

Fordham Road

Public Workshop – June 2, 2021



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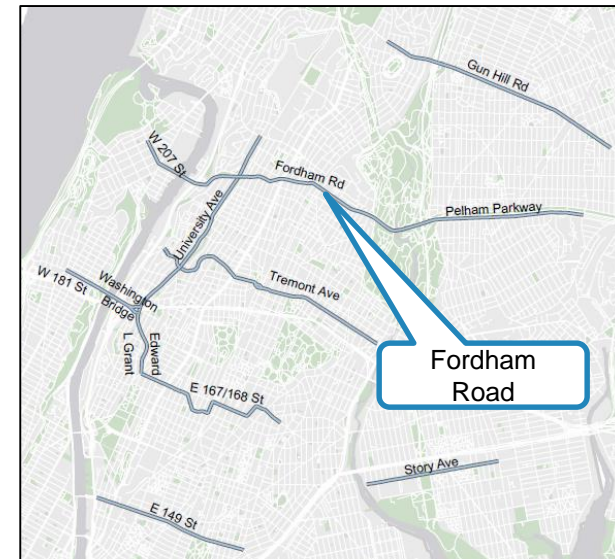
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 - a) Overview from each breakout room
 - b) Next Steps
 - c) General Q&A

Background

Better Buses

Better Buses Program

- **Mayor's 2019 State of the City:**
Improve bus speeds 25%
- **Better Buses Action Plan**
Released April 2019
- **Bus Priority Projects**
 - 16.3 miles of bus lanes installed 2020, including projects on Edward L Grant Hwy & E 149 St
 - 8 additional corridors, including Fordham Rd, identified in the Bronx for priority treatments

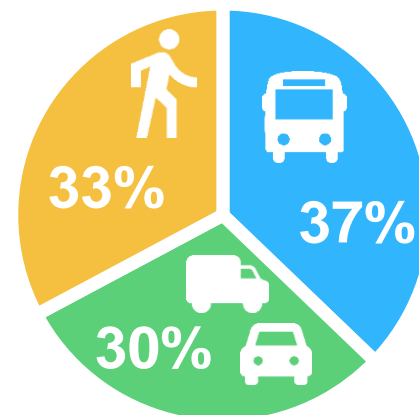


Why Fordham Road

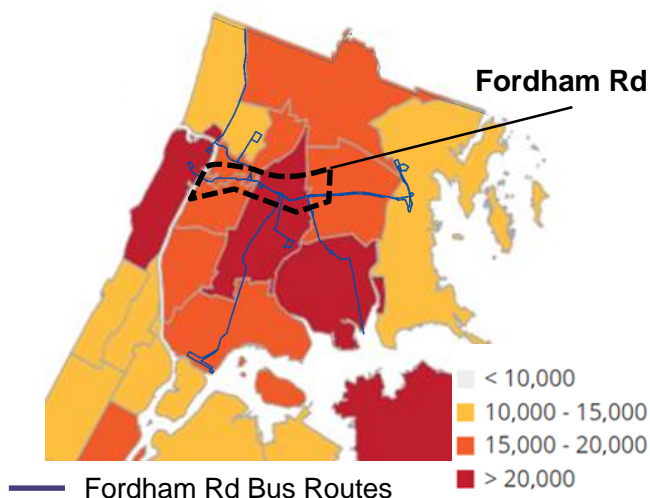
Background

- Critical crosstown transportation corridor
- 93,700 average daily bus riders on 9 routes, serving neighborhoods with high concentrations of essential workers
- Bus riders and pedestrians are the majority of roadway users on Fordham Road
- 62% of households on Bx12 corridor have no access to a private vehicle. 71% commute to work via public transit, walking, or biking
- Residents in neighborhoods near Fordham Road have high rates of asthma and heart disease, in part due to exposure to pollution

Roadway Users Fordham Rd and Valentine Ave



New York City Frontline Workers, by Neighborhood of Residence



Why Fordham Road

Parking and Loading

- Observations and data show that existing curbside bus lanes are frequently blocked
- Need for curb access throughout the day
- Demand for the curb continues to increase due to:
 - Uptick in for-hire vehicles (Uber, Lyft, etc.)
 - Deliveries of goods purchased online



Fordham Rd and Webster Av

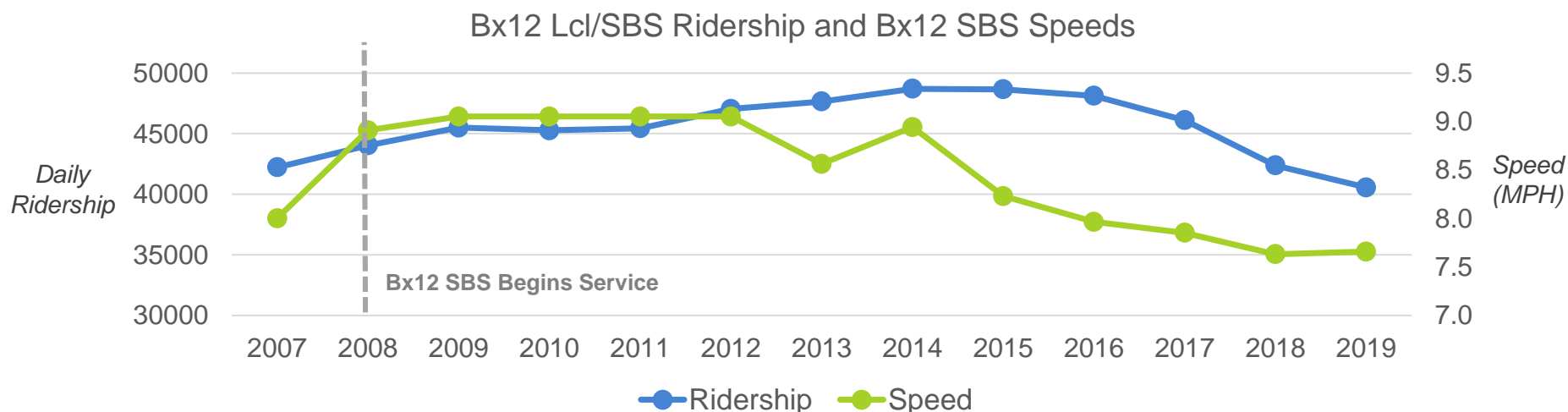


Fordham Rd and Valentine Av

Why Fordham Road

Bus Speeds and Ridership

- In 2008, MTA and DOT launched the first Select Bus Service (SBS) route on the Bx12
- Service and street design changes resulted in improvements for bus service
- In recent years, bus speeds and ridership have declined



