Gun Hill Rd Bus & Pedestrian Improvements

Community Board 7 Transportation Committee

March 2nd, 2023







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Introduction

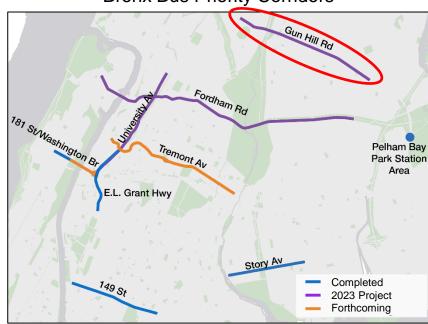


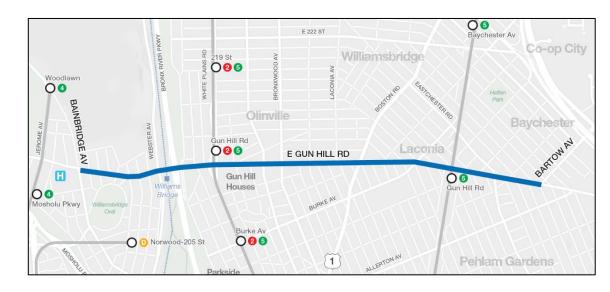


Bronx Bus Priority Corridors

Why Gun Hill Road?

- 40,000 daily bus passengers
- Critical crosstown service with key connections to 2 5 D, many local bus routes, Montefiore Hospital, Co-Op City, Bay Plaza
- MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign (implemented 2022)
 - 50+ outreach events
 - Community requests to improve Gun Hill Rd bus service
 - Named 1 of 10 key
 Bronx corridors for bus priority



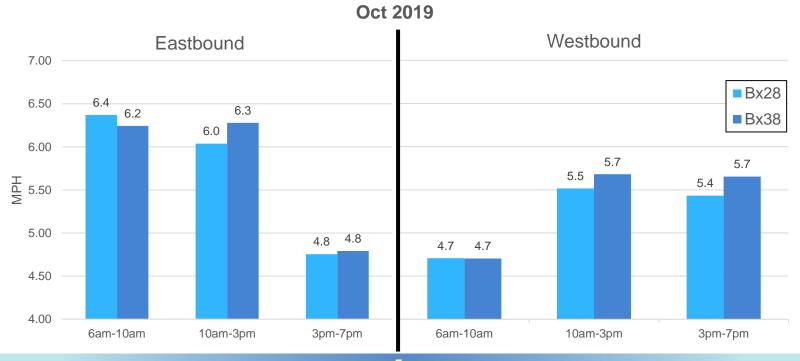






Gun Hill Rd Bus Speeds

- 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
- Only 65% of Bx28/38 trips completed within 5 min of scheduled time



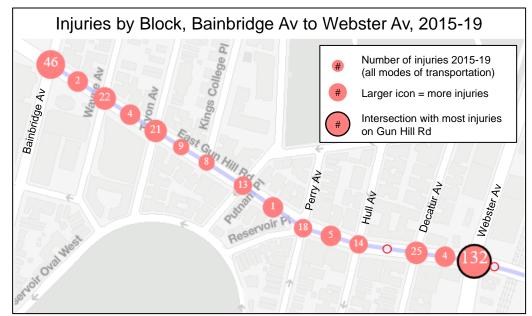




Crash History

Injuries & Fatalities 2015-2019

- On average, nearly 5 people every week are injured in crashes on Gun Hill Rd (Bainbridge Av to Bartow Av)
 - 324 injuries between
 Bainbridge Av and Webster Av
- 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









Community Feedback: On-Street Outreach

DOT held public outreach pop-ups and had conversations with over 100 bus riders & community members

- Wed, May 18 Gun Hill Rd & Bainbridge Ave
- Fri, May 20 Gun Hill Rd & White Plains Rd
- Mon, May 23 Gun Hill Rd & Knapp St (5 train)











On-Street Outreach

Popular requests:

