

Gun Hill Rd Bus & Pedestrian Improvements

Community Board 7 Transportation Committee

April 7, 2022



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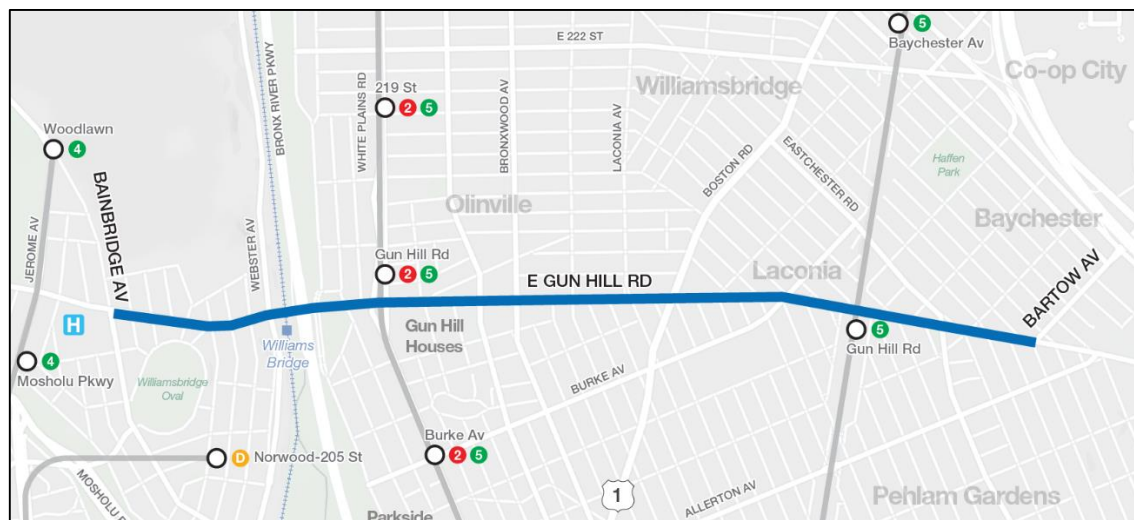
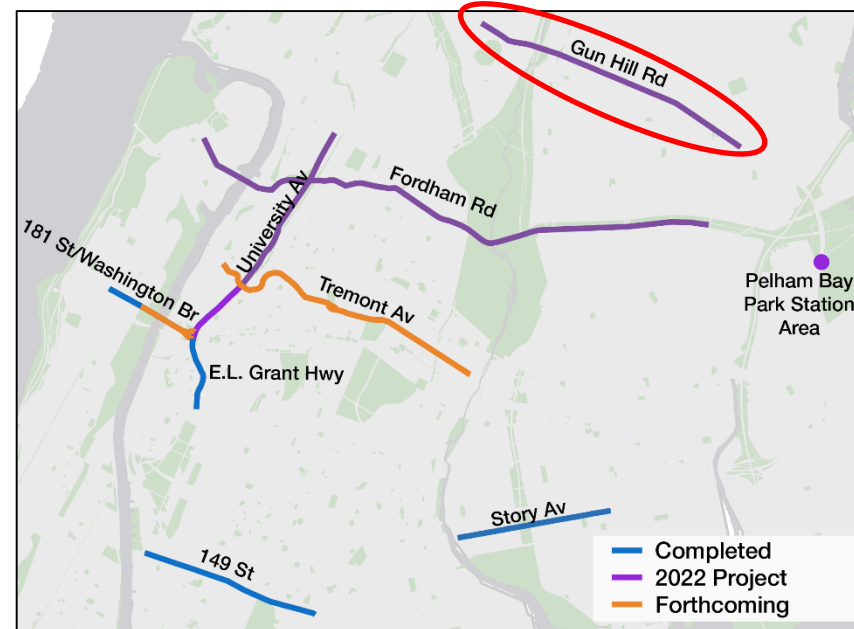
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Introduction & Existing Conditions

