

# 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Busway and Complete Street

Update to Community Advisory Board, July 29, 2021



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# Project Review

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## Busway and Complete Street Proposal

- In June 2021, DOT presented to the CAB and CB5 a final plan to install a protected bike lane and expanded pedestrian space along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street
- DOT also agreed to return and present an update Busway plan

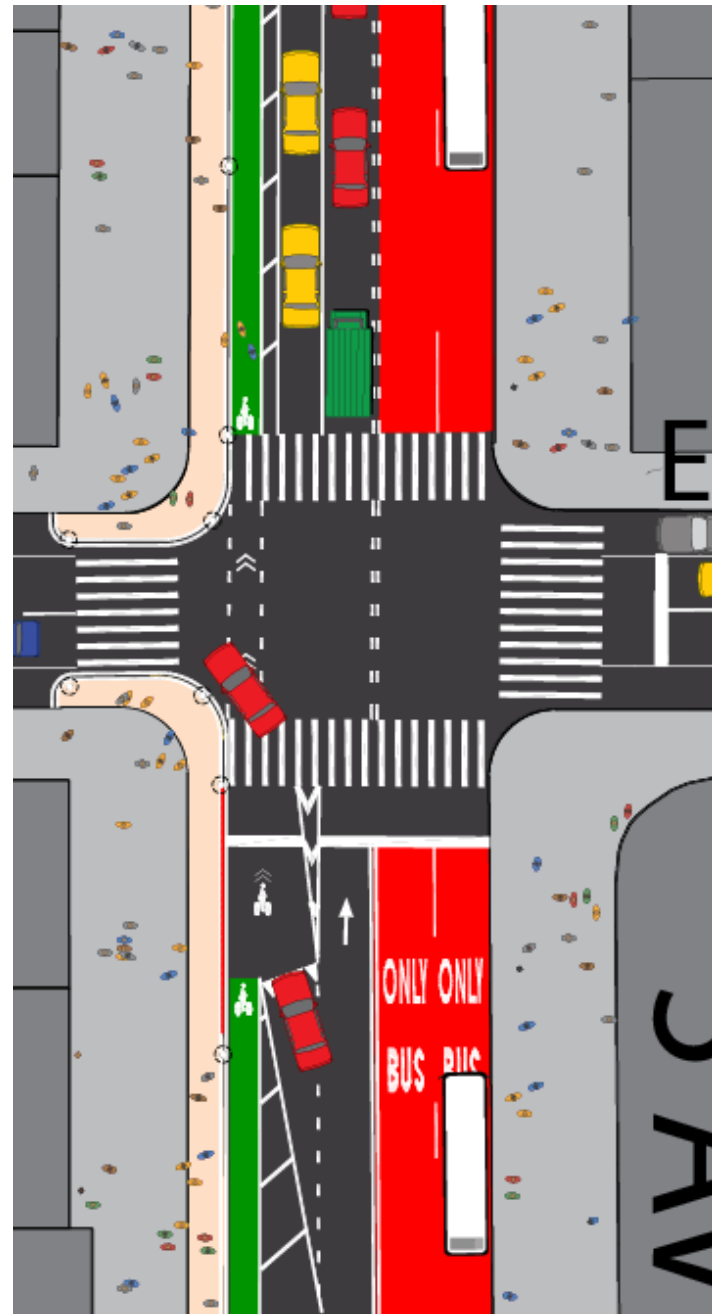
### **Initial Proposal:**

- Only buses, bikes, and emergency vehicles would be able to travel through on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street
- All other vehicles could access individual blocks from side streets, but would have to make next available turn off the Busway
- New painted sidewalk extension, protected bike lane, and pickup/drop-off space would be added on east side of street

# Project Update

## Complete Street Design

- DOT plans to move forward with installation of protected bike lane and expanded pedestrian space this summer
  - CB5, elected officials, and advocates have called for protected bike lane on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - Biking increased during the pandemic and remains high
  - Anticipated return of high pedestrian volumes by fall
- Expected implementation to begin in August 2021 and take 1-2 months



# Updated Busway Proposal

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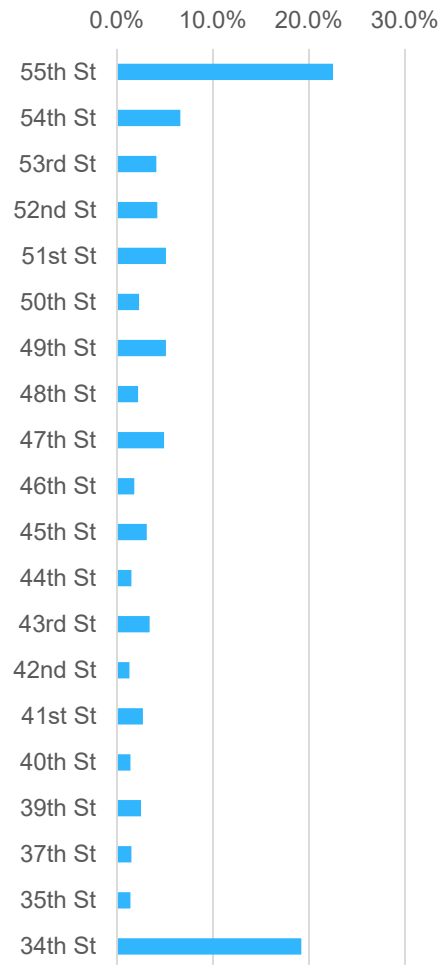
DOT has evaluated the initial Busway proposal and is proposing an updated plan with traffic restrictions at a limited number of locations.