DOT Toolbox

Toolbox - Transit

Offset Bus Lanes



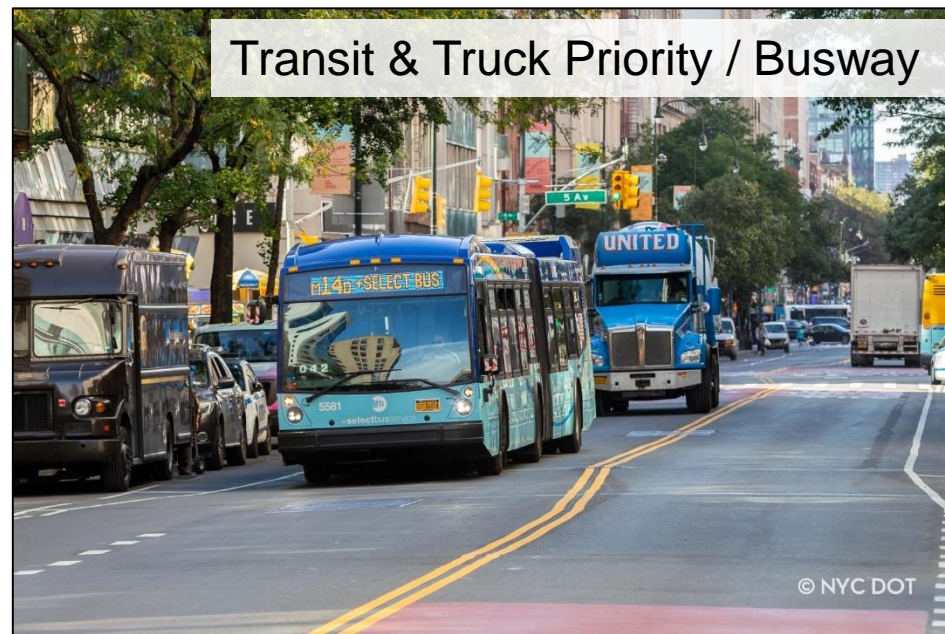
Webster Ave and 167th St

Physical Protection



161st St and Sherman Av

Transit & Truck Priority / Busway



14th St, Manhattan

Bus Queue Jump Signal



Edward L Grant Hwy and University Ave

Toolbox – Pedestrian Safety



Pedestrian Island

Fordham Rd and Hoffman St



Painted Curb Extension

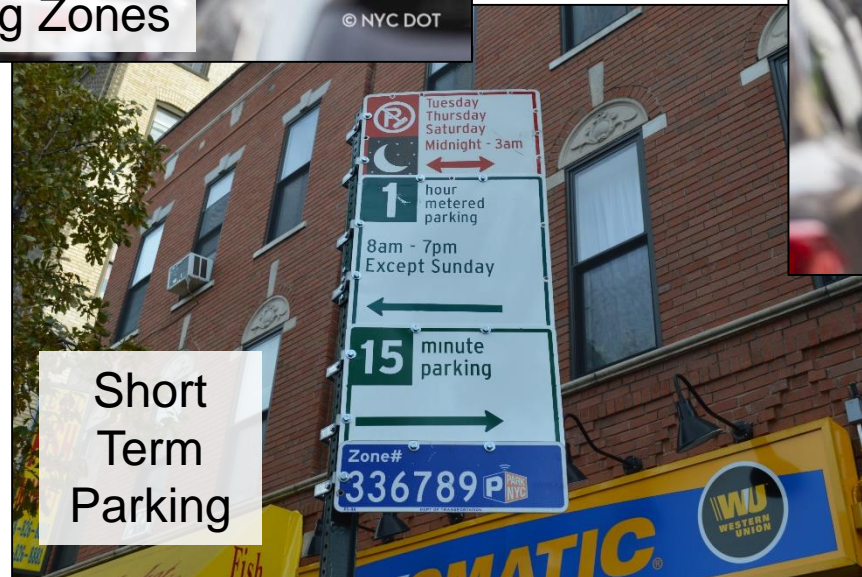
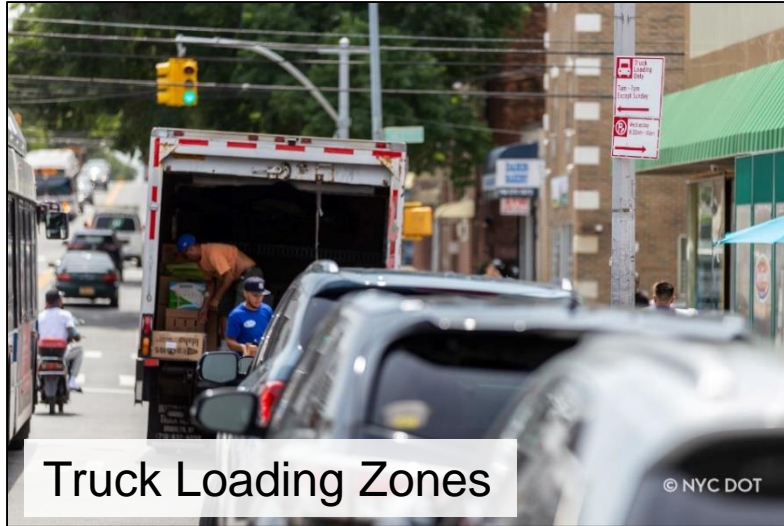
Southern Blvd and E 179 St