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

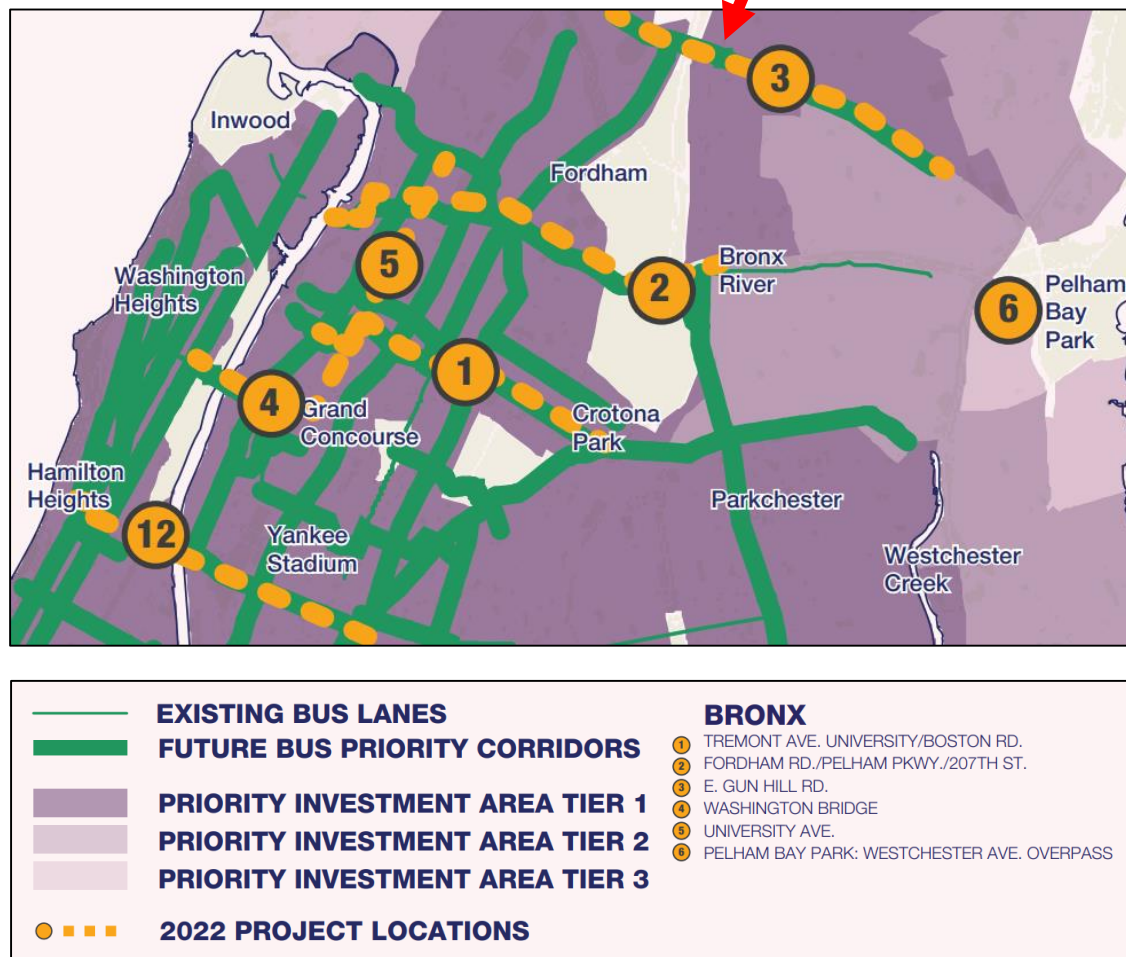


NYC Streets Plan

Transit goals of the Streets Plan:

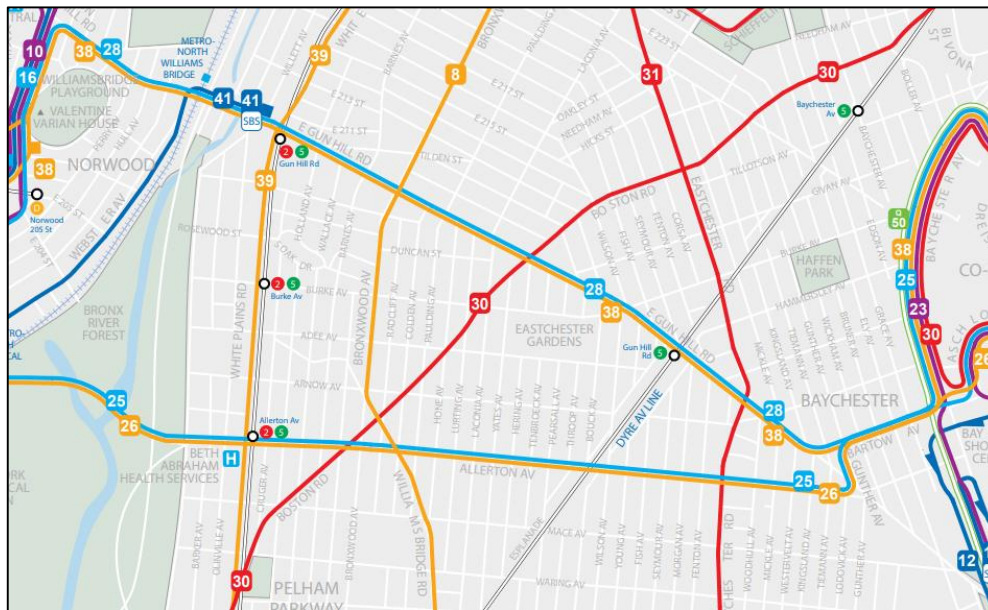
1. **Increase sustainable travel modes** by reconfiguring streets and making more attractive choices available for New Yorkers to support the continued growth of NYC while reducing congestion and emissions
2. **Expand access to job opportunities** and encourage job creation through faster and more reliable 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

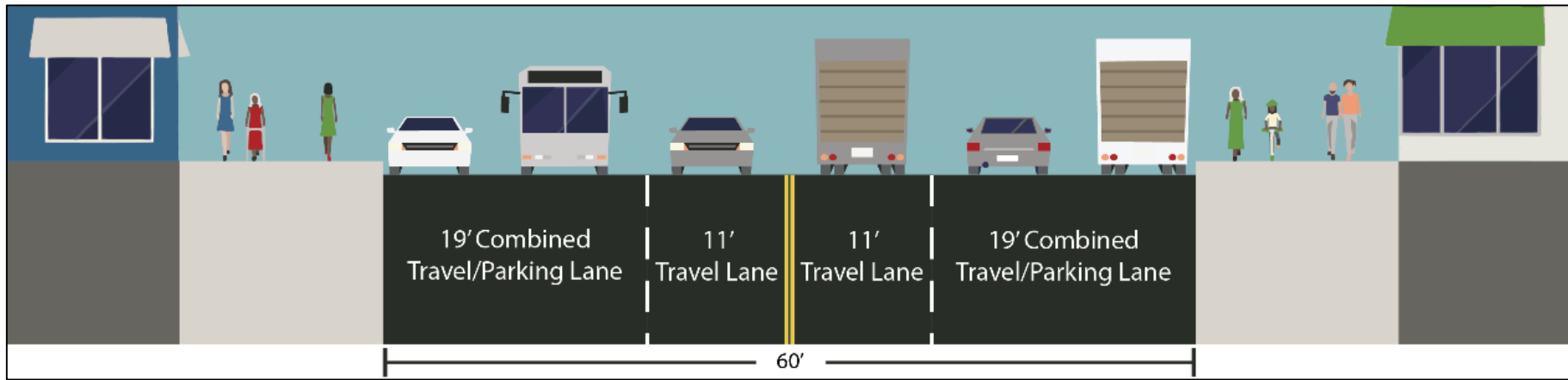
- Borough-wide plan to improve local, limited, and Select Bus Service routes throughout the Bronx
- Summer 2022 implementation
 - New Bx30 service on Boston Rd south of Gun Hill Rd
 - Improved Bx28/38 frequencies; combined 8 min or better on weekdays, 5-6 minutes in rush hours
- Extensive outreach including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



