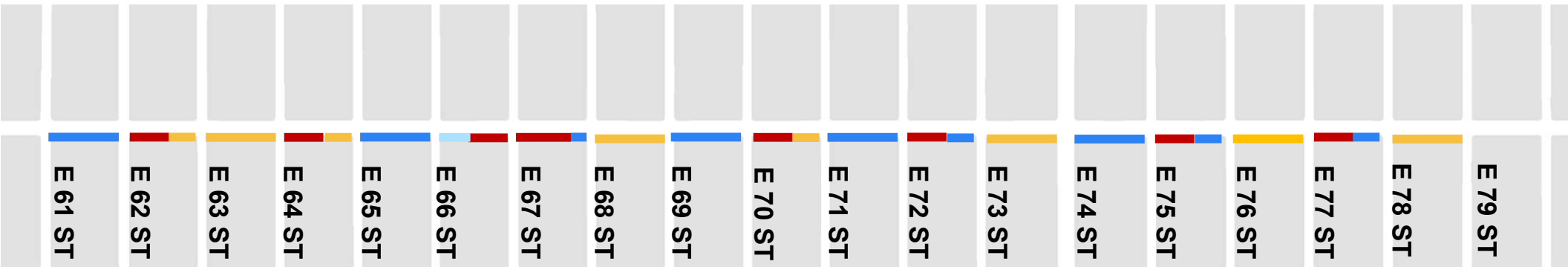


— No Parking Anytime

— No Standing Anytime/Bus Stop

— (No Standing) 7-10am, 2-7pm  
 3-hour metered commercial parking Mon-Fri 10am-2pm  
 2-hour metered parking Sat 9am-7pm

# Curb Regulation Updates



## New Proposed Weekday Curb Regulations

- No Standing 7-9am  
2-hour metered commercial parking 9am-7pm  
(small stores/restaurants)
- No Standing 7-9am  
3-hour metered commercial parking 9am-7pm  
(other commercial/large retail chain)

## No Curb Regulation Changes

- No Standing Anytime/Bus Stop
- No Parking Anytime

*Draft plan subject to change*

## Summary/Next Steps

3



# Summary

- First Ave bus lanes are often blocked by vehicles
- Buses are forced to use shared travel lanes, slowing down bus service
- Offset bus lane will:
  - Improve bus speeds and reliability for thousands of daily bus riders
  - Improve curb access for local businesses
  - Have minimal impact on traffic flow



*Bus lane during AM Peak  
1<sup>st</sup> Ave @ 64<sup>th</sup> St*

# Next Steps

- **Summer 2022:** refine design / traffic analysis
- **Fall 2022:** implementation
- **Winter/Spring 2023:** collect data & monitor performance



# Thank You!

---

## Open Discussion & Questions



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



nyc dot



NYC DOT