- The updated Busway plan reduces vehicle traffic along the corridor to:
  - Ensure bus speeds are maintained
  - Reduce conflicts between buses and right turning vehicles
  - Allow for added bike lane and pedestrian space
- For vehicles, the updated Busway proposal:
  - Allows vehicles to travel through the corridor in two segments
  - Maintains vehicle access to all blocks
- Busway implementation planned for September with anticipated increased traffic congestion and slower speeds due to return to office, full in-person learning and the holiday season

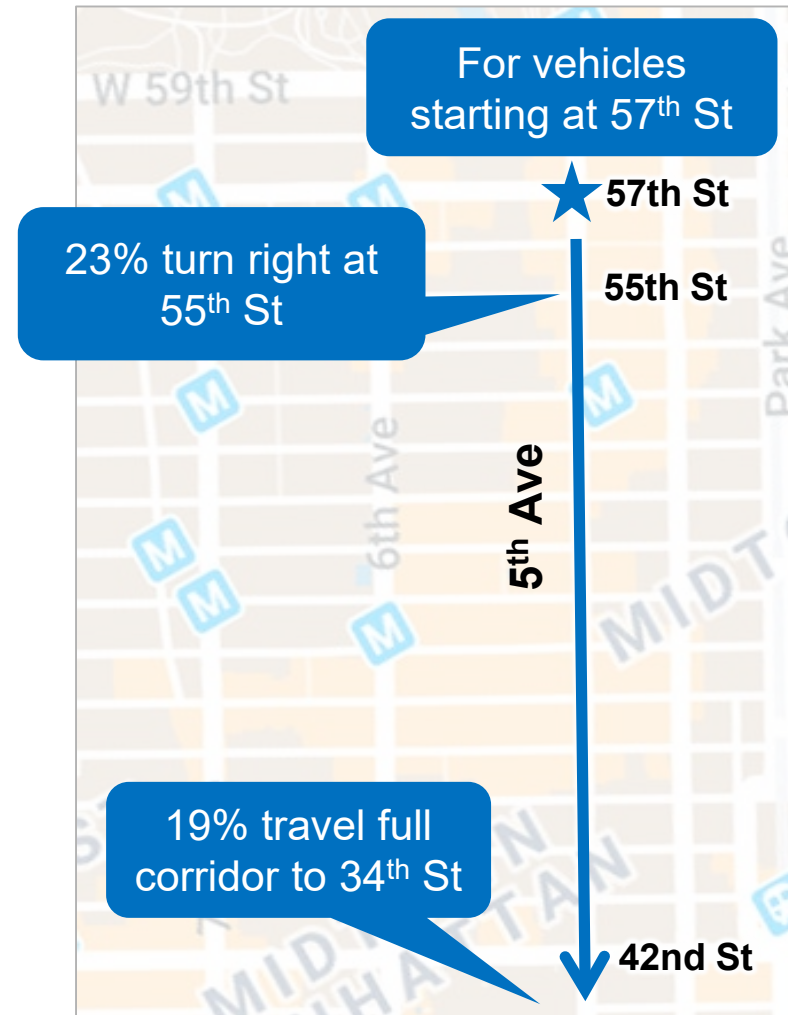


# Where are vehicles traveling to on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave from 57<sup>th</sup> St?

- A high number of vehicles traveling down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave either turn right at 55<sup>th</sup> St or go through to 34<sup>th</sup> St
- Other destinations are well distributed along 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, minimizing effects on any one side street



Data source: Streetlight: Tues-Thurs during AM peak hours (6a-10a) during 1/1/2019 to 6/25/2019 and 9/7/2019 to 11/24/2019, excluding holidays (2/15-2/25, 4/19-4/29, 9/16-9/30)



