

# Gun Hill Rd Bus & Pedestrian Improvements

Community Board 12 Transportation Committee

April 14, 2022



# Table of Contents

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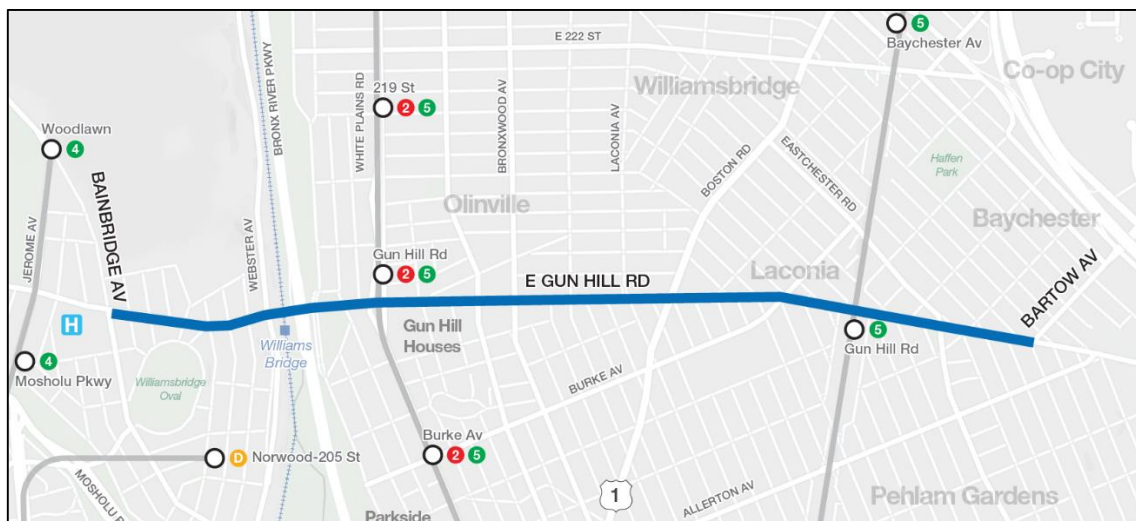
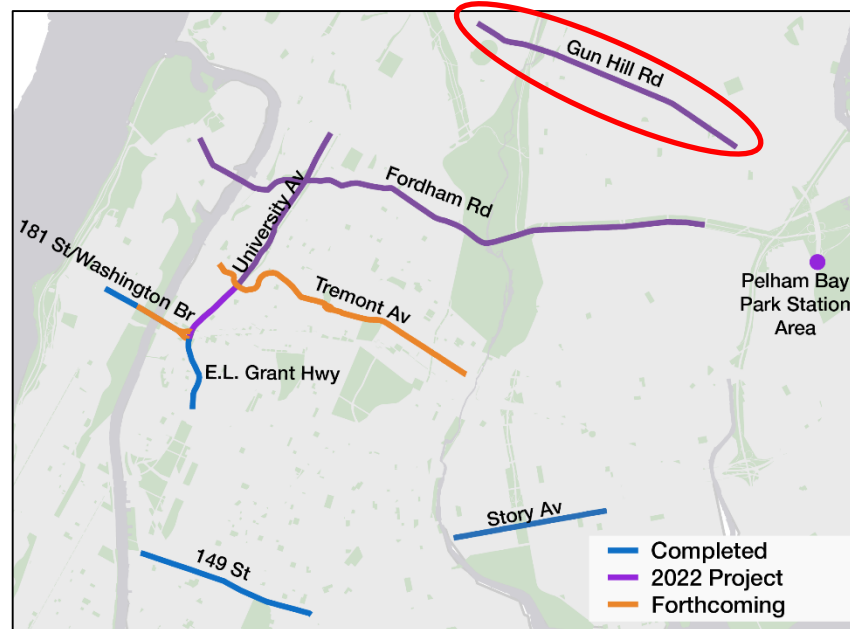
1. Introduction & Current Conditions
  - Why Gun Hill Rd?
  - Current Conditions
  - Crash History
  - Goals & Challenges
2. Toolkit & Past Projects
3. Work to Date & Next Steps
4. Open Discussion

# Introduction & Existing Conditions

# Why Gun Hill Road?

- 40,000 daily bus passengers along 5 routes
- Critical crosstown service with key connections to 2 5 D, many local bus routes, Montefiore Hospital, Co-Op City, Bay Plaza
- Named one of 10 key Bronx corridors for bus priority
  - 5 corridors improved since 2020; more planned for 2022

## Bronx Bus Priority Corridors

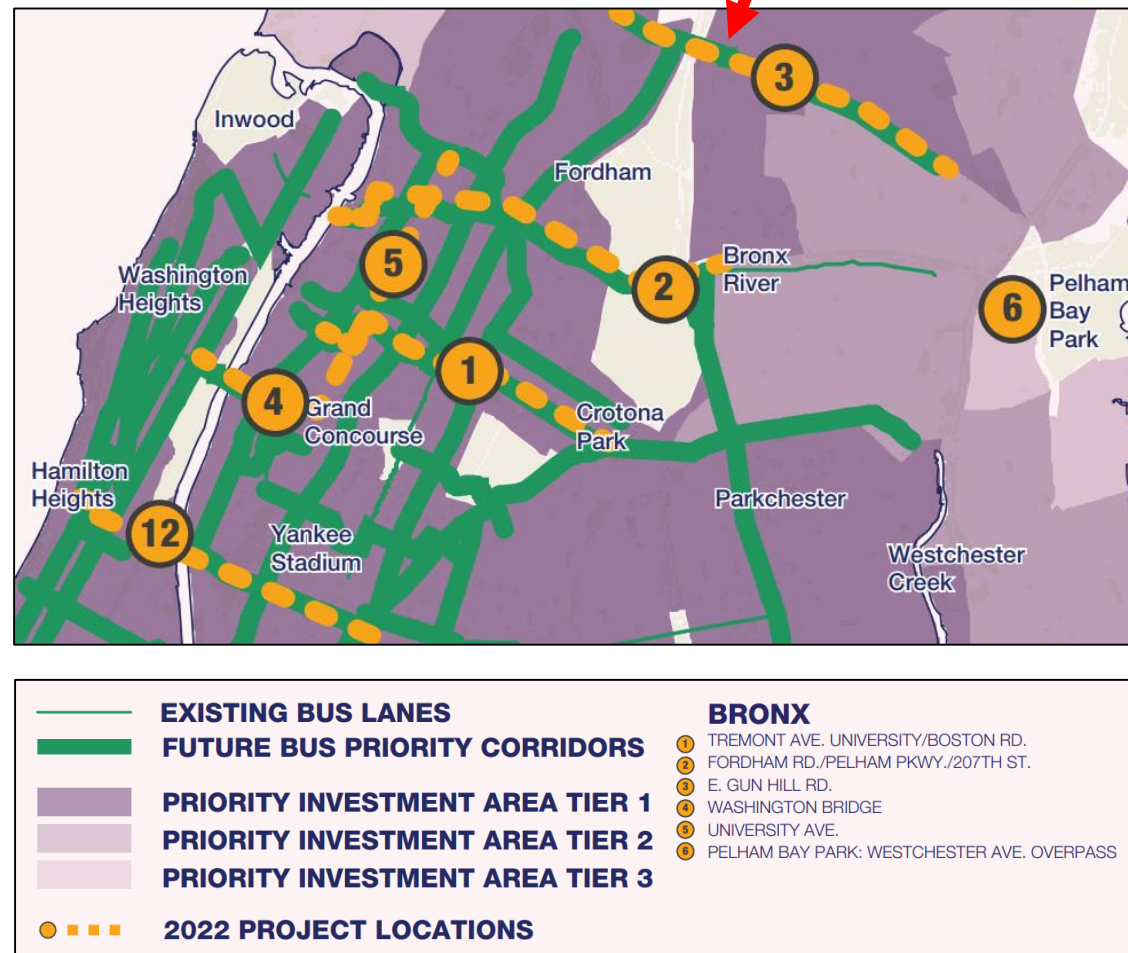


# NYC Streets Plan

Transit goals of the Streets Plan:

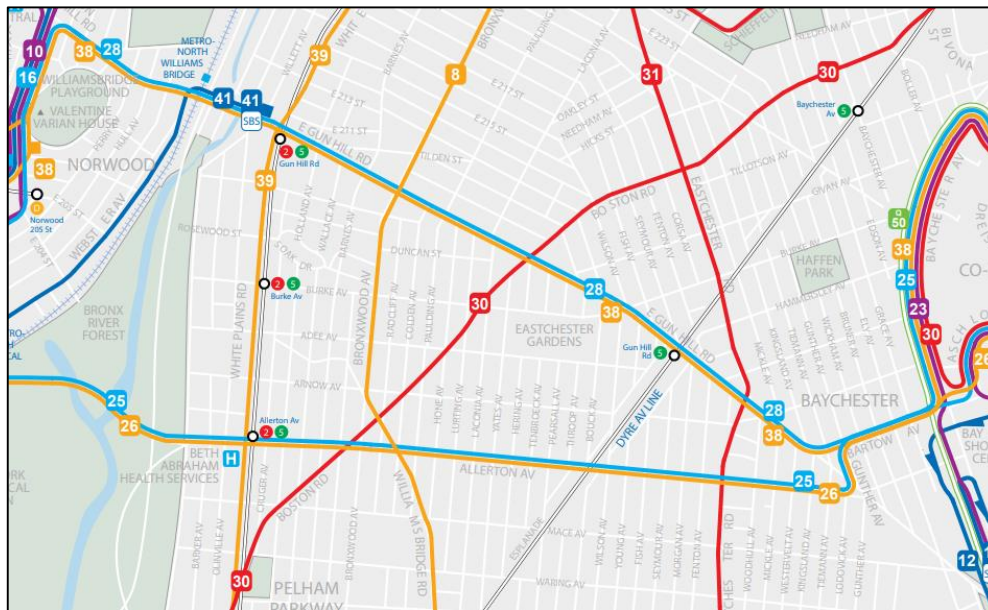
1. **Increase sustainable travel modes** by reconfiguring streets and making more attractive choices available for New Yorkers to support the continued growth of NYC while reducing congestion and emissions
2. **Expand access to job opportunities** and encourage job creation through faster and more reliable transportation options.
3. **Allow all New Yorkers, regardless of ability, to get around the city** in multiple ways without encountering barriers to travel

Most of Gun Hill Rd is in a Tier 1 Priority Investment Area



# MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign

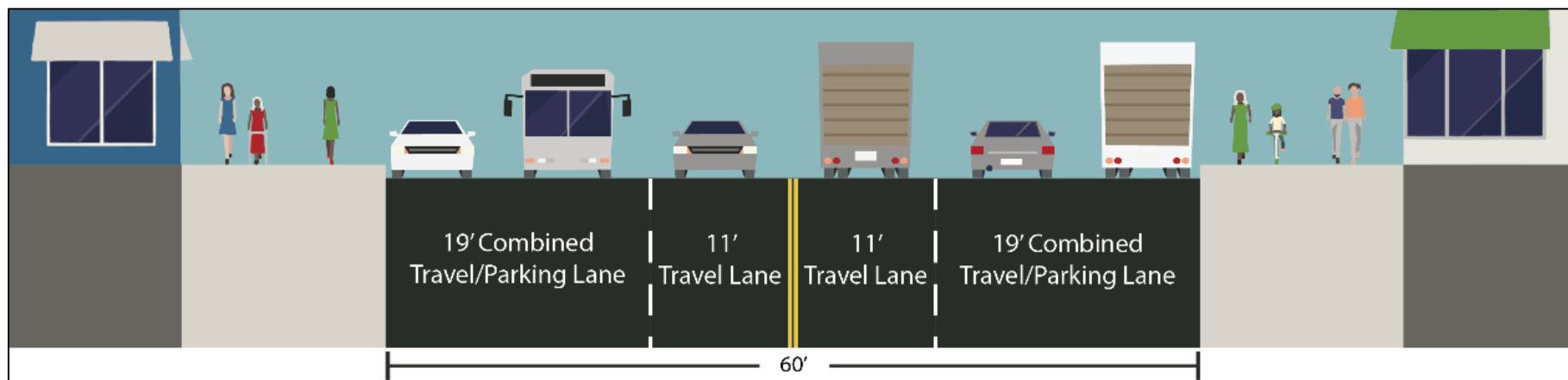
- Borough-wide plan to improve local, limited, and Select Bus Service routes throughout the Bronx
- Summer 2022 implementation
  - New Bx30 service on Boston Rd south of Gun Hill Rd
  - Improved Bx28/38 frequencies; combined 8 min or better on weekdays, 5-6 minutes in rush hours
- Extensive outreach including Open Houses, Workshops & CB Presentations



*Bronx Bus Network Redesign Public Open House, Wakefield*

# Core Issues

- Core issues
  - Slow & unreliable bus service
  - Crashes, injuries & fatalities
  - Traffic congestion
- 60 feet wide, curb to curb
  - Each direction has 2 lanes + parking



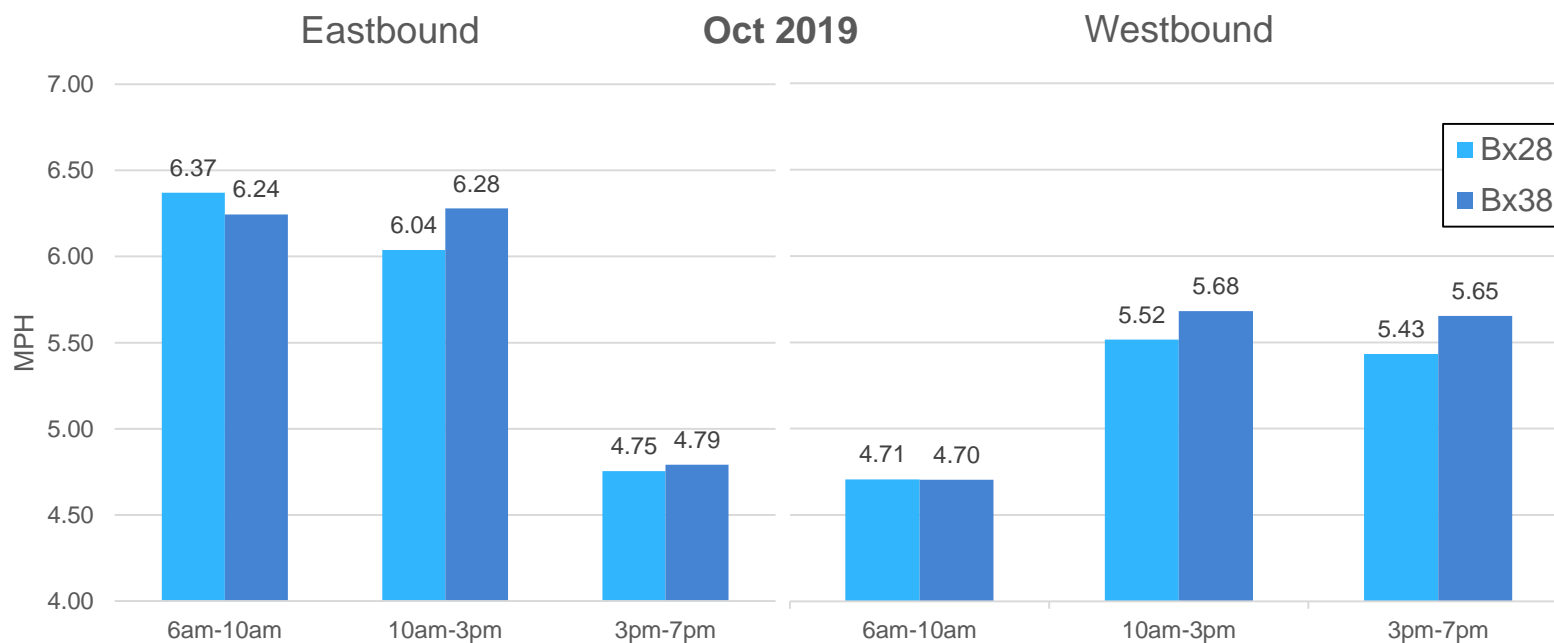
# Double Parking

- 2014 DOT Congested Corridors report on Gun Hill Rd:
  - Chronic double-parking often reduces Gun Hill Rd to one moving lane per direction, worsening congestion
  - Occurs throughout Gun Hill Rd, and especially west of Webster Av



