

Better Buses Restart: Jamaica and Archer Busways

Community Advisory Board | July 21, 2021



Agenda

1. Better Buses Restart and Background
2. 2020-2021 Outreach
3. Potential Design Concepts
4. Diversions and Traffic
5. Next Steps and Implementation

Better Buses Restart and Background

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Better Buses Restart

Recovery Plan

In June 2020, Mayor de Blasio announced a plan for fast, reliable transit service during reopening

- Buses played a vital role during the shutdown and continue to during recovery
- Good bus service needed for essential workers and attract people back to transit

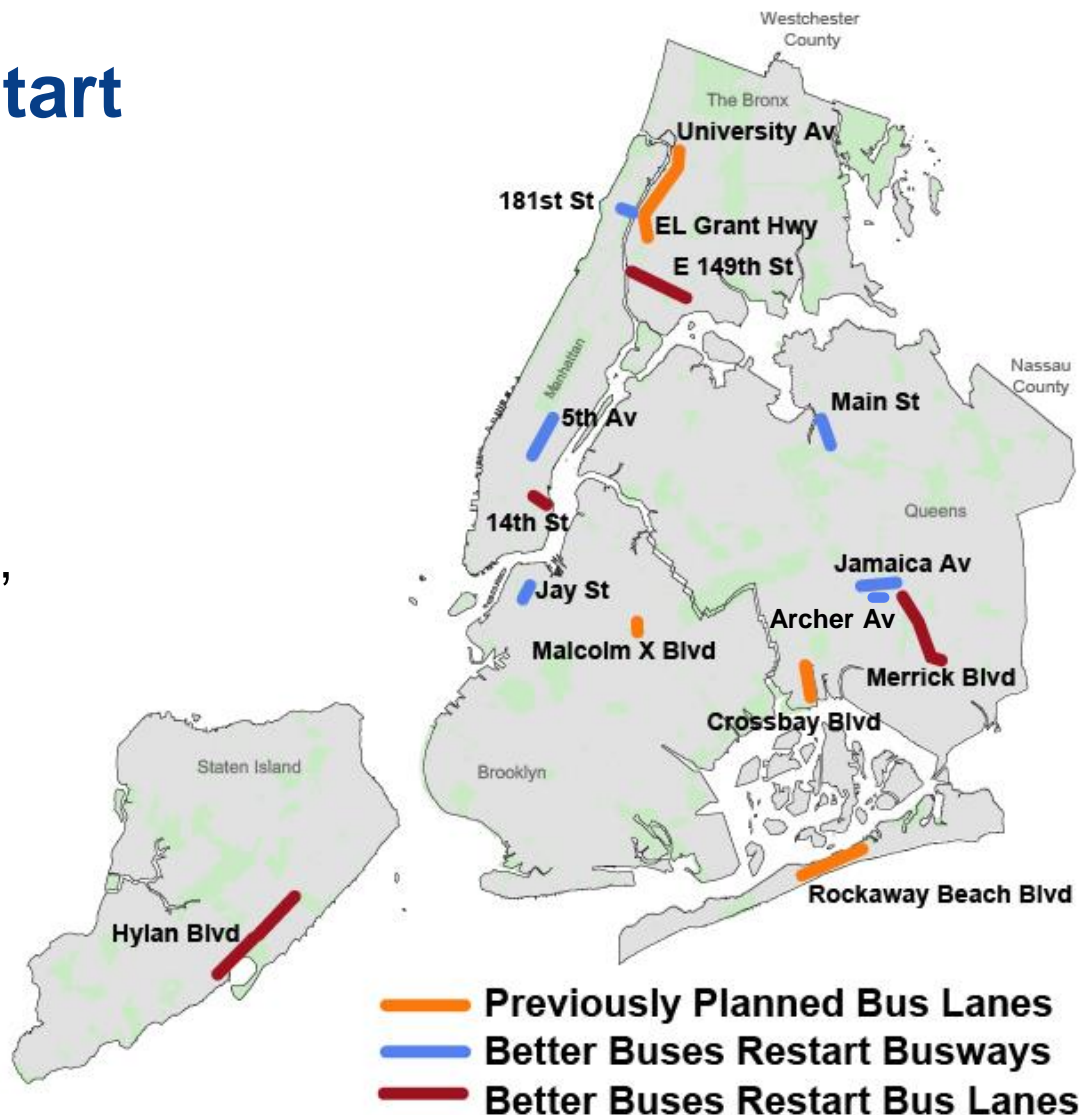


Better Buses Restart

Recovery Plan

9 busway & bus lane projects announced, focused on:

- Vulnerable populations, essential workers
- Number of bus passengers served
- Potential to implement quickly
- Geographic equity