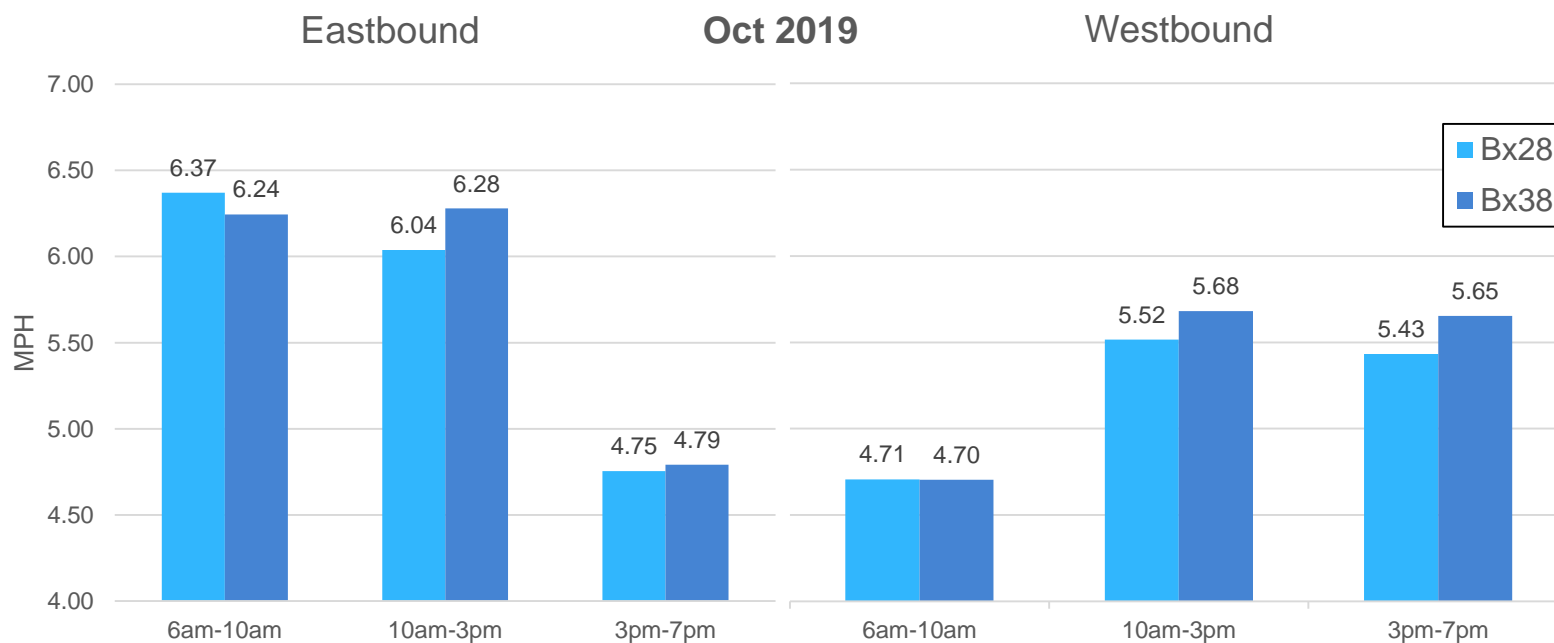
Double Parking

- 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



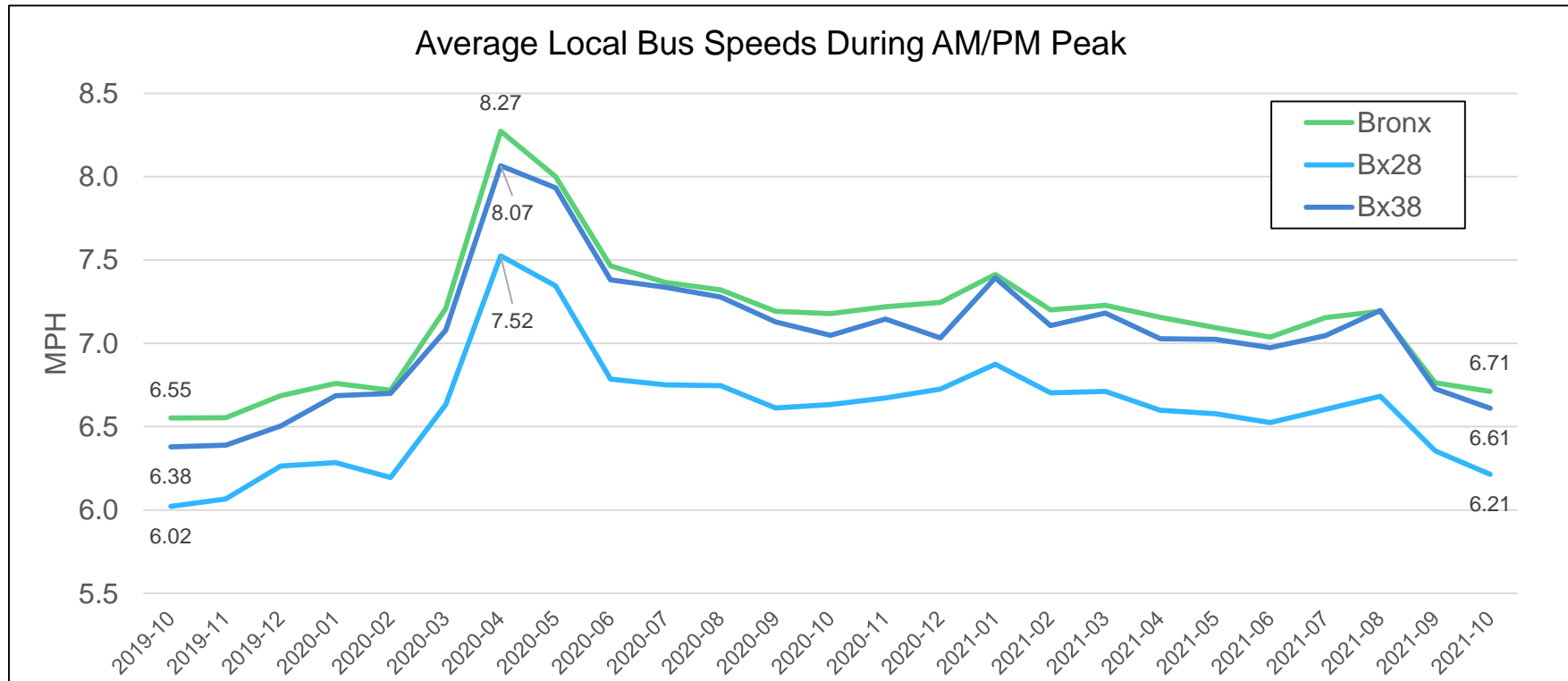
Gun Hill Rd Bus Speeds

- 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

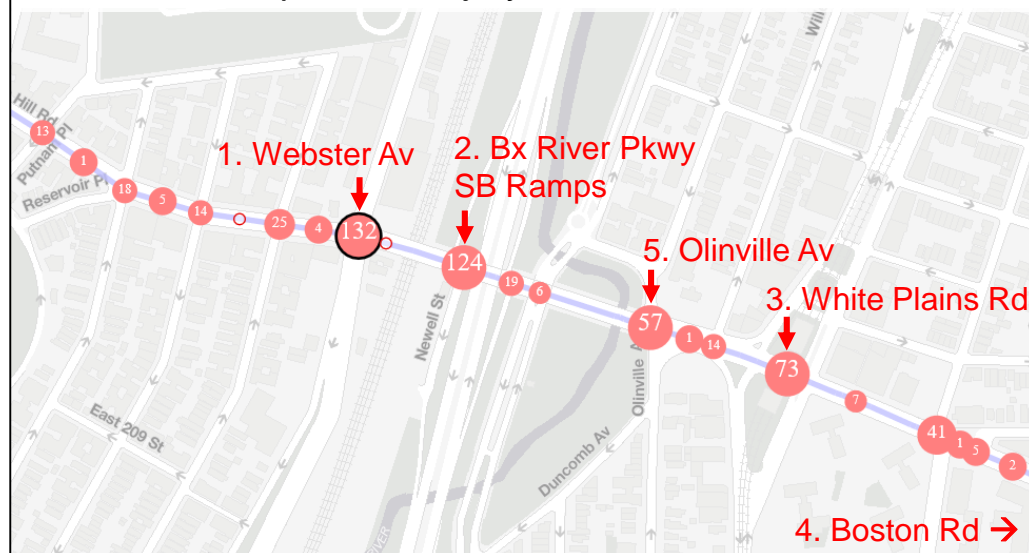


Crash History

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



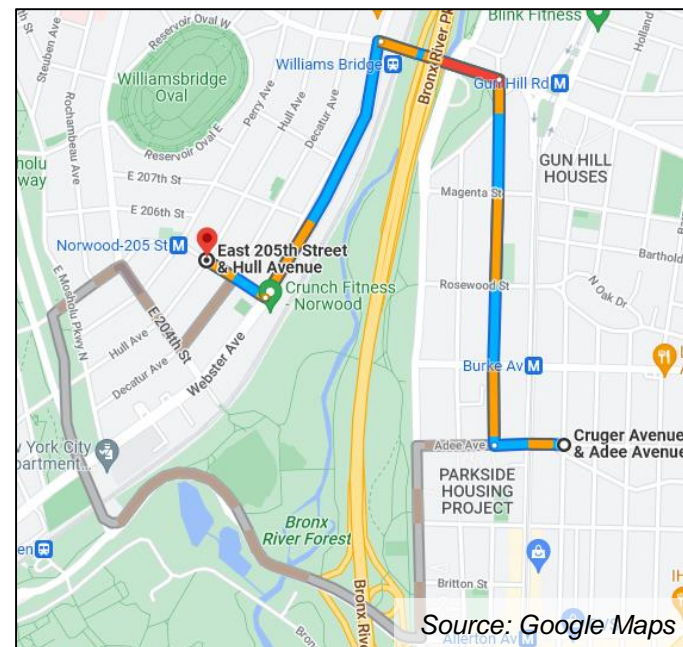
Goals & Challenges

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