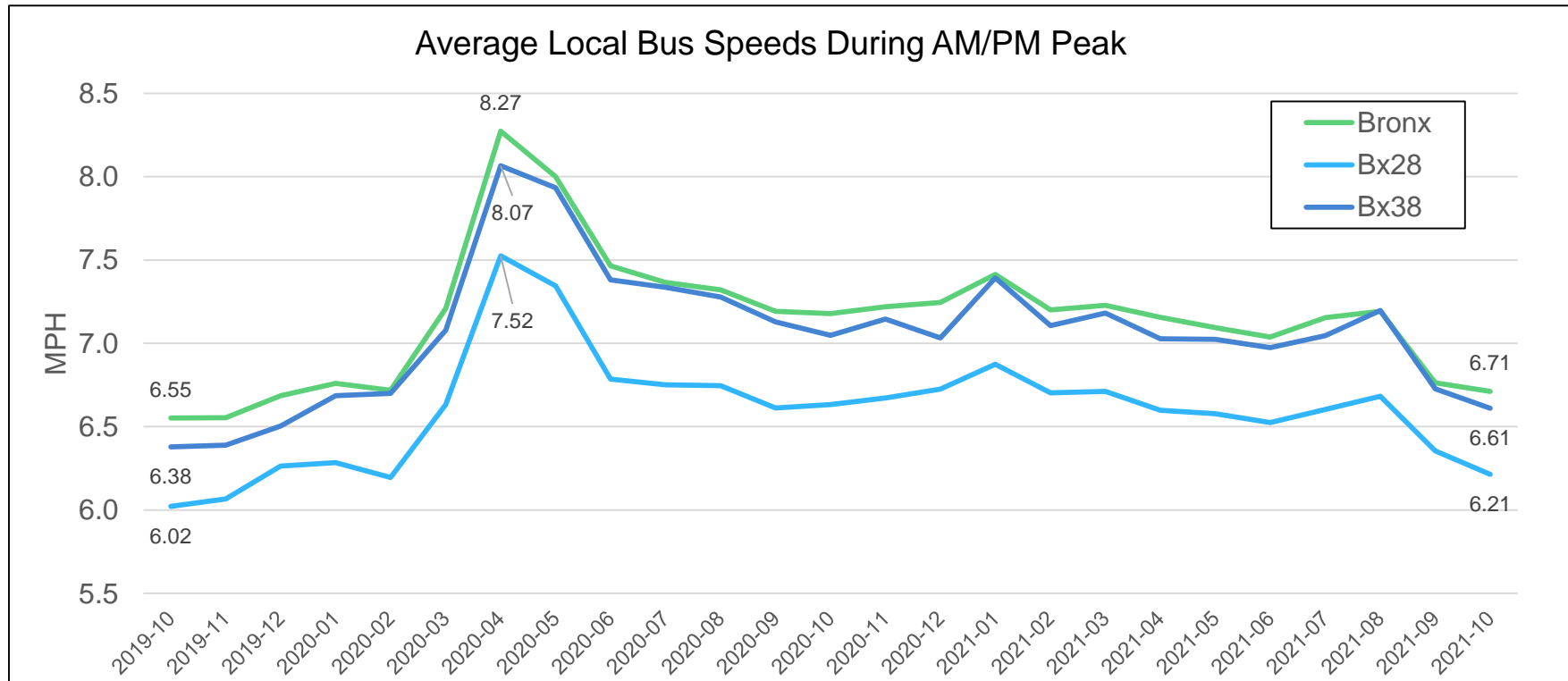
# Gun Hill Rd Bus Speeds

- Slow and unreliable bus service along Gun Hill Rd
- Buses move slow all day and less than 5 mph in the AM westbound, PM eastbound
- Peak-period trips take 15-17 minutes longer than evening/overnight
- Traffic congestion and double-parking cause slowdowns



# Pandemic Bus Route Speed Changes

- Bx28 and Bx38 route level speeds are slower than Bronx average
- Speed & reliability gains from 2020 erased as traffic returned; still declining
  - Only 65% of Bx28/38 trips completed within 5-min of scheduled time

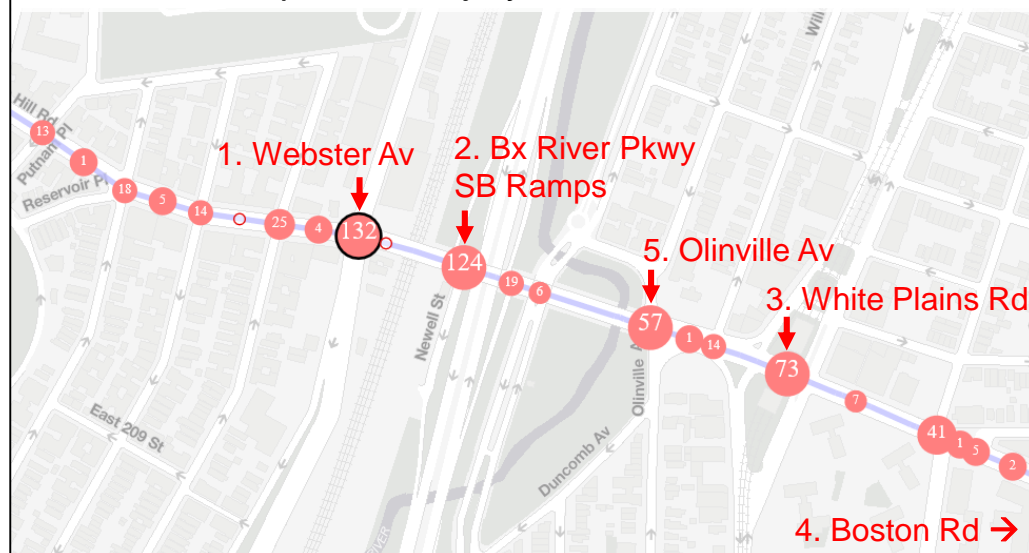


# Crash History

## Injuries & Fatalities 2015-2019

- On average, nearly 5 people every week are injured in crashes on Gun Hill Rd
- In top 10% of most dangerous Bronx streets
- 64 severe injuries + 2 fatalities
- Vision Zero Priority Corridor
- Safety solutions:
  - Fix wide-angle left turns
  - Discourage speeding
  - Improve driver-pedestrian visibility

Gun Hill Rd, Top 5 Most Injury-Prone Intersections, 2015-19



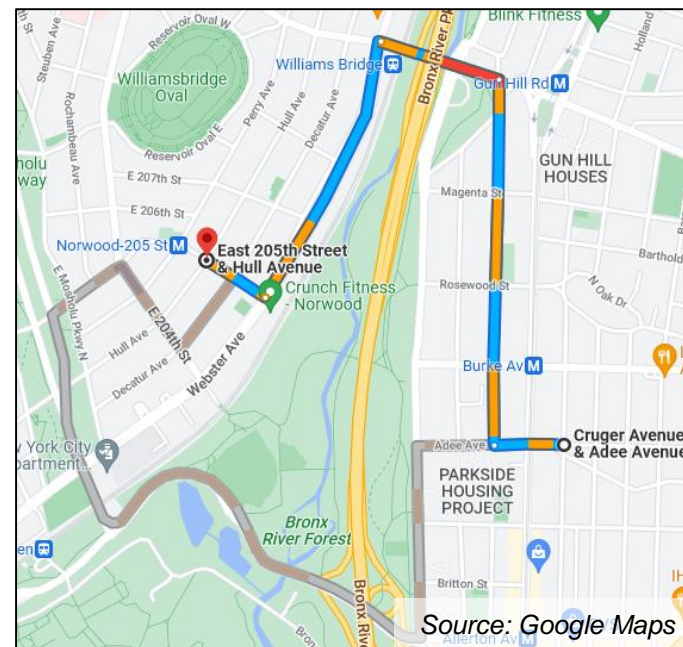
# Goals & Challenges

## Goals:

- Make bus service fast, reliable and on-time
- Make Gun Hill Rd safer to walk
- Organize traffic movements