Median Extension

Fordham Rd and Southern Blvd

Toolbox – Parking



Breakout Rooms

Fordham Road Corridor Sections



Breakout Rooms

Discussion Overview

- The purpose of the workshop and breakout room is for DOT to engage with community members and explore how they feel about transportation issues along Fordham Rd
- Fordham Rd will be broken up into 5 sections, and there will be 5-10 minutes of discussion per section
- Please be as detailed as possible in your comments to ensure that we can accurately identify issues along the corridor
- At end of the sections, we will review the DOT Toolbox to see what the community envisions for the future of Fordham Rd



Breakout Rooms

Potential Issues for Conversation

- **Transit**
 - Slow buses
 - Bus bunching
 - Crowded buses and stops
- **Pedestrians**
 - Sidewalk crowding
 - Difficulty crossing
 - Conflicts with turning vehicles
- **Traffic**
 - Congestion
 - Weaving and speeding
- **Parking**
 - Double parking / parking in bus lane
 - Truck loading
 - Difficulty finding parking
 - Taxis/For Hire Vehicles

Next Steps

Next Steps

- DOT will review feedback received today
- If you have additional follow up comments or questions, please contact **Darisa Cruz** at the DOT Bronx Borough Commissioner's Office

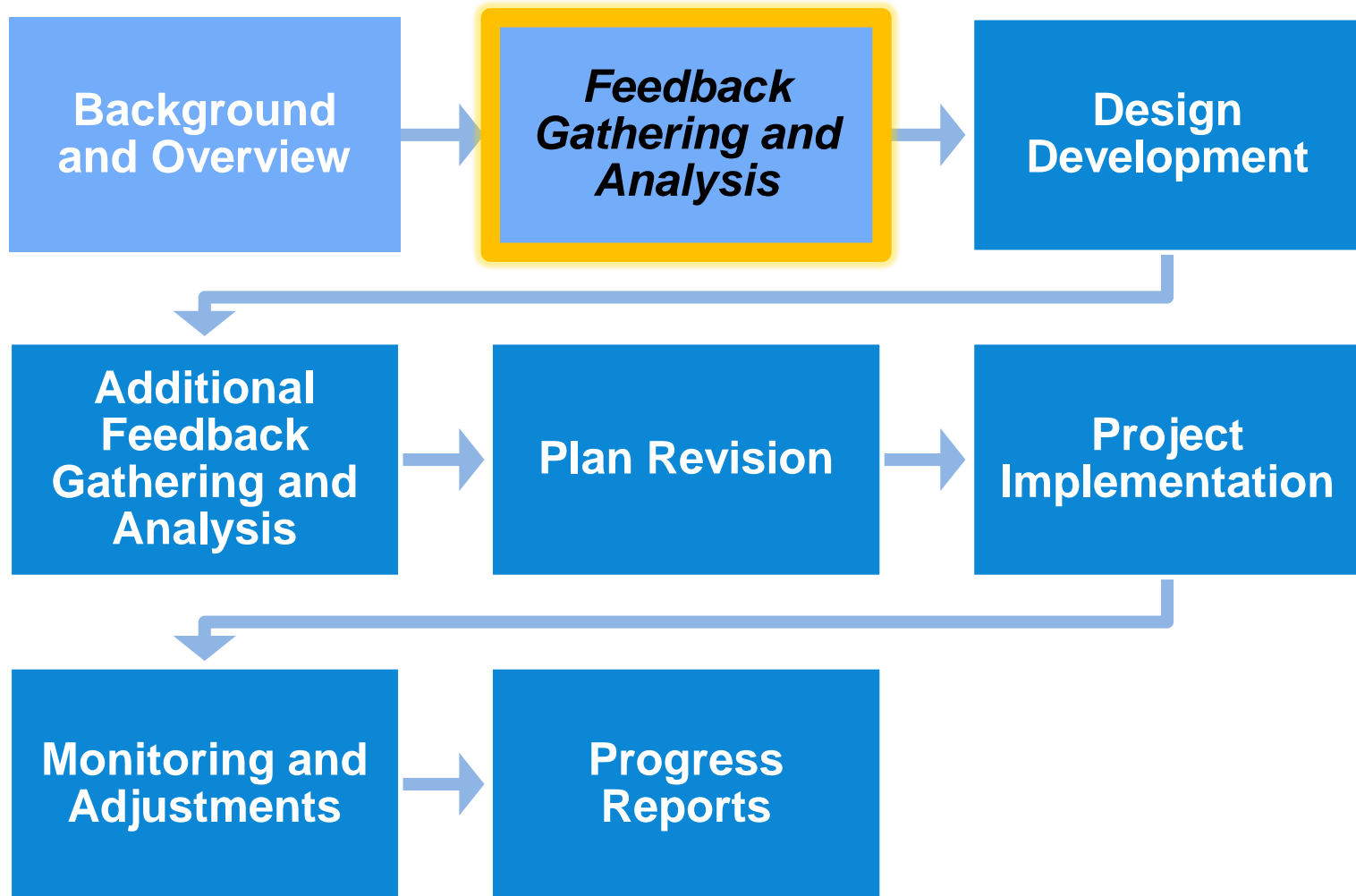
dcruz2@dot.nyc.gov

212-748-6680

- Future workshops and meetings to be held in Fall 2021



Project Timeline



THANK YOU!

Questions?