Offset Bus Lane

Webster Ave, Bx



Center Bus Lane/
Physical Protection

161st St, Bx



Busway/Transit & Truck Priority

181st St, MN



Curbside Bus Lane

Fordham Rd, Bx



Queue Jump Signal

EL Grant Hwy, Bx

Bus Stops Toolkit



Webster Av, Bx



Southern Blvd, Bx



167th St, Bx

Pedestrian Safety Toolkit



Pedestrian Island

Fordham Rd, Bx



Bus Boarding Island

EL Grant Hwy, Bx



Median Extension

149th St, Bx



Painted Curb Extension

Longwood Av, Bx

Parking Toolkit

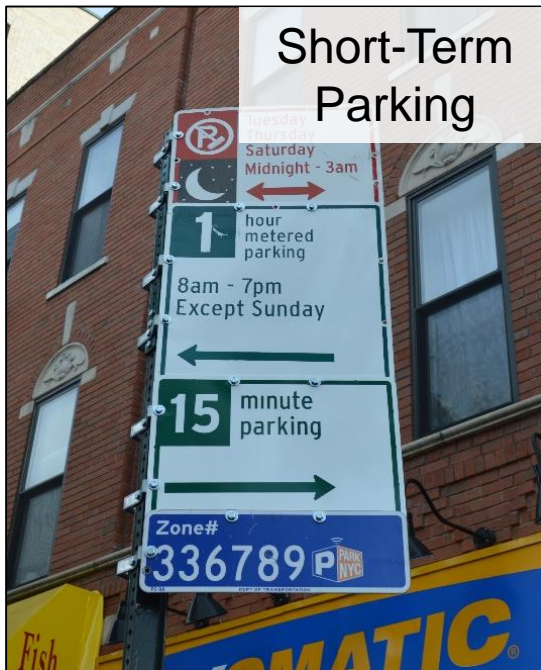
Parking Meters



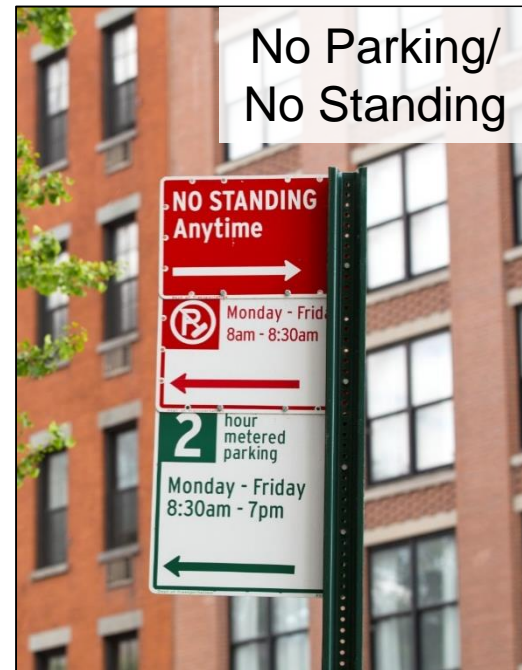
Truck Loading Zones



Short-Term Parking



No Parking/ No Standing



Other Tools

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

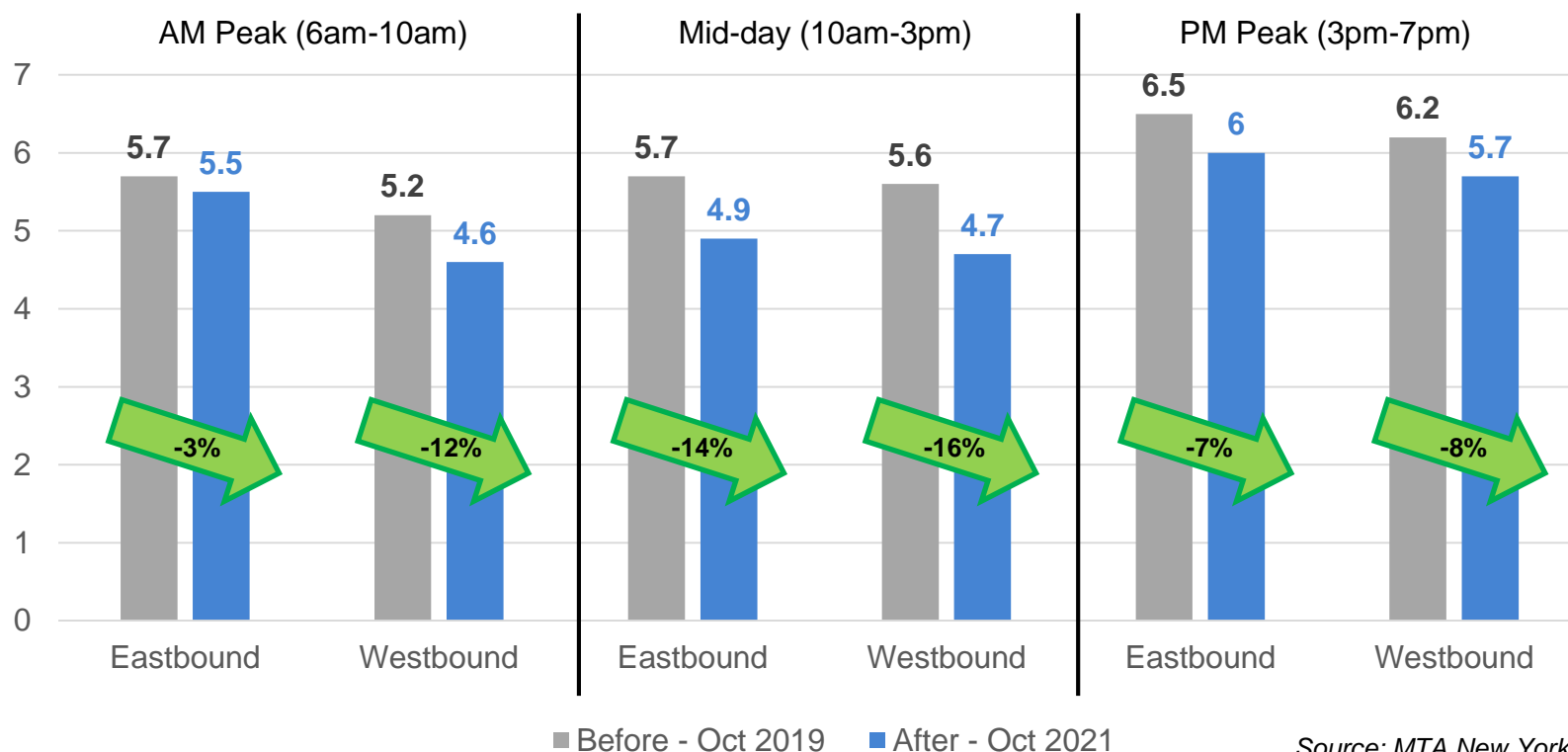


Past Projects: EL Grant Hwy, Bx

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



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



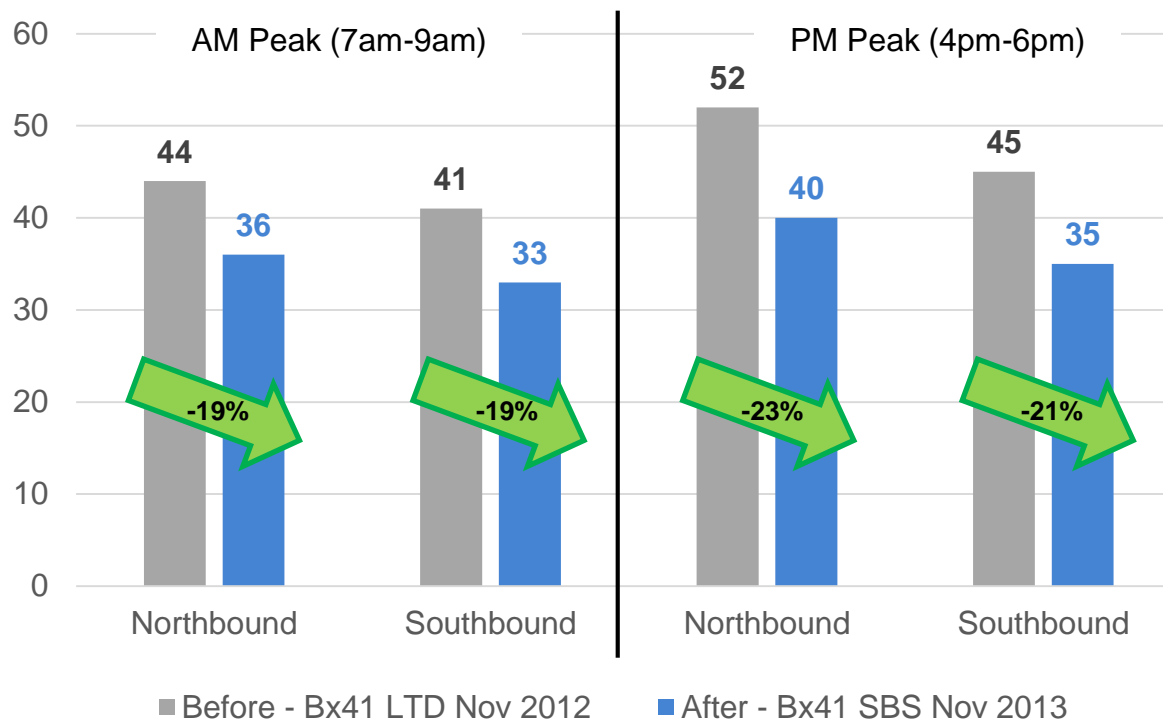