## Challenges:

- Traffic congestion
- Broken street grid
- Bronx River Pkwy bottleneck



# Toolkit & Past Projects

# Transit Toolkit



Webster Ave, Bx



161<sup>st</sup> St, Bx



181<sup>st</sup> St, MN



Fordham Rd, Bx



EL Grant Hwy, Bx

# Bus Stops Toolkit



*Webster Av, Bx*



*Southern Blvd, Bx*



*167<sup>th</sup> St, Bx*

# Pedestrian Safety Toolkit



*Fordham Rd, Bx*



*EL Grant Hwy, Bx*



*149<sup>th</sup> St, Bx*



*Longwood Av, Bx*

# Parking Toolkit

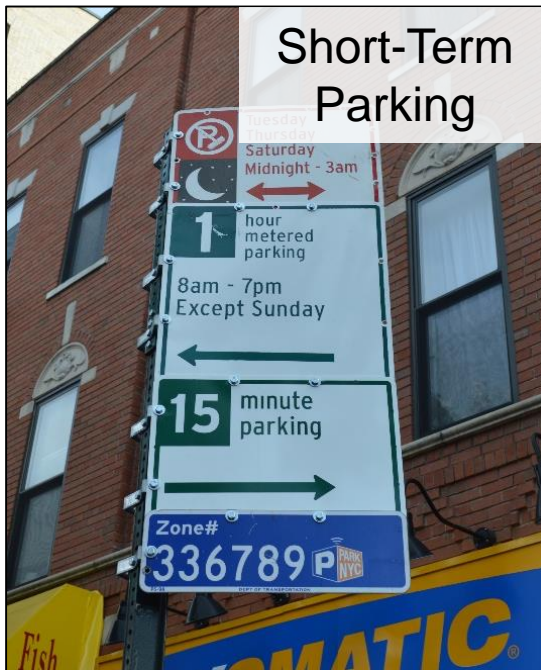
## Parking Meters



## Truck Loading Zones



## Short-Term Parking



## No Parking/No Standing



# Other Tools

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- Traffic signal timing
- Transit Signal Priority (TSP)
- Bus lane camera enforcement
  - DOT stationary cameras
  - MTA on-bus cameras (ABLE)
- Left & right turn bays

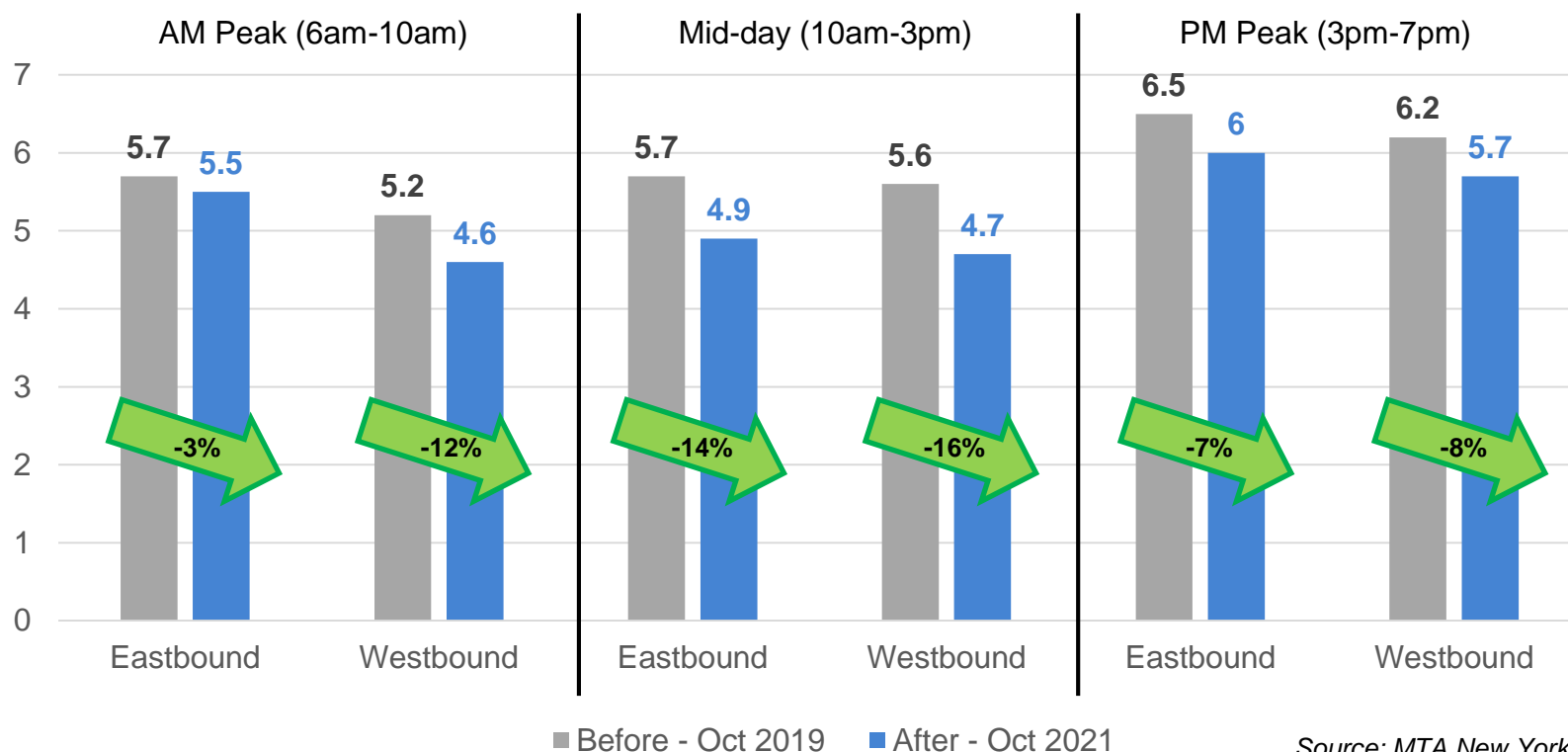


# Past Projects: EL Grant Hwy, Bx

- Center-running bus lanes
- **3-14% faster EB** and **8-16% faster WB**



EL Grant Hwy Travel Time, Jerome Av to University Av (Minutes)



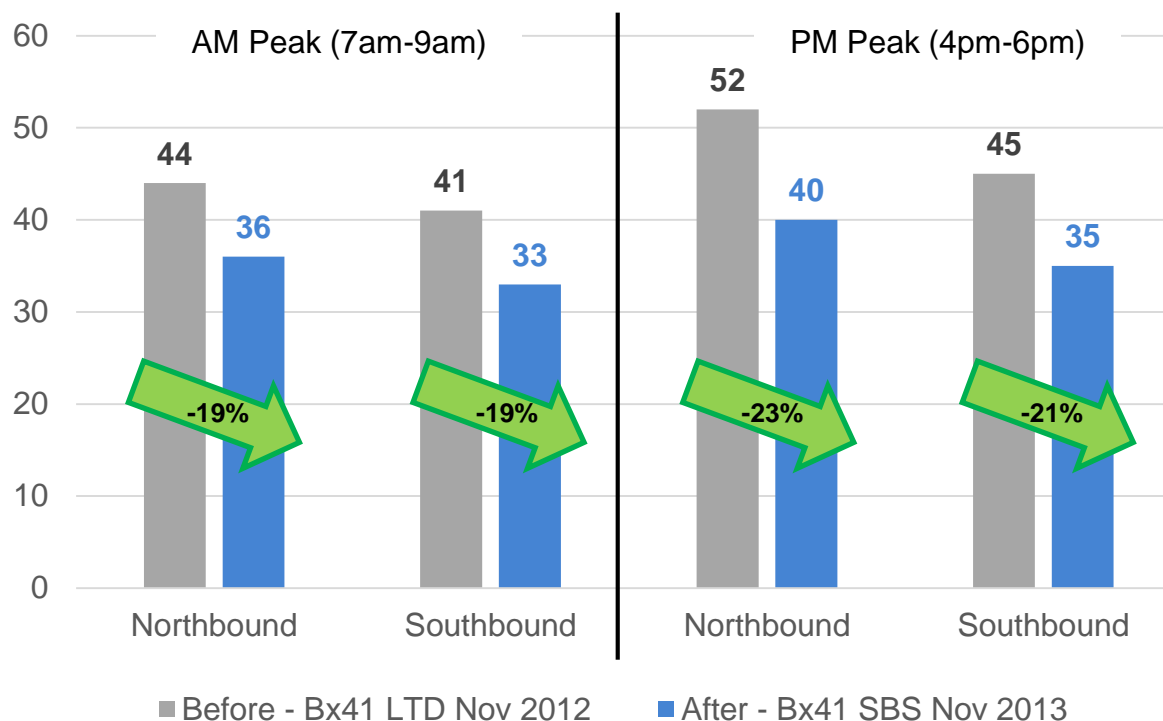
Source: MTA New York City Transit

# Past Projects: Webster Av, Bx

- Select Bus Service with offset bus lanes + offboard fare collection
- **19-23% faster NB and 19-21% faster SB**



Average Bx41 Weekday Travel Time (Mins)