# Busway Restrictions

## Vehicles must turn off 5th Ave by:

### 55th St

- 56th St (to east) – last left turn
- 55th St (to west) – last right turn

### 45th St

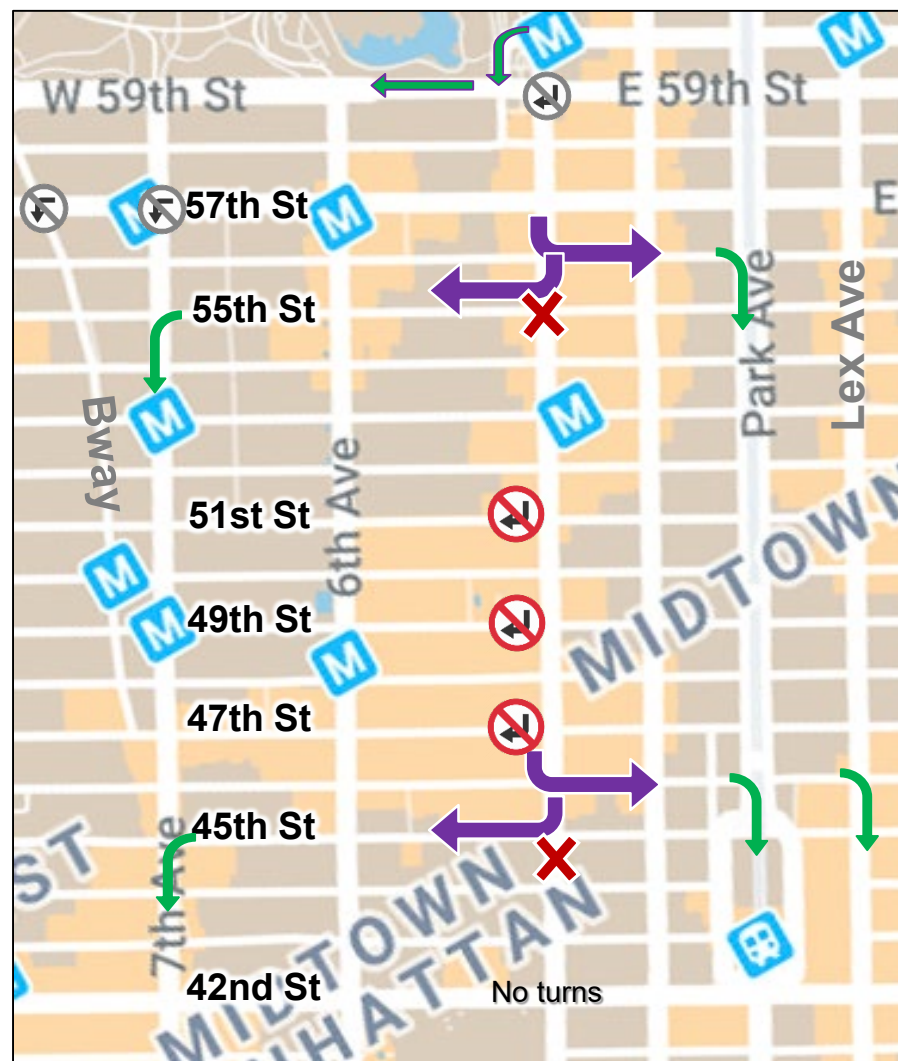
- 46th St (to east) – last left turn
- 45th St (to west) – last right turn

## Southbound right turns restricted at:

- 51st St
- 49th St
- 47th St

## Access to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave unchanged:

- From side streets
- South of 45th St



New forced turns:



Alternate routes:



New Restricted turns:



Existing restricted turns:



No Through Traffic



# Busway Restrictions

## 55<sup>th</sup> St Required Turn:

- Large percentage of vehicles already turn right at this location
- Modified from 57<sup>th</sup> St to allow better southbound access on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave

## 45<sup>th</sup> St Required Turn:

- Allows through travel for ten blocks
- 46<sup>th</sup> St is a through street for better eastbound circulation around Grand Central

## Right-turn Restrictions (51st, 49th, 47th):

- Consistent with holiday season restrictions
- Keeps bus lanes clear of vehicle conflicts
- Improves pedestrian safety at busiest intersections



New forced turns:

Alternate routes:



New Restricted turns:

Existing restricted turns:

No Through Traffic





# Benefits of Updated Busway Plan

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- Keeps bus lanes clear and reduces pedestrian conflicts at critical intersections
- Reduces through volumes to keep traffic moving while creating space for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Maintains more vehicular access along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue





# Next Steps

## Project Timeline

	Bike and Pedestrian Improvements (New Markings)	Busway Restrictions (New Regulatory Signs)
June 2021	Present final proposal to CAB Present final proposal to CB 5	Continue evaluating potential changes to initial proposal
July 2021	Finalize design Mobilize for implementation	Develop proposal <b>Present draft proposal to CAB</b>
August 2021	Begin Implementation	Incorporate feedback Finalize proposal <b>Present final proposal to CAB</b> <b>Present final proposal to CB 5</b>
September 2021	Complete implementation	Implement restrictions
Fall 2021 To Fall 2022	Monitor (Traffic, Bus Speeds, Access) <b>Continue to Engage CAB</b>	

# Thank You!

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## Questions & Discussion



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