Source: MTA New York City Transit

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)



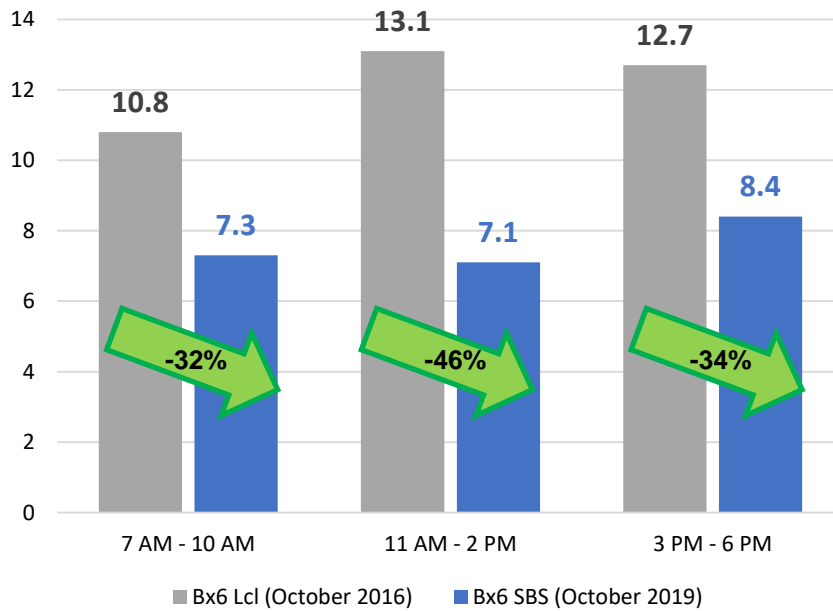
Source: MTA New York City Transit

Past Projects: 161st St, Bx (Jerome Av to Melrose Av)

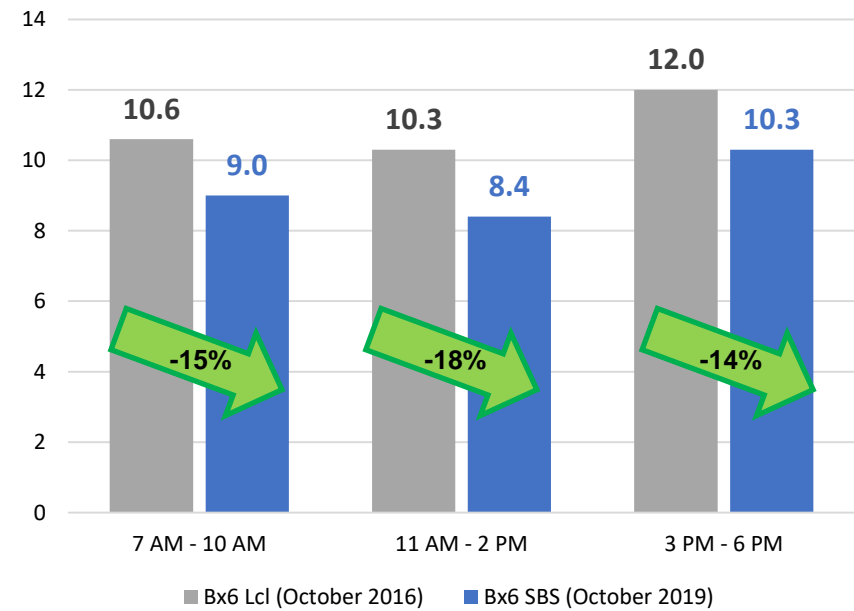
- Select Bus Service with center-running busway, including an EB bus-only tunnel under Grand Conc., + off-board fare collection
- **32-46% faster EB and 14-18% faster WB**



Eastbound Bus Travel Time (Minutes)