- Faster service
- More frequent, consistent service
- Less crowding on buses

Bus lanes can address all of these





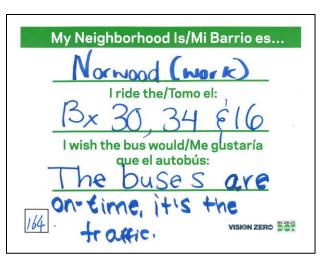


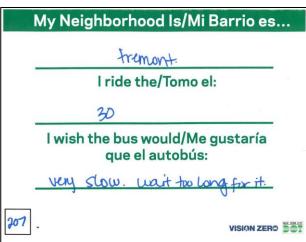


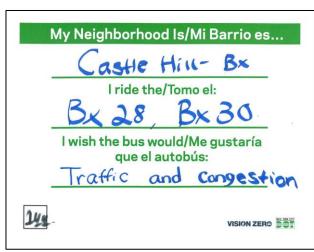




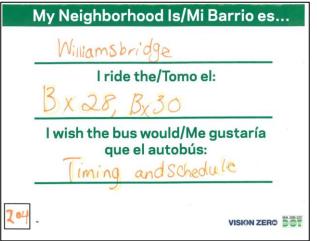
On-Street Outreach: More Feedback

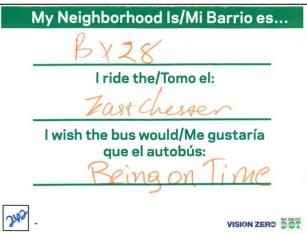
















Goals & Challenges

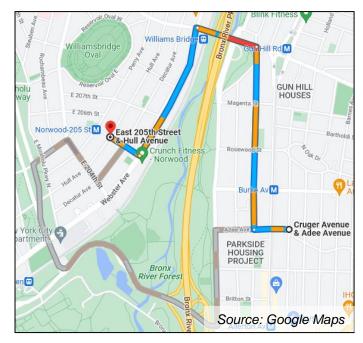
Goals:

- Make bus service fast, reliable and on-time
- Reduce crashes, injuries & fatalities
- Organize traffic movements

Challenges:

- Traffic congestion & double parking
- Broken street grid
- Bronx River Pkwy bottleneck









Design





Corridor Segments

Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

- Westbound center-running bus lane with 2 bus boarding islands
- Eastbound offset bus lane
- Implementation in Spring 2023

2. White Plains Rd to Bartow Av

- Offset bus lanes in both directions
- Pedestrian safety improvements at 20+ intersections
- Implementation in Spring 2023
- 3. Webster Av to White Plains Rd (Bronx River Pkwy area)
 - 2 painted curb extensions will be implemented in <u>Spring 2023</u>
 - Bus priority proposal coming soon; <u>implementation in late 2023/2024</u>

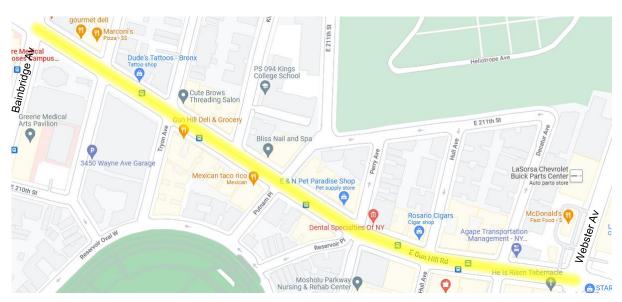






Segment 1: Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

- Westbound center-running bus lane with 2 bus boarding islands
- Eastbound offset bus lane
- Safety improvements at 4 intersections
- Curb regulation & bus stop improvements
- Implementation in Spring 2023
 - Slight design changes may arise in implementation