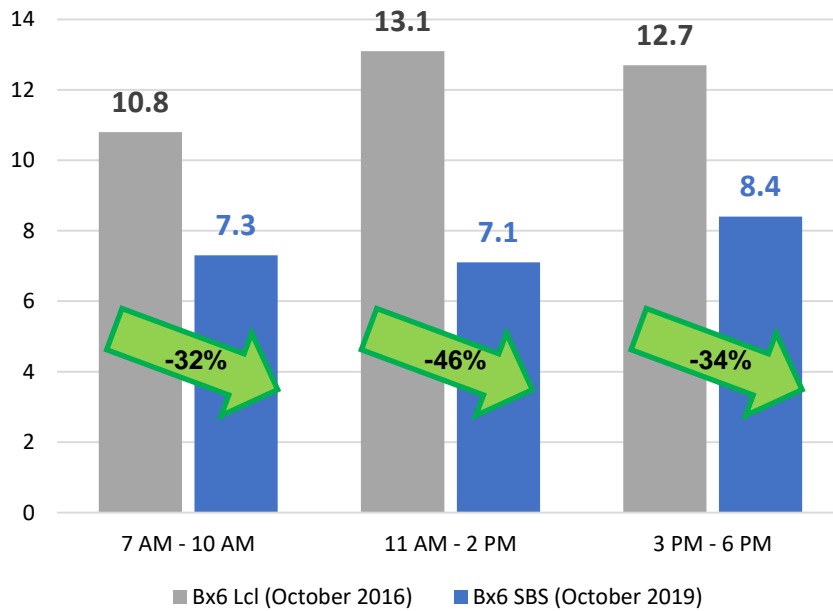
Source: MTA New York City Transit

# Past Projects: 161<sup>st</sup> St, Bx (Jerome Av to Melrose Av)

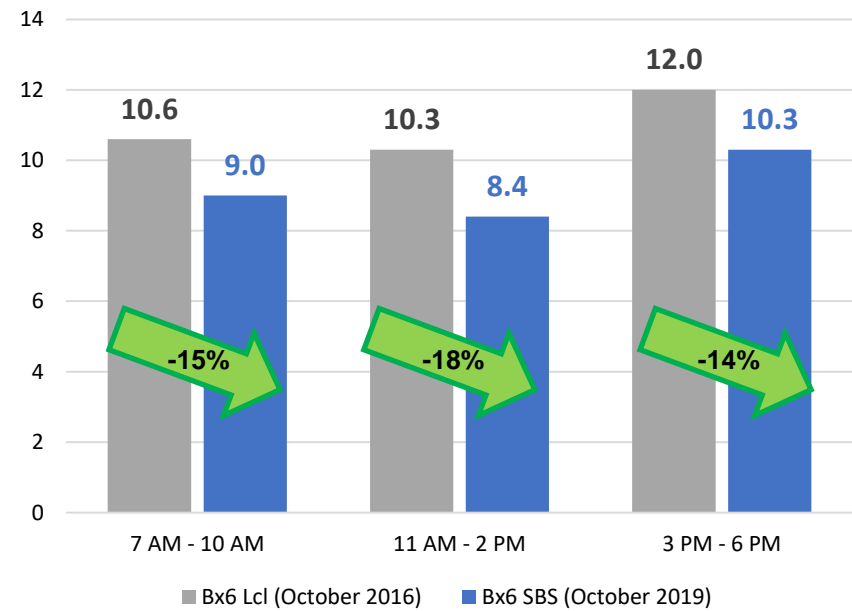
- Select Bus Service with center-running busway, including an EB bus-only tunnel under Grand Conc., + off-board fare collection
- **32-46% faster EB and 14-18% faster WB**



Eastbound Bus Travel Time (Minutes)



Westbound Bus Travel Time (Minutes)



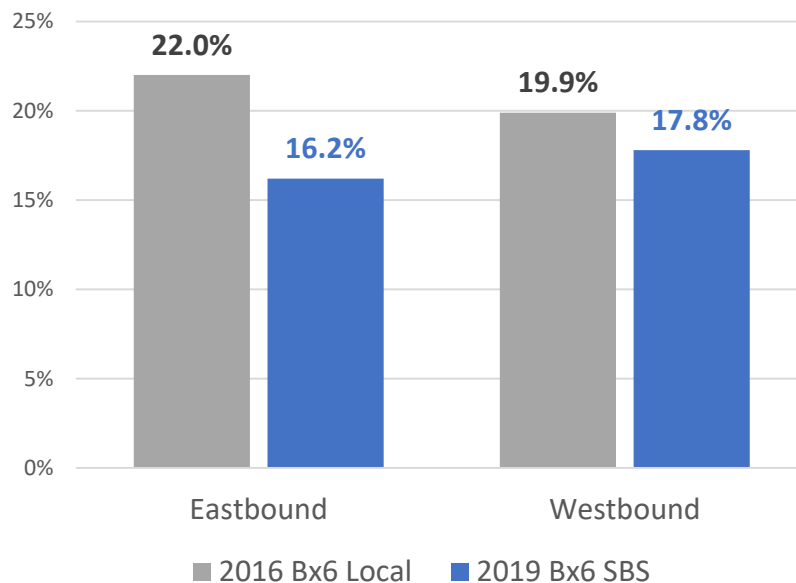
Source: MTA New York City Transit

# Past Projects: 161<sup>st</sup>/163<sup>rd</sup> St, Bx (Full Corridor)

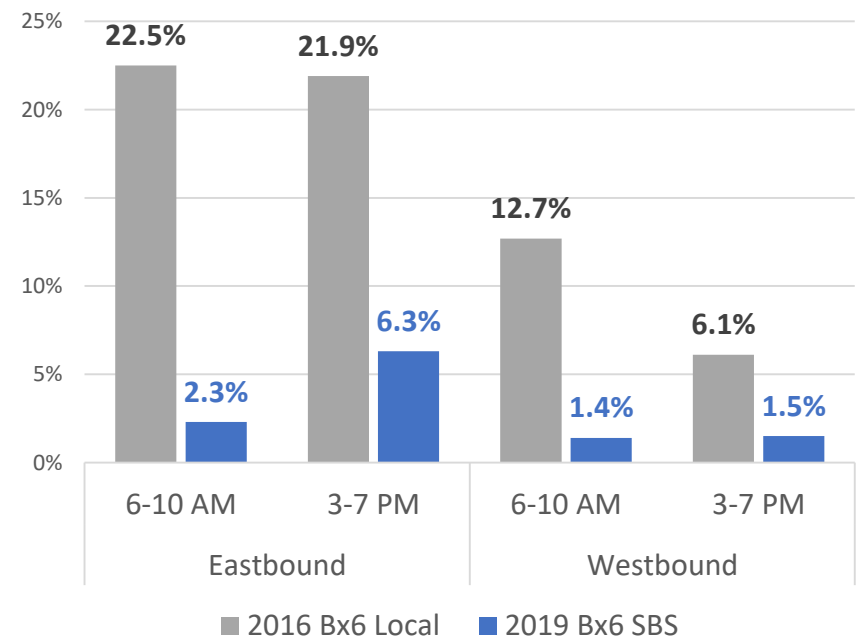
- Improved on-time performance in both directions
- Reduced bus bunching in both directions



% of Buses Arriving Late



% of Buses Arriving Bunched



\*Late defined as arriving 5 minutes or more after scheduled arrival time

\*\*Bunching defined as two or more buses heading in the same direction departing a stop within 90 seconds of each other

Source: MTA NYCT

# Work to Date & Next Steps

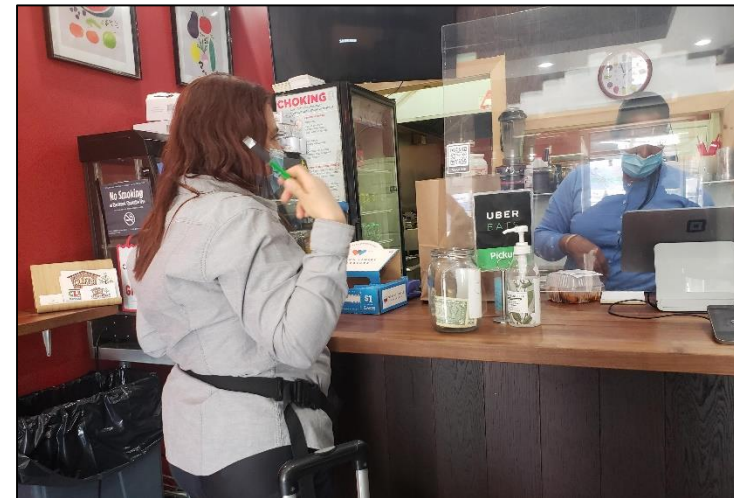
# Work to Date

- MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign: 50+ public outreach events →
  - On-street and in-station pop-ups
  - Public open houses
  - Community Board presentations
  - Online workshop & surveys
- Merchant survey w/ Jerome-Gun Hill BID
- Field observations
- Traffic data
- Time lapse footage →
  - Tells us about parking needs, block by block
  - Helps us manage the curb better