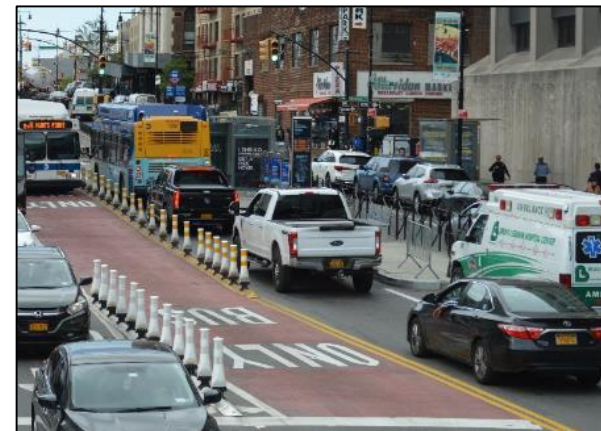
Westbound Bus Travel Time (Minutes)



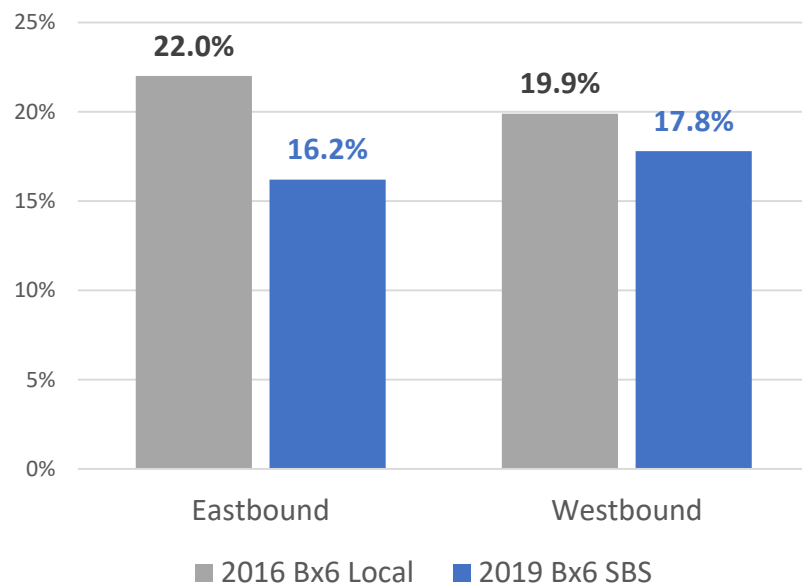
Source: MTA New York City Transit

Past Projects: 161st/163rd St, Bx (Full Corridor)

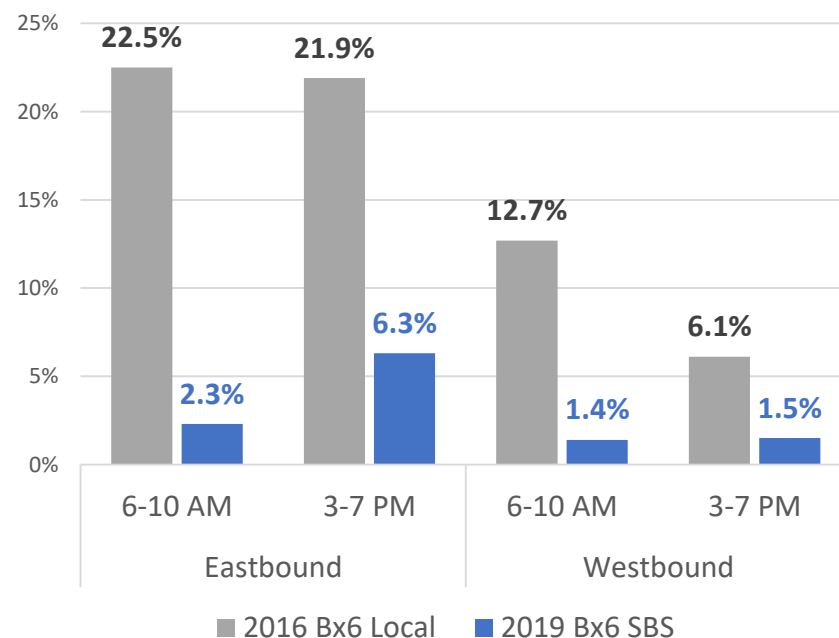
- Improved on-time performance in both directions
- Reduced bus bunching in both directions



% 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

Open Discussion

- 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?