Segment 1: Toolkit







161st St, BX

Kings Hwy, BK



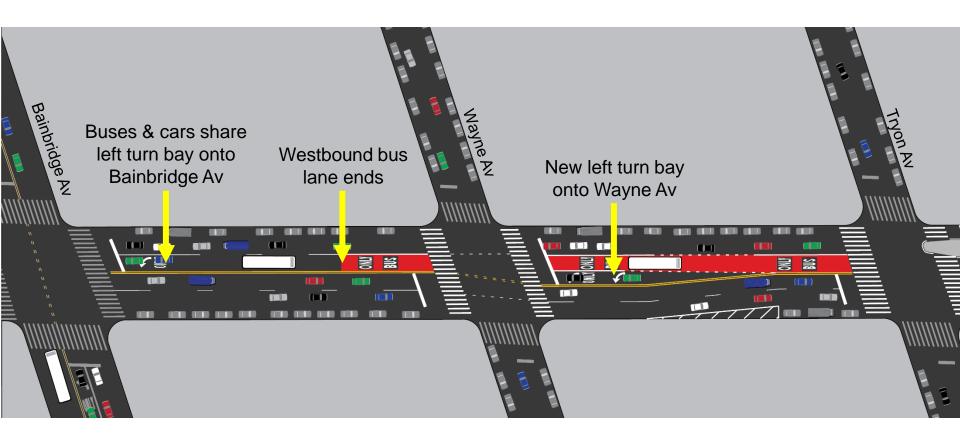








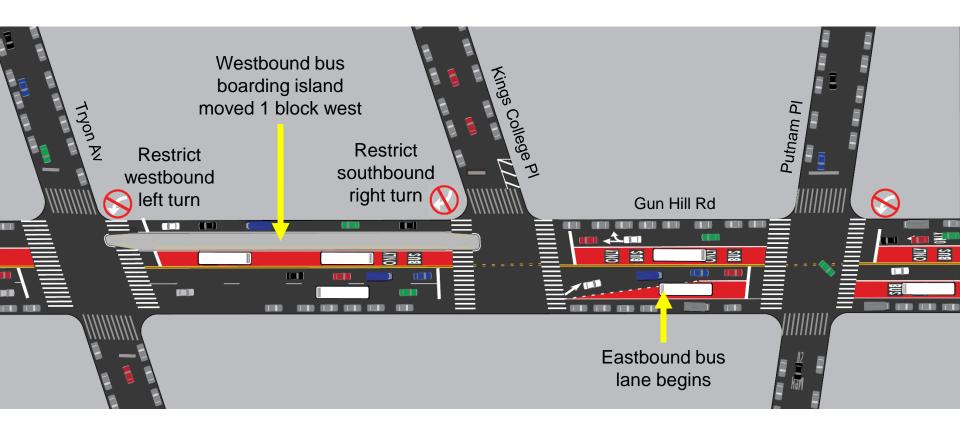
Bainbridge Av to Tryon Av







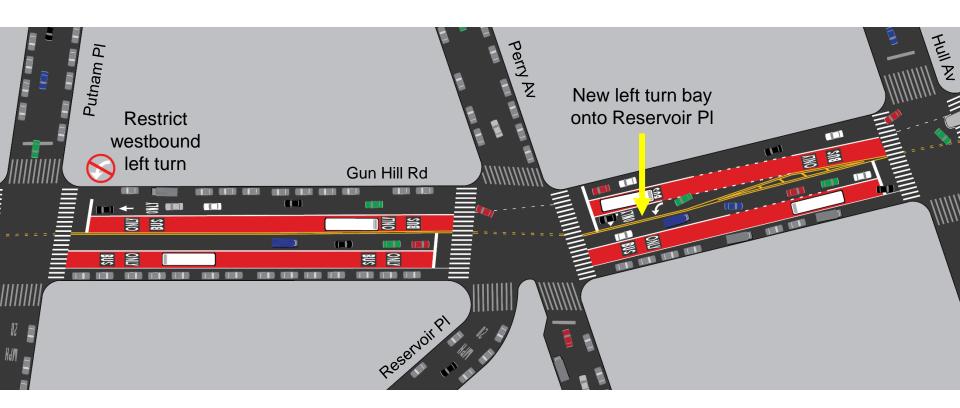
Tryon Av to Putnam PI







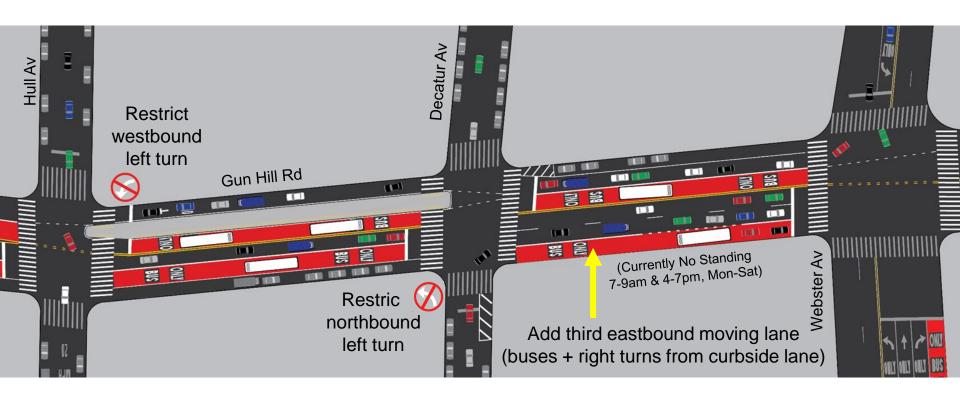
Putnam PI to Hull Av







Hull Av to Webster Av

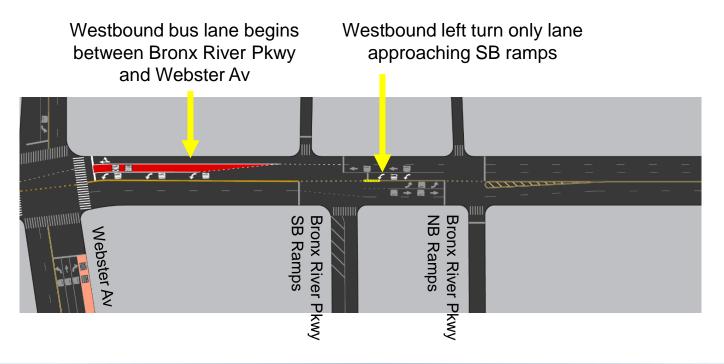






Webster Av to Bronx River Pkwy

- Implement beginning of WB bus lane, left turn lane in <u>Spring 2023</u>
 - Organizes traffic and buses before center-running bus lane begins
- Implement remainder of this section in <u>Late 2023/2024</u>
 - Currently researching potential improvements; proposal coming soon