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



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NYC DOT

Appendix

Fordham Rd Community Advisory Board (CAB)

- Fordham Road Community Advisory Board (CAB) will guide the project before, during, and after implementation
 - CAB includes elected officials, nonprofit and community organizations, government agency representatives, advocates, and riders
- DOT does not have a proposed design for the corridor. In subsequent meetings, we will show alternatives based on feedback we receive today and future meetings in addition to data analysis
- Additional community outreach will be conducted with Community Boards and guidance from the CAB (e.g. online surveys, virtual meetings with stakeholders, walk-throughs)

Fordham Road Overview

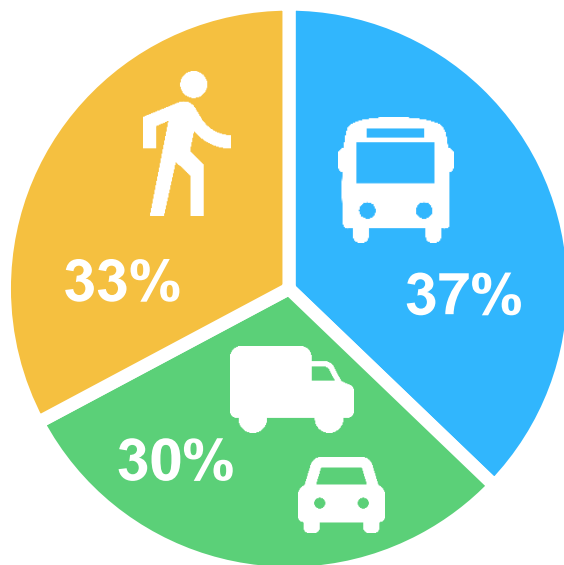
- Critical crosstown transportation corridor for buses, general traffic, and trucks
- Commercial hubs
- Major institutions and destinations



Who is on Fordham Rd?

- Throughout the corridor, bus riders and pedestrians make up a significant portion of the roadway users

**Roadway Users
Fordham Rd and Valentine Ave**

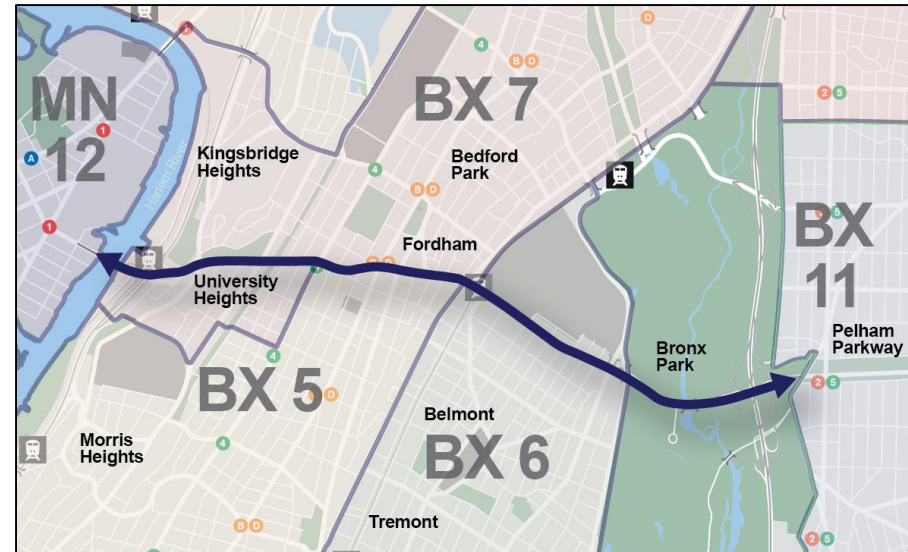


Source: NYC DOT Traffic Counts, MTA, Westchester County

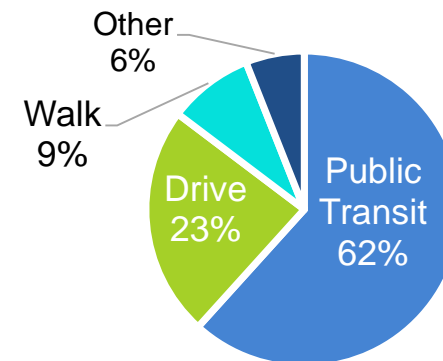
Demographics

Bronx CBs 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and Manhattan CB 12

- 910,000 residents
- 62% of households have no access to a private vehicle
- 71% commute to work via public transit, walking, or biking
- 87% of residents are non-White
 - 61% Hispanic, 20% Black, 3% Asian, 3% Other
- Median household income: \$40,400 (vs. \$60,800 in NYC)



Travel to Work



Source: US Census

Traffic Network

- Fordham Road / Pelham Parkway is one of the few east-west roads that traverses the Bronx from end to end
- ~32,000 daily vehicles
- Critical truck route

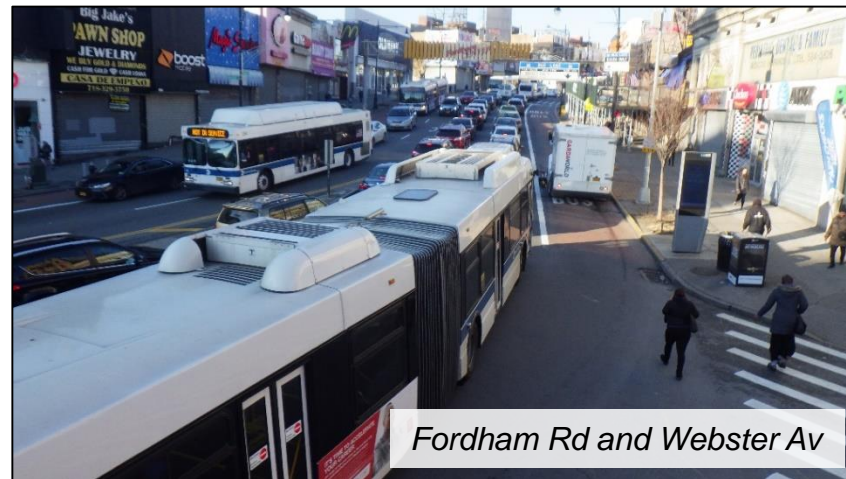


Streets that Cross the Bronx River



Parking and Loading

- Existing 2 hour loading window in bus lane
- Observations and data show that existing curbside bus lanes are frequently blocked
- Need for curb access throughout the day
- Demand for the curb continues to increase due to:
 - Uptick in for-hire vehicles (Uber, Lyft, etc.)
 - Deliveries of goods purchased online