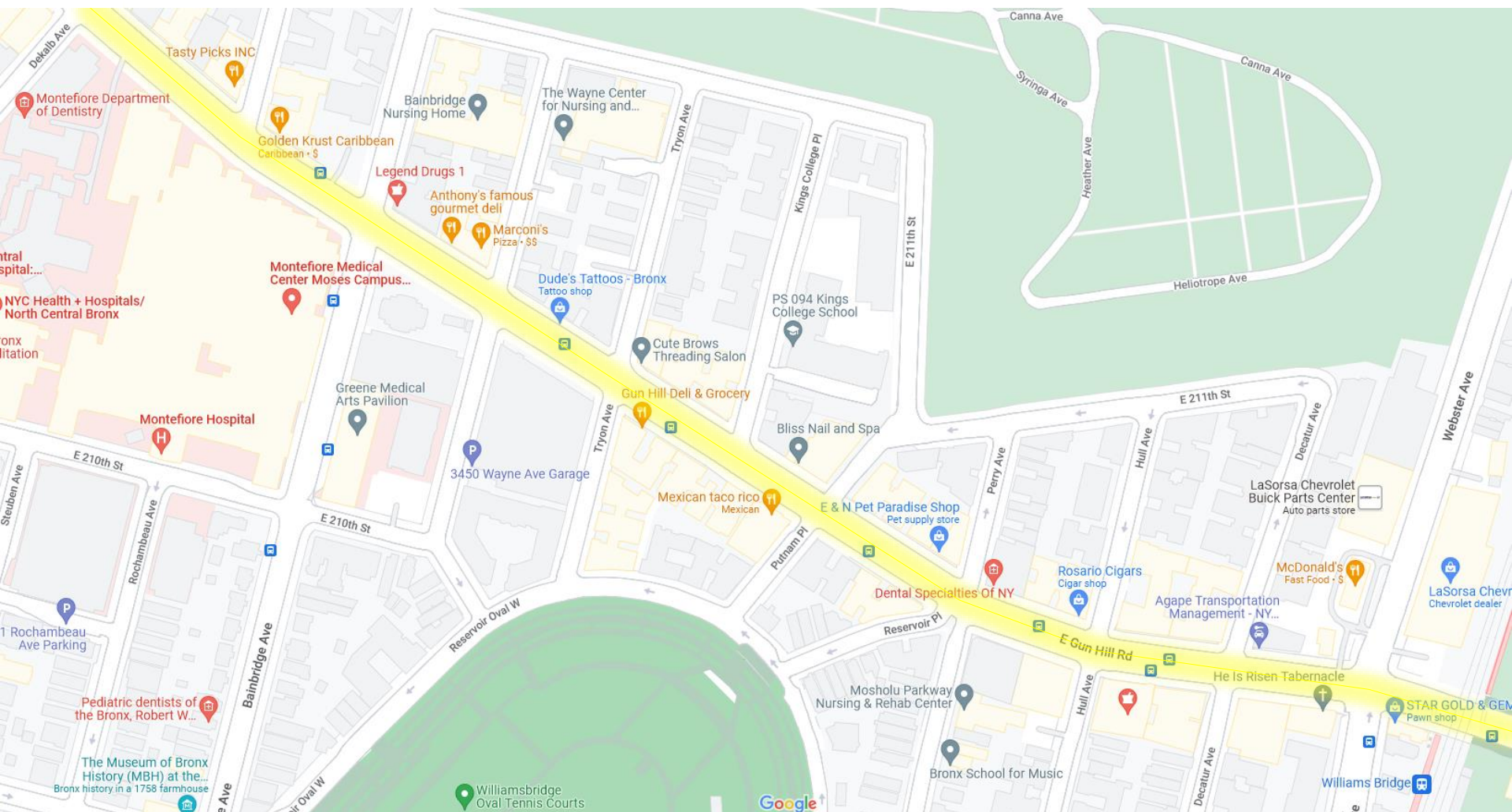


Gun Hill Rd & White Plains Rd

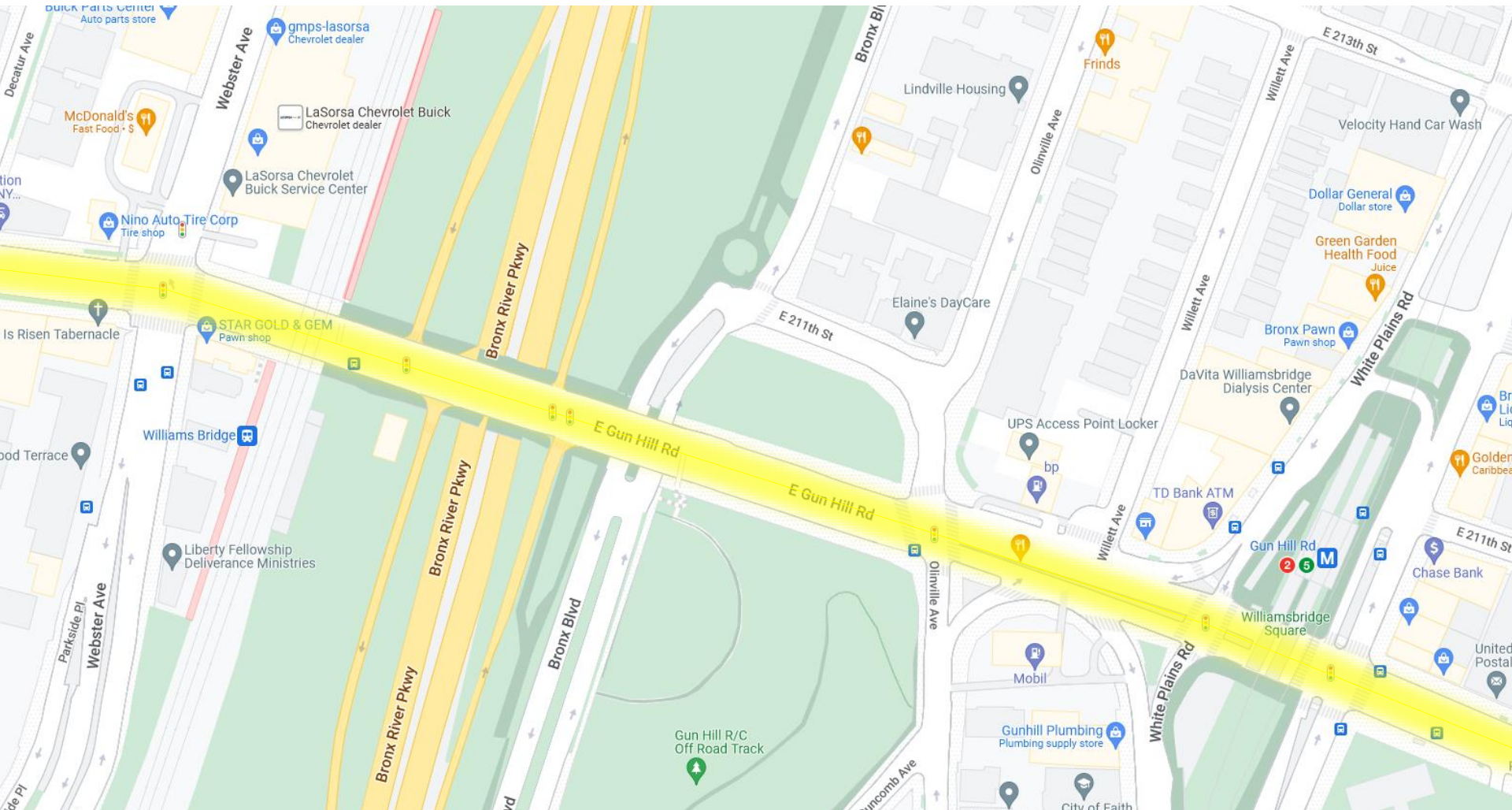


Gun Hill Rd & Boston Rd

Section 1: Dekalb Av to Webster Av



Section 2: Webster Av to White Plains Rd



Thank You!

Questions?



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