# Gun Hill Rd Merchant Survey

- In March 2021, DOT visited every business on Gun Hill Rd from Bainbridge Av to Bartow Av
  - Partnership with Jerome-Gun Hill BID
- 144 merchants took our survey on delivery schedules, challenges & needs
- Busiest sections for deliveries:
  - Tryon Av to Webster Av
  - Barnes Av to Laconia Av
- 29% of businesses say vehicles delivering to them need to double-park
  - Especially west of Webster Av & near the 5 train
- 71% of businesses don't control when their deliveries arrive



# Next Steps

*(Note: all dates are tentative estimates)*

- **April:**
  - Discuss existing conditions, needs & wants
  - Feedback will help shape DOT's draft proposal
  - Traffic analysis & time lapse data
- **Late spring:**
  - Share draft proposal
  - Listen & incorporate feedback
- **Summer:**
  - Share updated plan
- Implementation planned for **late summer-fall 2022**



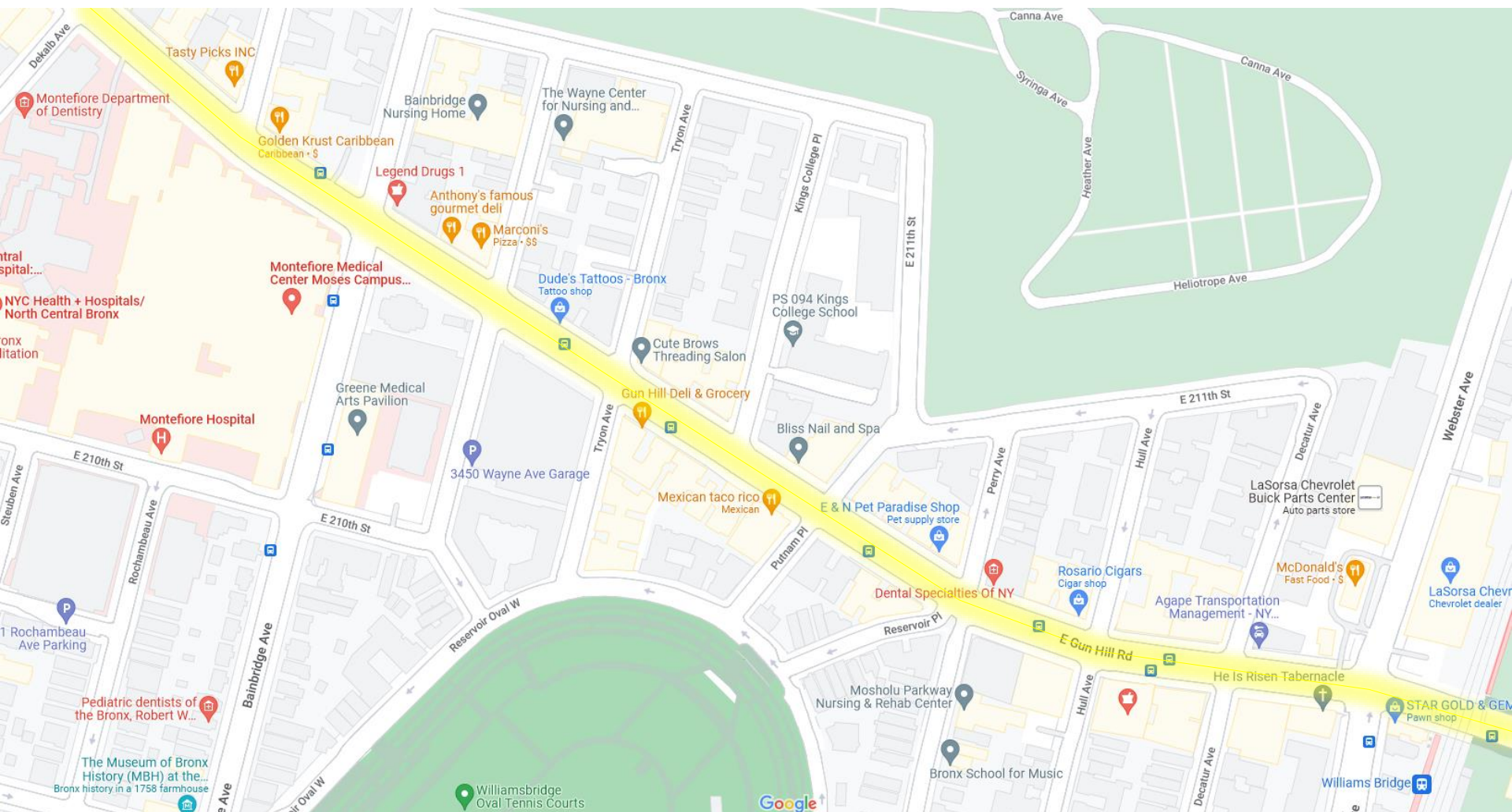
# Open Discussion

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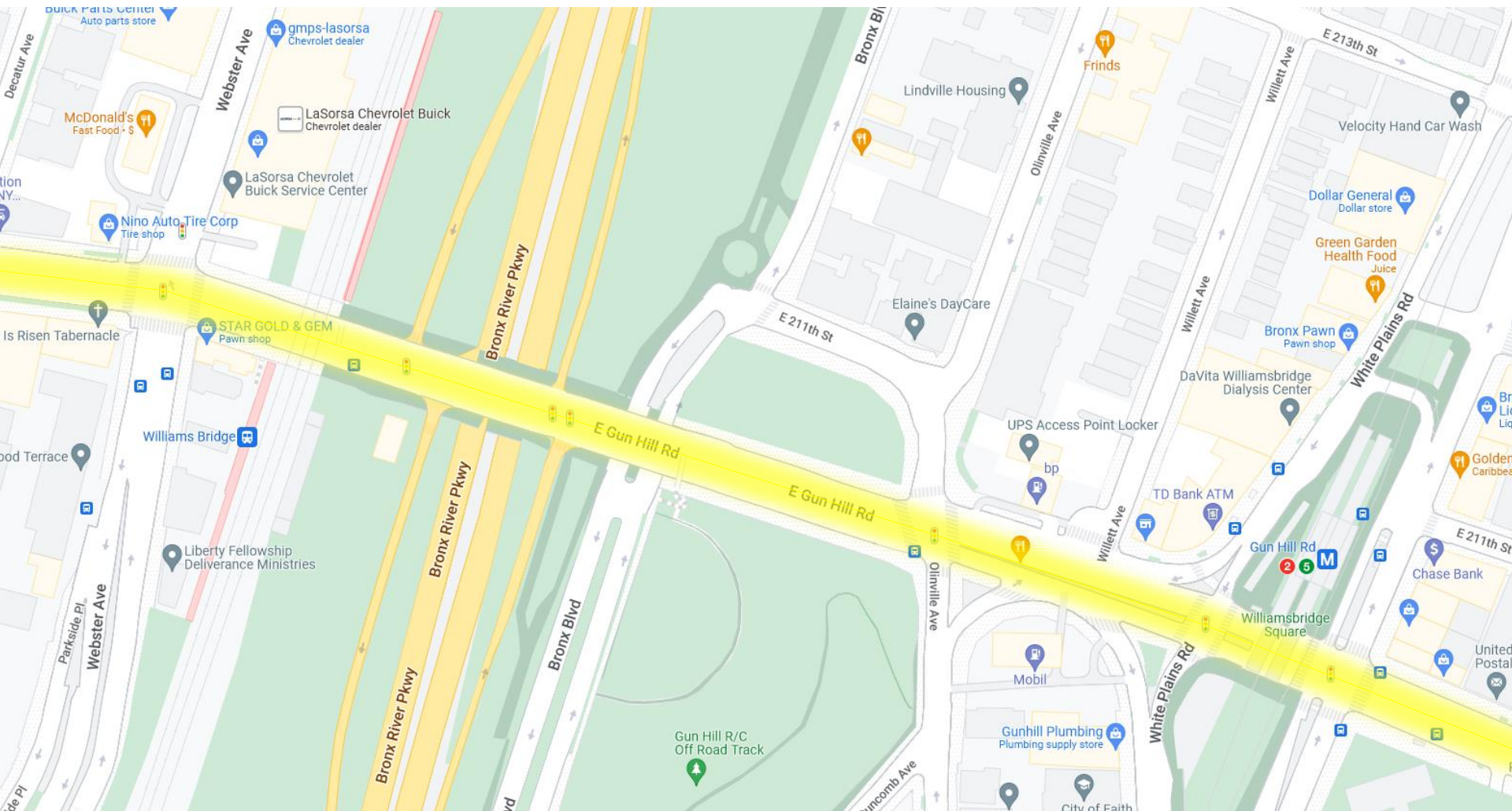
- How does Gun Hill Rd operate right now? What works & doesn't work?
- What issues do you see on Gun Hill Rd?
- Which DOT and MTA tools sound most useful?
- What role can DOT and MTA take to make Gun Hill Rd work better?