Fordham Rd and Webster Av



Fordham Rd and Valentine Av

Safety

- Fordham Rd is a Vision Zero priority corridor, with 4 Vision Zero priority intersections:
 - Sedgwick Ave
 - University Ave
 - Grand Ave
 - Jerome Ave
- In addition to transit improvements, DOT will study safety enhancements for all roadway users



Fordham Road, Major Deegan Expwy to Boston Rd
Injury Summary, 2014-2018 (5 years)

	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	307	31	3	34
Bicyclists	59	6	0	6
Motor Vehicle Occupant	1499	43	0	43
Total	1865	80	3	83

Transit

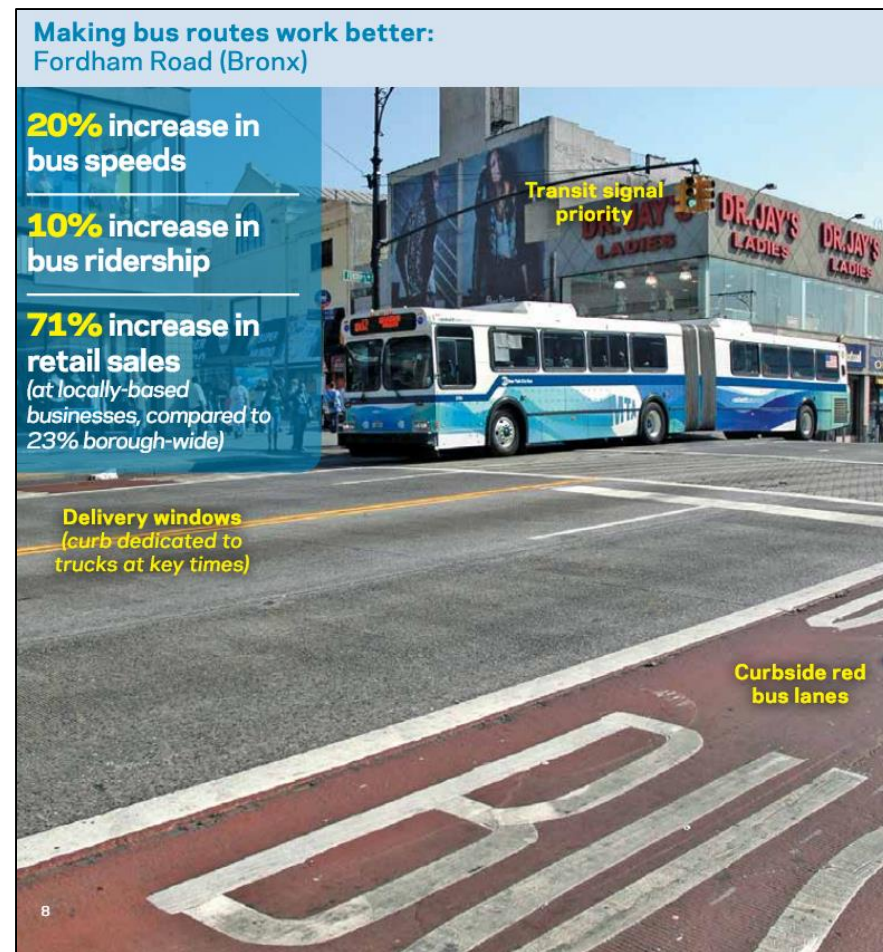
- Bx9, Bx12 SBS/Local, Bx17, Bx22, Bx34, Bee-Line 60-62 buses
 - 93,700 average daily riders, of which 40,300 use the Bx12 SBS & Local
- Buses on Fordham Rd provide critical connections to numerous Bronx, Manhattan, and Westchester neighborhoods and destinations
- Connections to A, B/D, 1, 2/5, 4, and 6 subways; Metro North Harlem, Hudson, & New Haven Lines

Bus Routes that Travel on Fordham Rd



Previous Work

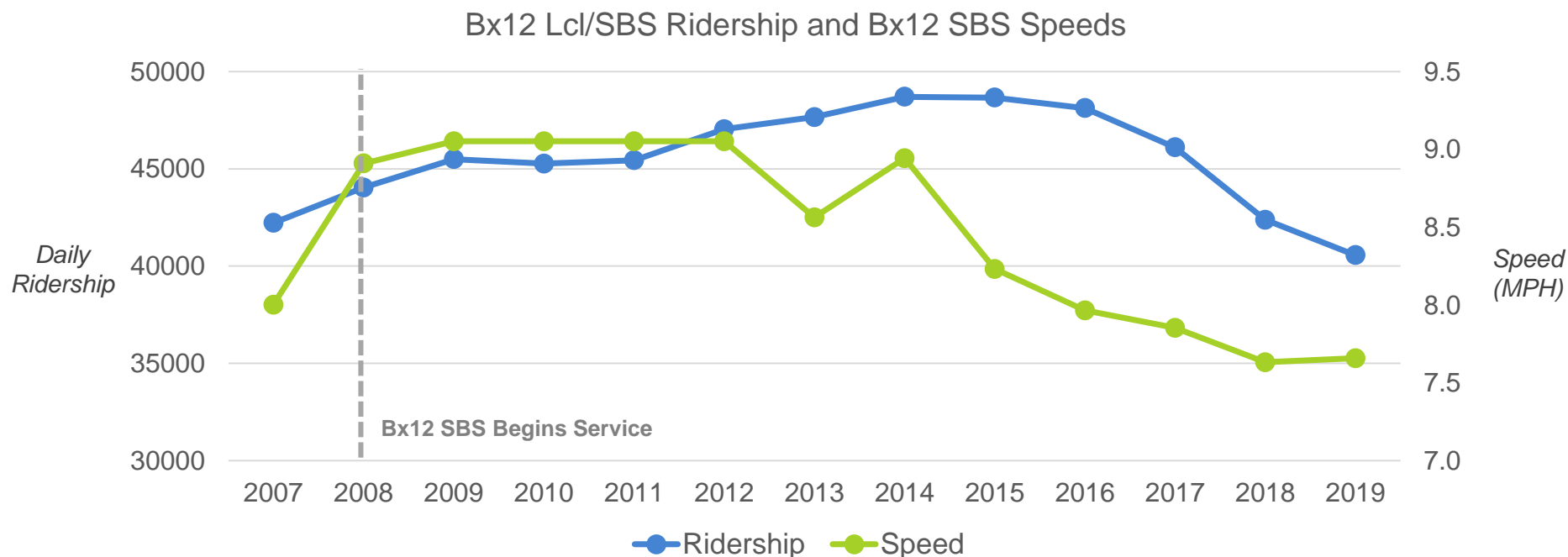
- In 2008, MTA and DOT launched the first Select Bus Service (SBS) route on the Bx12
- Curbside bus lanes were installed throughout corridor
- Service and street design changes resulted in improvements for bus service:
 - Bus speeds increased 20%
 - Ridership increased 10%
 - Retail sales increased 71% (vs. 23% borough wide)