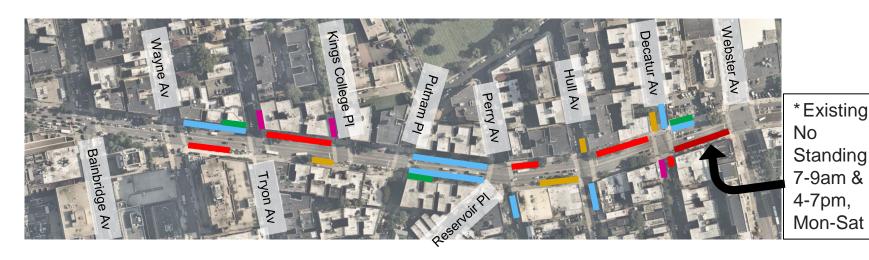






Curb Regulations: Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

- Repurpose 31 full-time parking spaces to accommodate bus boarding islands, left turn bays
 - Plus 8 spaces where parking is currently allowed off-peak hours only*
- Add 12 new spaces in former bus stops
- 4 truck loading zones (13 spaces) + 3 residential loading zones (6 spaces)
 - These spaces available for resident parking off-hours
- 49 newly metered spaces on blocks with businesses
 - Ensure parking availability & reduce double parking







Traffic Analysis: What to Expect Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

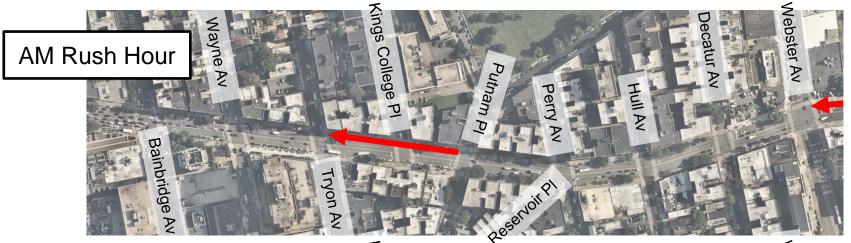
- Initially, notable congestion is likely as drivers adjust to Gun Hill Rd's new design
- This is typical for bus lane projects; conditions will improve over time
 - Some drivers will use alternate routes, travel at less busy times of day, or use other means of travel
- During AM & PM rush hour:
 - With 10% fewer vehicles (1.5 per minute), traffic would be comparable to today
- Gun Hill Rd will receive substantially more green time, benefiting traffic
 - Pedestrians still have 30+ seconds to cross Gun Hill Rd (down from 50 seconds)
- We will monitor traffic during and after implementation and will consider additional changes as needed

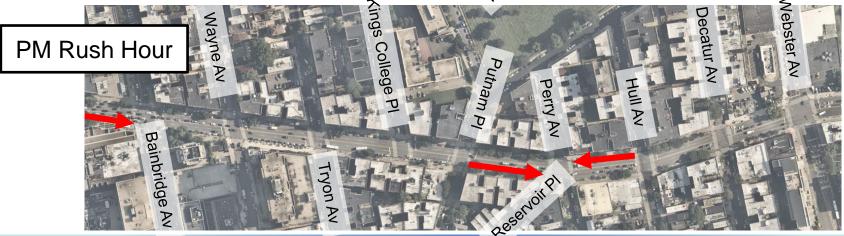




Traffic Hotspots: Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

Potential traffic hotspot locations for additional monitoring:



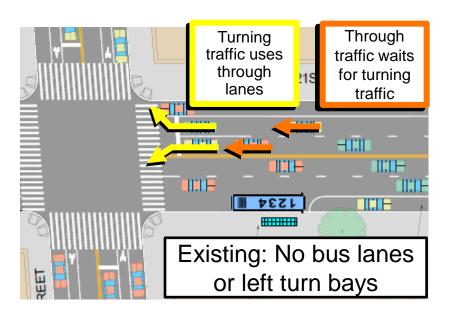


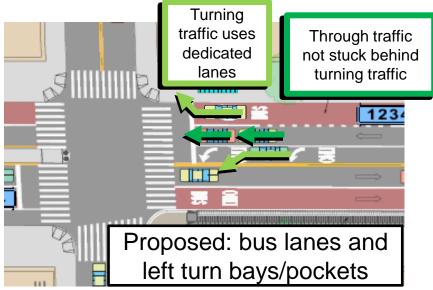




Traffic Accommodations: Bainbridge Av to Webster Av

- 1. Left turn bays
- Left turn restrictions
- 3. Curb regulation improvements to reduce double parking
- 4. Third eastbound moving lane (curbside bus lane) from Decatur Av to Webster Av
- 5. All vehicles use offset/curbside bus lane to turn right or access a driveway
- 6. Signal timing improvements



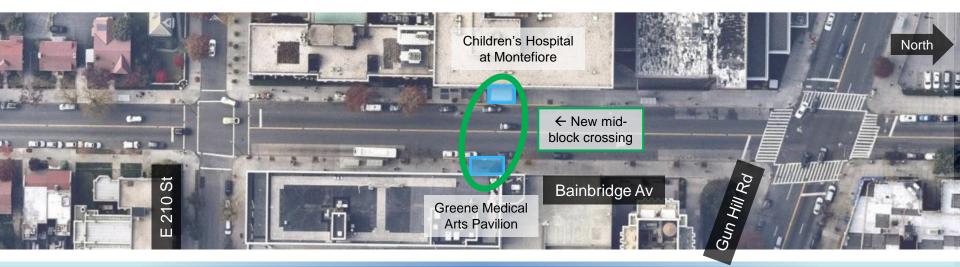






Bainbridge Av Mid-Block Crossing

- New, signalized & marked, mid-block crossing
- Connects main entrances of Children's Hospital (3415 Bainbridge Av)
 & Greene Medical Arts Pavilion (3400 Bainbridge Av)
- Implementation: traffic & pedestrian signals in Winter 2023, roadway markings in Spring 2023







Bainbridge Av Bus Stop Changes

- Busy bus corridor serving 6 routes
- Currently, southbound buses stop twice, one block apart
- Consolidate two southbound stops to one stop at near side of 210th St
- Retain stop at far side of 210th St for BxM4 Express Bus only
- Implementation: Spring 2023

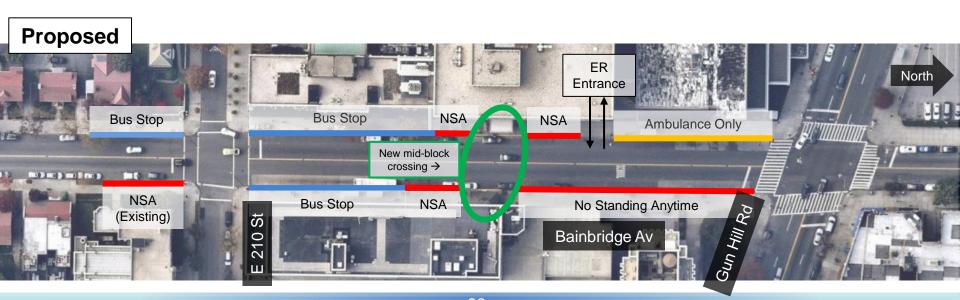






Bainbridge Av Curb Regulations

- Currently an inconsistent mix of No Standing Anytime, No Standing 7am-7pm Mon-Sat, No Parking Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Ambulette Only
- Frequent double-parking blocks entrances & traffic
- No ambulance parking area near ER entrance
- Strengthen No Standing rules & add ambulance parking near ER







Wayne Av Curb Regulations

- Narrow, 2-way street
- One double-parked vehicle can block garage access, back up traffic on Wayne Av, and cause spillbacks onto Gun Hill Rd
- Currently an inconsistent mix of No Standing Anytime, No Standing Mon-Fri 7am-7pm, alternate side parking
- Strengthen No Standing rules to reduce lane blockages, create easier access to garages and buildings





Timeline





Project Timeline

- 1. MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign (implemented 2022): 50+ outreach events
- 2. Merchant survey w/ Jerome Gun Hill BID
- 3. Field observations & traffic data
- 4. April 2022: discuss existing conditions & needs with Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Community Boards 7, 11 & 12
- 5. May/June 2022: present draft proposal to CAB and CBs
- 6. September 2022: Present updated proposal to CAB
- 7. Winter 2023: Continue refining proposal; present updated proposal to elected officials, CAB & CBs
- 8. Spring 2023: Begin implementation









Thank You!

Open Discussion & Questions











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