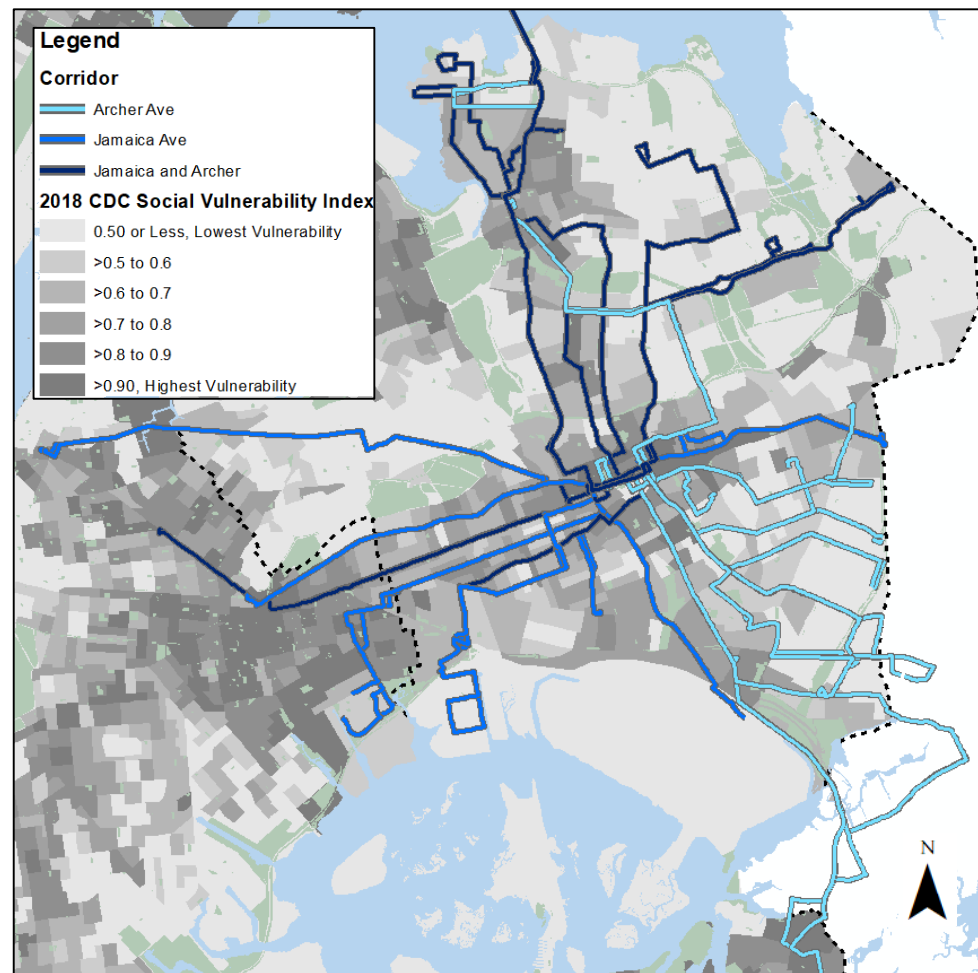
Transit in Downtown Jamaica

- Jamaica Ave and Archer Ave are some of the busiest bus corridors in the city
- Archer Ave
 - Serves 189,000 daily riders
 - 19 bus routes
 - Existing speeds of 5.7 to 6.1 MPH (PM)
- Jamaica Ave
 - Serves 139,000 daily riders
 - 14 bus routes
 - Existing speeds of 4.7 to 4.9 MPH (PM)
- Several bus routes operate on both Archer Ave and Jamaica Ave
- Congestion is a major issue for buses, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians

Transit in Downtown Jamaica

- Routes on Jamaica and Archer Aves serve both northern and southeastern Queens as well as parts of Brooklyn and The Bronx
- Many of these bus routes travel through neighborhoods that rank high on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- Communities with high vulnerability often have limited transportation options, making fast and reliable transit critical

Jamaica Ave and Archer Ave NYCT and MTA Bus Routes*



**Routes running between Sutphin Blvd & 168 St only*

2020-2021 Outreach

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Merchant Survey

- Most businesses reported difficulty loading and unloading goods
- Majority of businesses reported seeing frequent double parking throughout the corridor
- 60% of respondents currently load/unload in a no standing zone or bus stop



Shopper Survey

- 42% of respondents typically ride the bus to get to Jamaica Ave
- Transit riders reported the longest trip times among various reported modes
- 48% of respondents reported they were on Jamaica Ave to shop
- 31% of respondents work on Jamaica Ave



Today's trip to Jamaica: Average travel time (min) (Captured on day of survey)

Bus	26 min	(119)	48%	
Walk	15 min	(76)	31%	
Subway	55 min	(26)	10%	
Personal Car	18 min	(17)	7%	
Bike	11 min	(4)	2%	
Access-A-Ride	23 min	(2)	1%	
Dropped Off (Family/Friend)	35 min	(2)	1%	
Taxi/FHV	10 min	(1)	0%	
Commuter Van	15 min	(1)	0%	
LIRR	NA	(1)	0%	

How do you typically get to Jamaica Ave? (Including mode you used on day of survey)