Source: NYCDOT – “Measuring the Street”

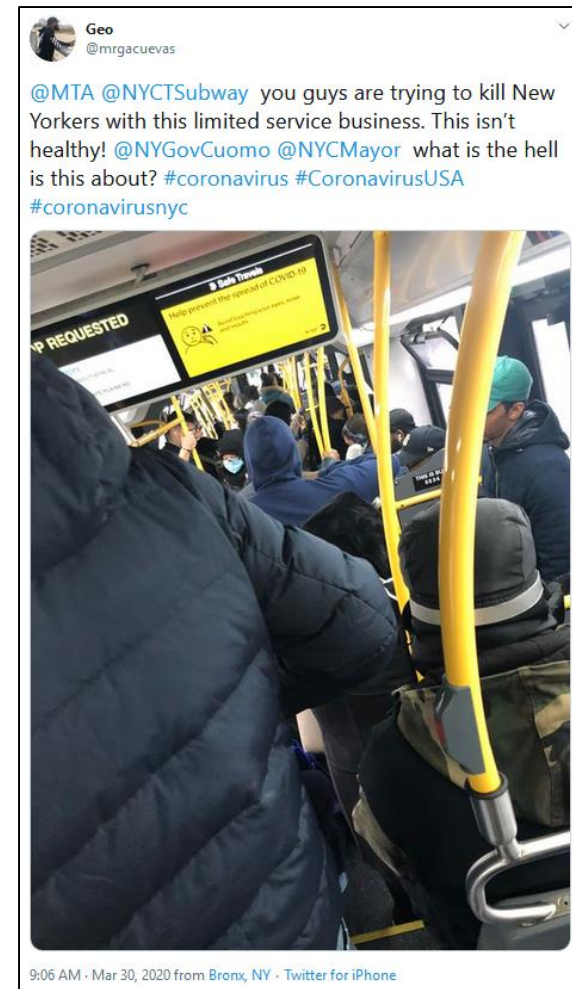
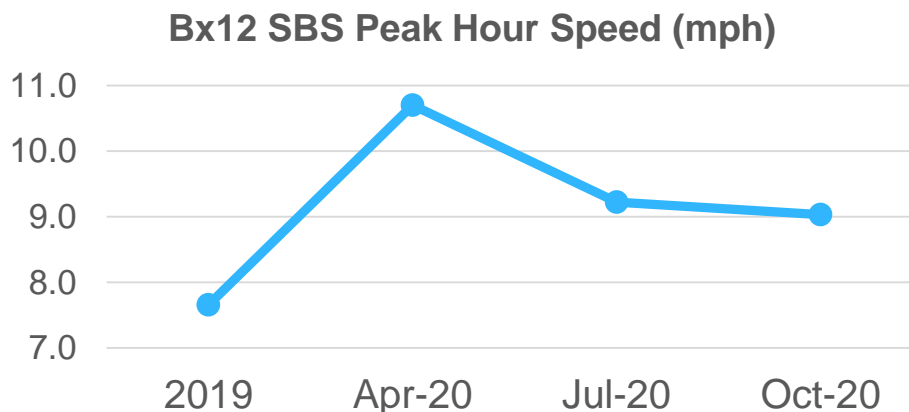
Recent Trends

- SBS improvements sparked an upward trend in speeds and ridership, which continued through 2014
- In recent years, bus speeds and ridership have declined
- Bx12 is still the second highest ridership route in NYC (after M15)