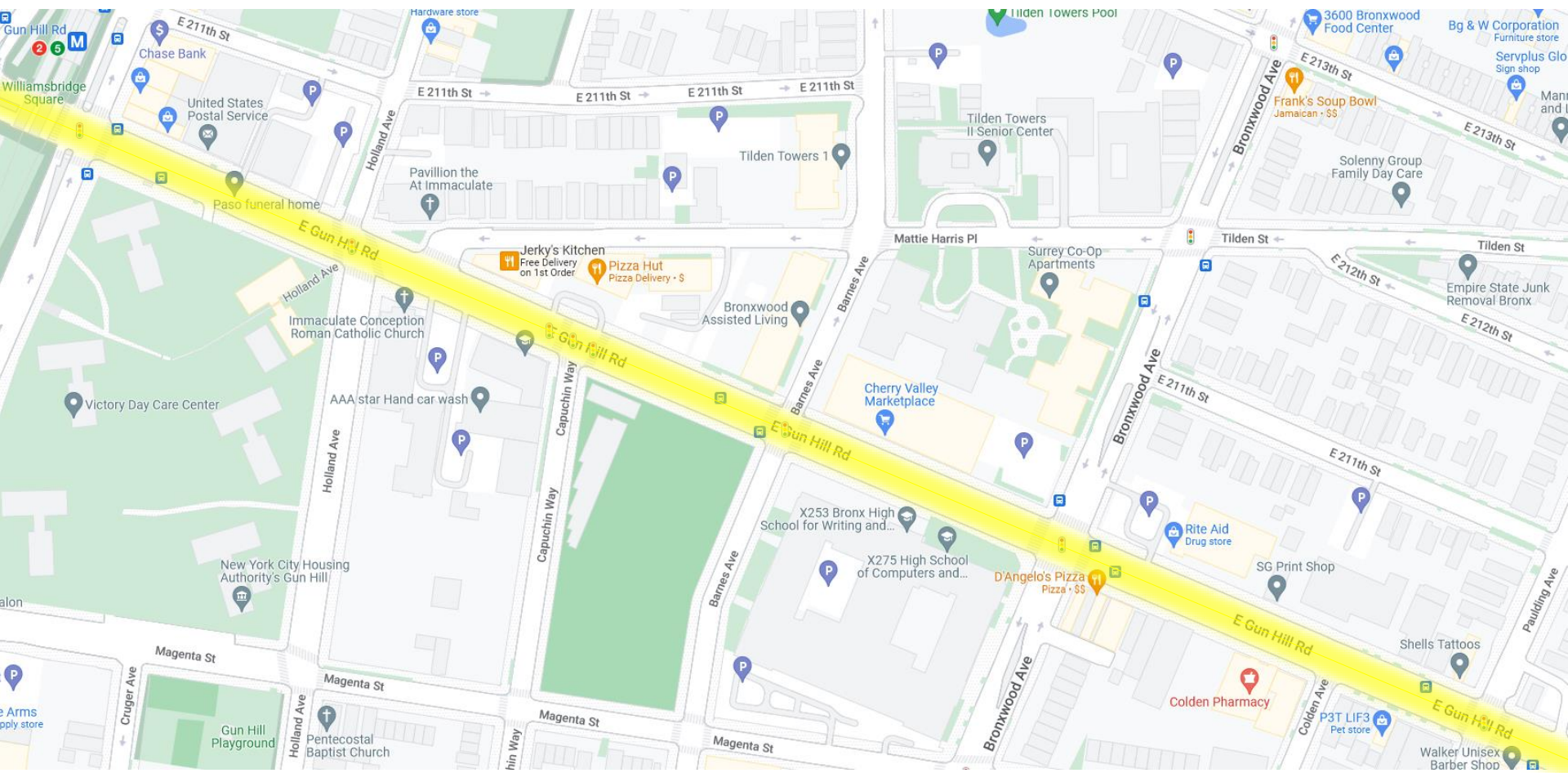
# Section 1: Dekalb Av to Webster Av



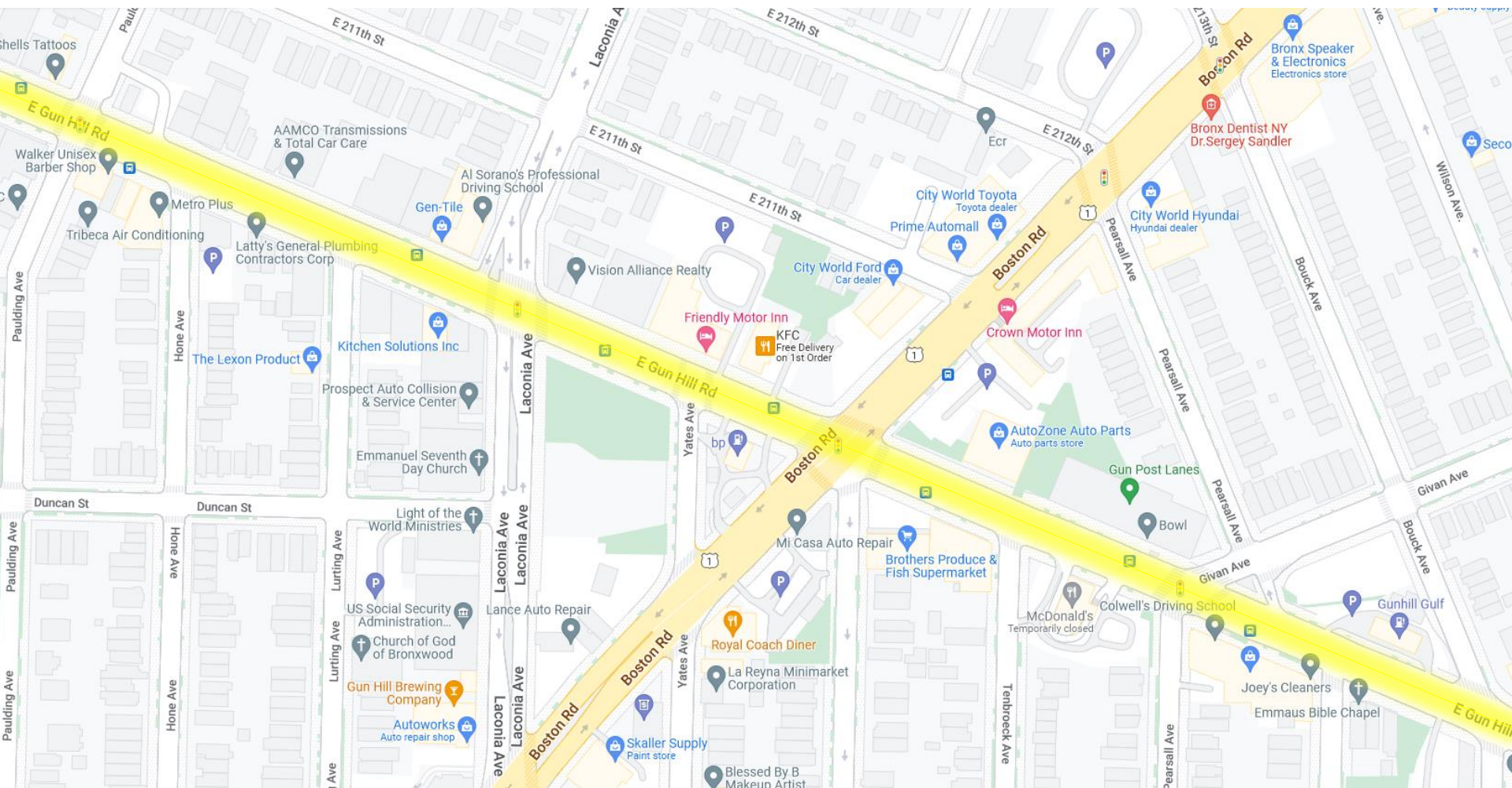
## Section 2: Webster Av to White Plains Rd



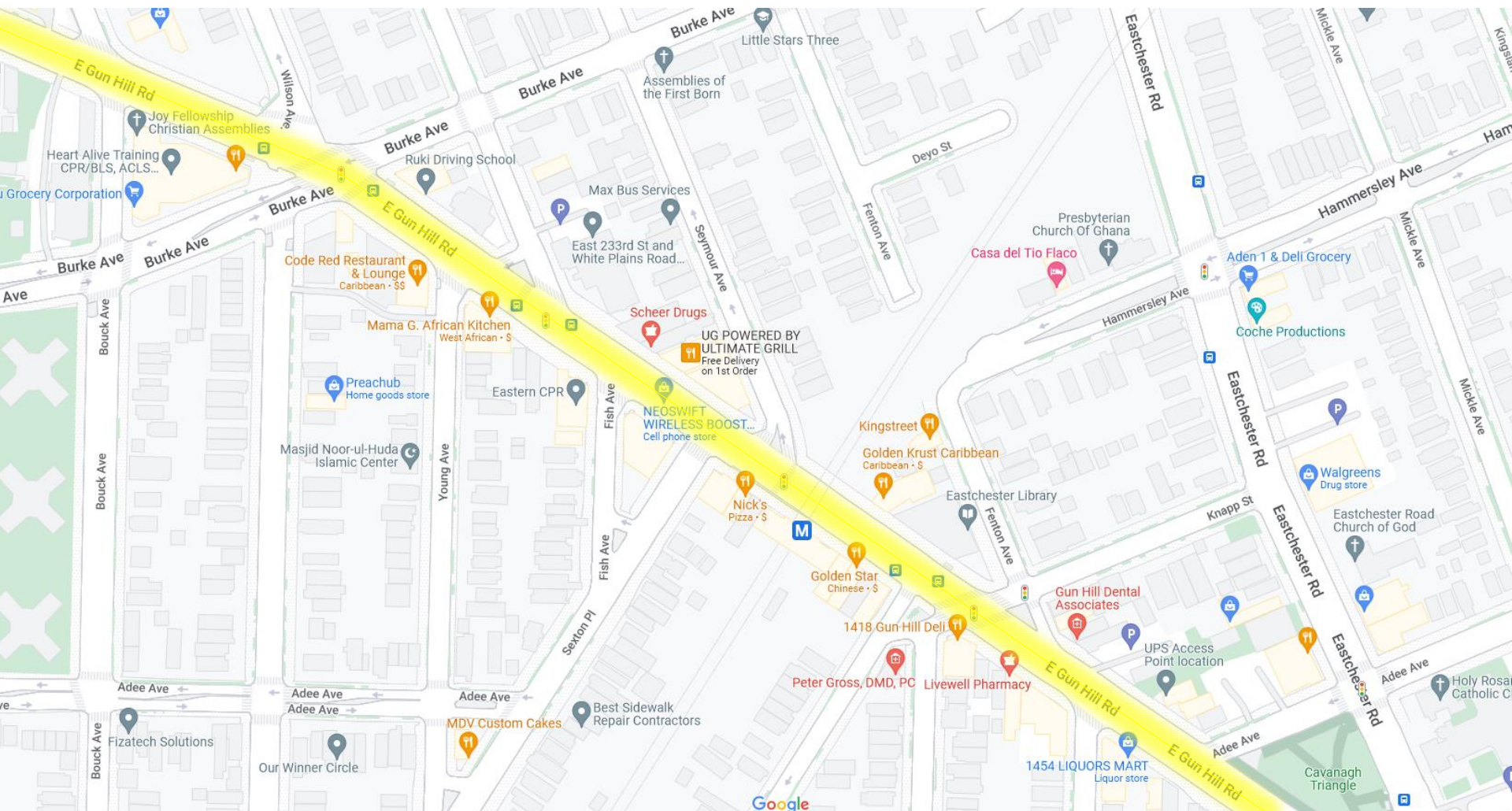
## Section 3: White Plains Rd to Paulding Av



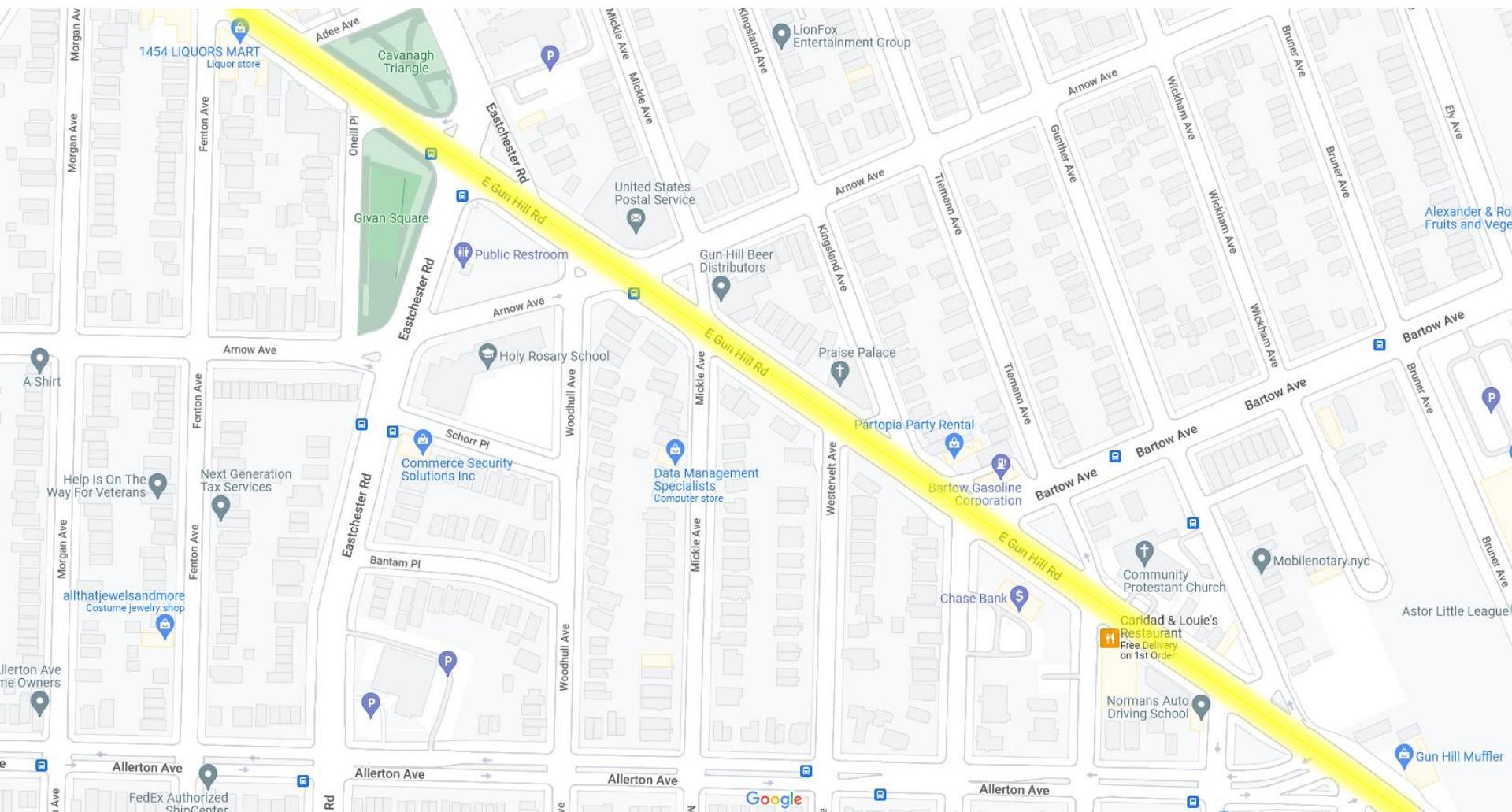
# Section 4: Paulding Av to Bouck Av



# Section 5: Bouck Av to Adee Av



# Section 6: Adee Av to Allerton Av



# Thank You!

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## Questions?



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