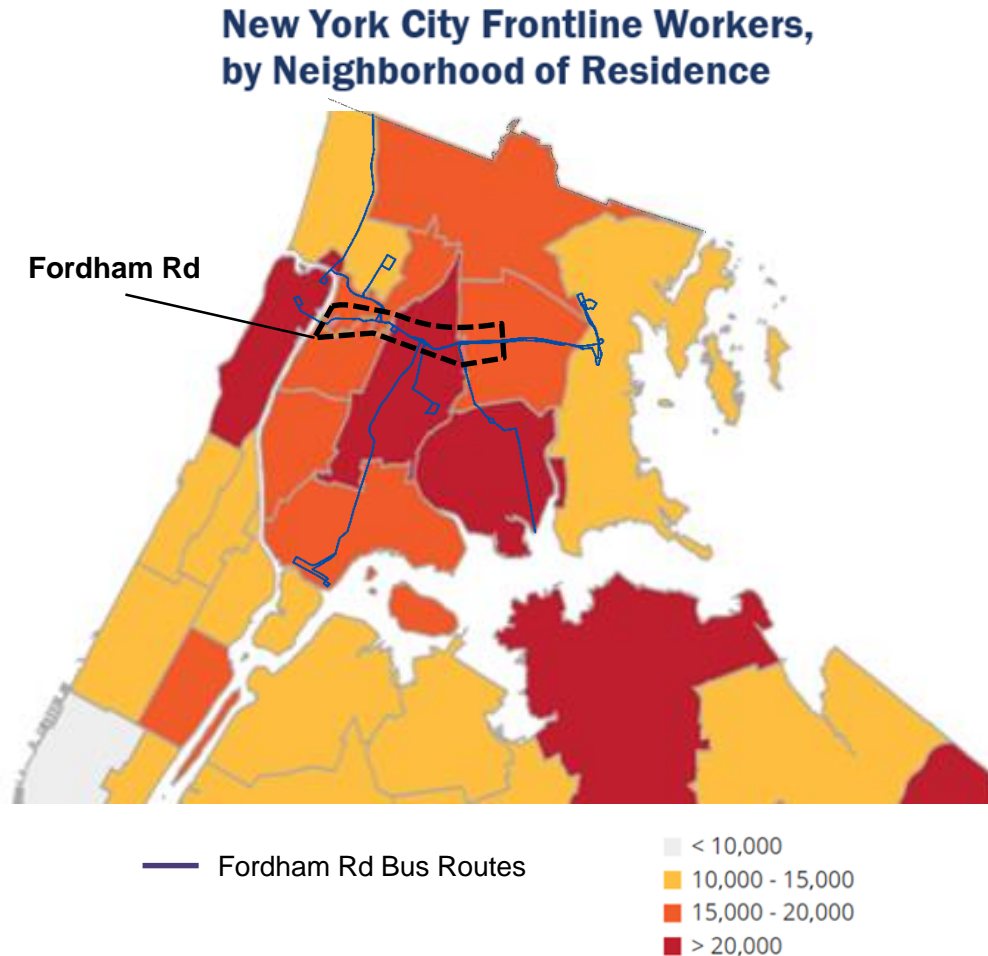
Fordham Rd During COVID

- During the height of COVID shelter-in-place restrictions (late March – April), Bx12 SBS speeds increased
- Increased speeds due to reduced traffic and fewer obstructions of bus lanes
- As traffic volumes have returned to pre-COVID levels, bus speeds have decreased to levels prior to the pandemic



Supporting Essential Workers

- Areas directly served by Fordham Road routes have high concentrations of frontline workers
- Frontline workers (e.g., nurses, transit workers, postal/courier workers, grocery store workers) make up 38% of transit riders in New York City
- 79% of the city's frontline workers are Black, Hispanic, or mixed race

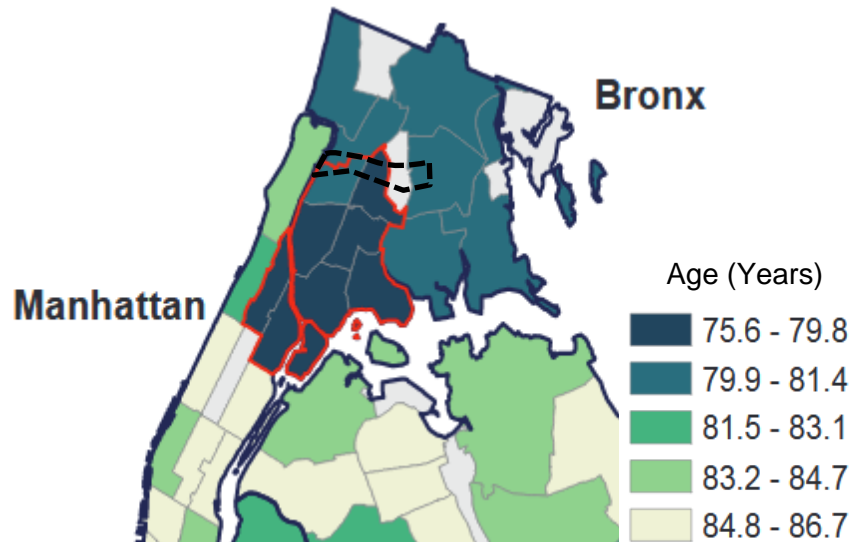


Source: NYC Comptroller, Bureau of Policy and Research

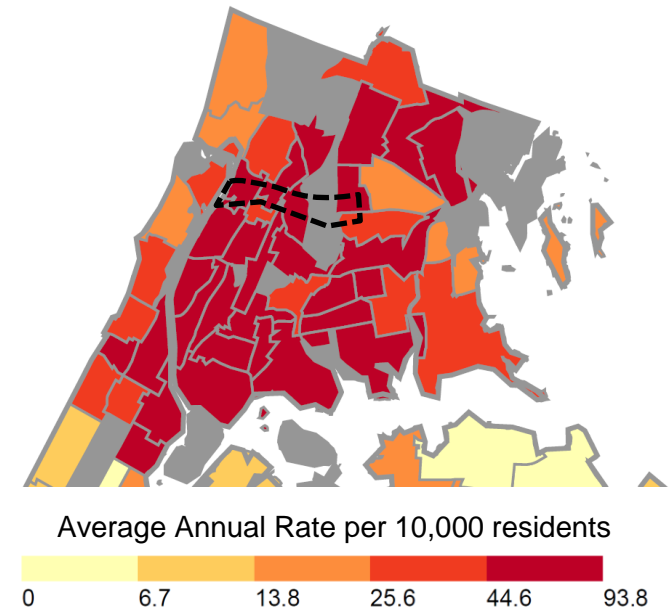
Public Health

- Residents in neighborhoods near Fordham Road have high rates of asthma, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, in part due to exposure to pollution
- Transit improvements can reduce private vehicle use, improve air quality, and promote physical activity

Life Expectancy
(2008-2017)



Child Asthma Hospitalizations
(2014-2016)



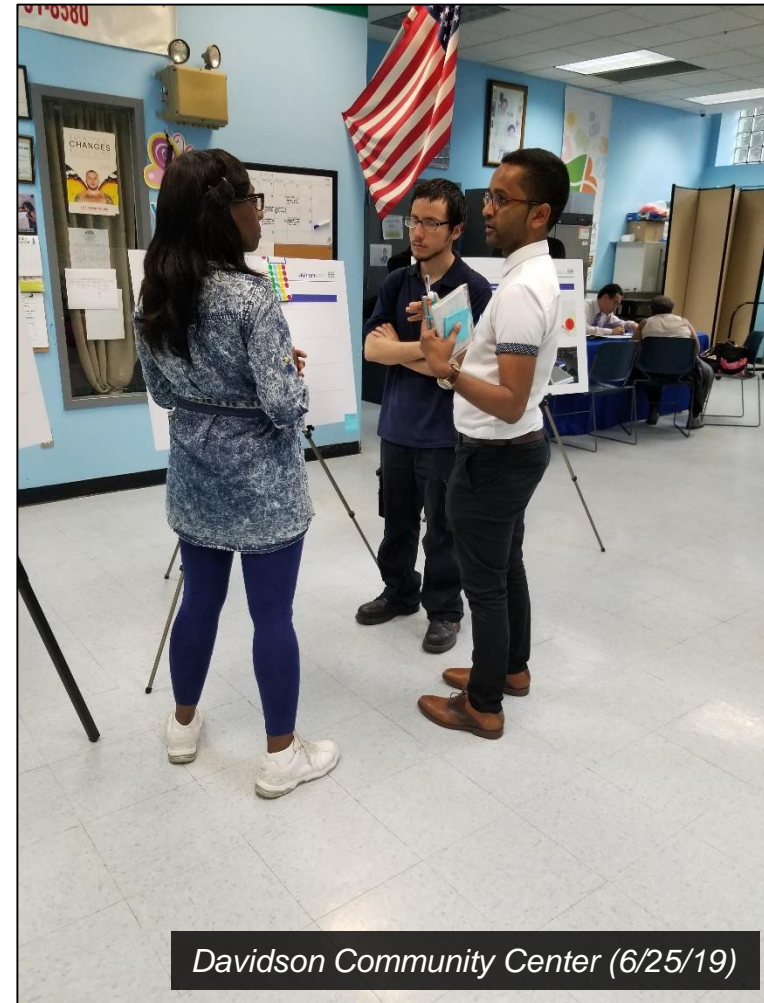
Public Polling



- Change Research surveyed 302 respondents between November 16–19, 2020, including 275 from CBs 5, 6, and 7
- 79% support changes to city streets that can make buses faster and more reliable
- Respondents support additional bus priority measures on Fordham Rd
 - 89% support improving existing bus lanes
 - 66% support additional bus lanes
 - 70% support a busway
- 72% of non-bus riders support improving the existing bus lanes on Fordham Rd
- If buses along Fordham Rd were faster and more reliable, 67% of riders who ride once a week or less report that they would be more likely to ride the bus and 28% of non-riders say so

Work To Date

- Field observations
- Data collection
- Street Ambassador outreach
 - Merchant surveys
 - Shopper surveys
 - Bronx Night market
- MTA Bronx redesign open houses and CB presentations



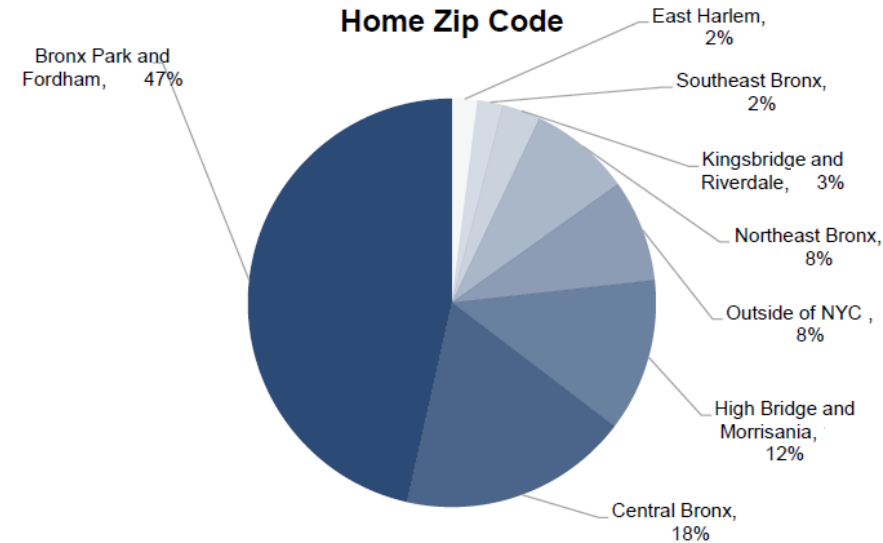
Merchant Survey

- In June 2019, NYC DOT Street Ambassadors visited 230 businesses on Fordham Rd and 207 St
- Availability of parking/loading was a key concern
 - Only 20% of businesses on Fordham Rd indicated that they are able to determine when their deliveries arrive
 - Complaints of customers receiving tickets during quick pickup/drop-off activity



Shopper Survey

- Surveyed 175 people July 2019
- 86% of visitors to businesses on Fordham Road reported arriving by walking, bus, or train
- 65% were from neighborhoods along or near the Fordham Road corridor



Why Fordham Road

Outreach

- November 2020 poll showed that neighborhood residents support bus priority measures on Fordham Road:
 - 89% support improving existing bus lanes
 - 66% support additional bus lanes
 - 70% support a busway
- In summer 2019, NYC DOT spoke with 167 businesses and 175 visitors on Fordham Rd
 - 86% of visitors to businesses on Fordham Road reported arriving by walking, bus, or train
 - Businesses on Fordham Rd indicated that they are unable to determine when their deliveries arrive
 - Complaints of customers receiving tickets during quick pickup/drop-off activity