Bus	(196)	42%	
Walk	(114)	25%	
Subway	(86)	19%	
Personal Car	(27)	6%	
Bike	(12)	3%	
Access-A-Ride	(4)	1%	
Dropped Off (Family/Friend)	(5)	1%	
Taxi/FHV	(10)	2%	
Commuter Van	(6)	1%	
LIRR	(2)	0%	
AirTrain	(2)	0%	

Outreach

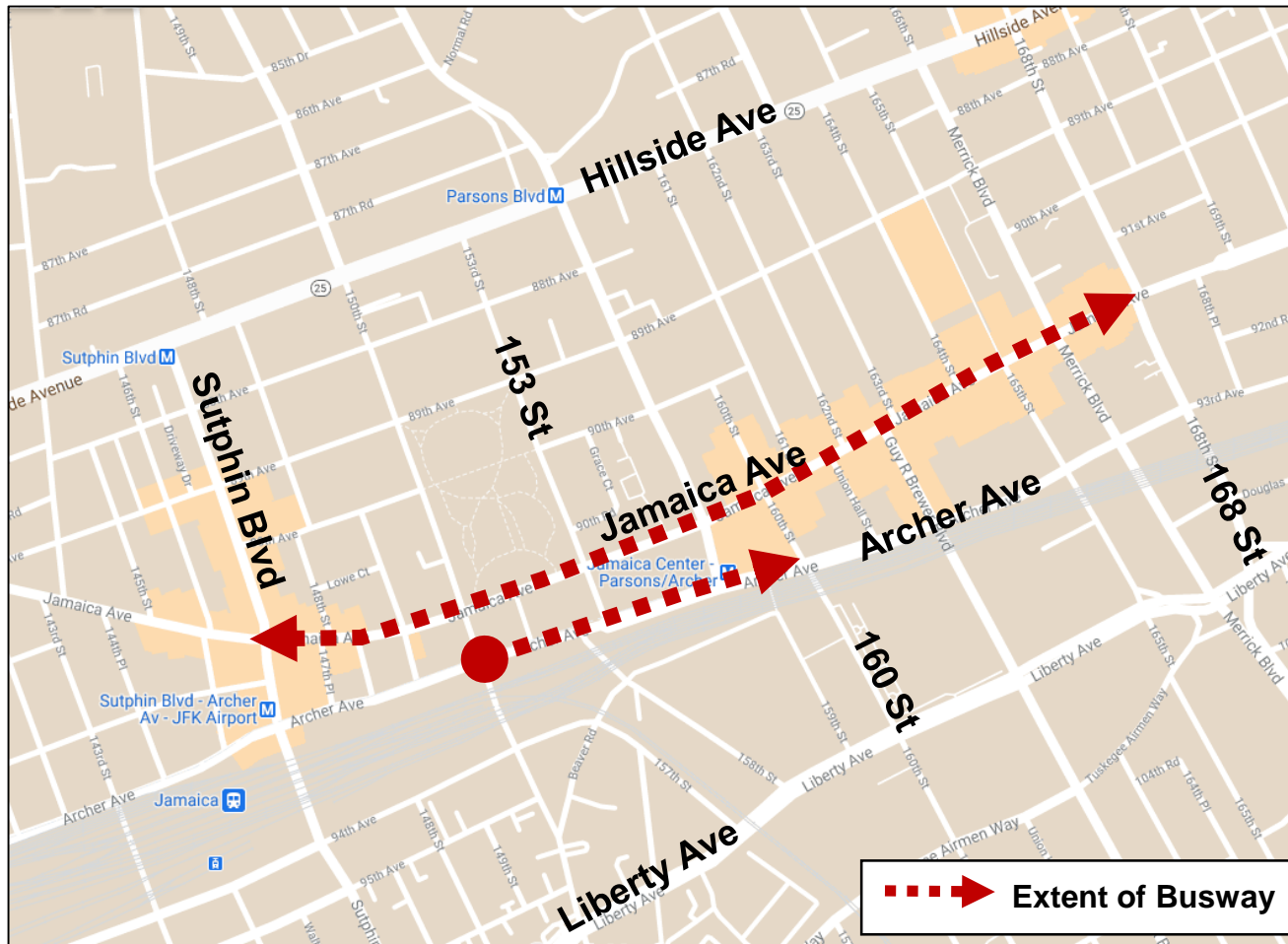
- **June 16, 2020:** Initial CM Briefings
- **June 25, 2020:** CB 12 TC Meeting
- **July 9, 2020:** CAB #1
- **July 16, 2020:** JNLC Meeting
- **August 6, 2020:** Jamaica BID Meeting
- **September 14 & 16, 2020:** Merchant Survey with Jamaica Center BID
- **October 14, 17, 19, & 21, 2020:** Shopper Survey
- **April 30, 2021:** Walkthrough with Commissioner Gutman and CM Miller
- **June 2, 2021:** Walkthrough with CM Miller
- **June 11, 2021:** Walkthrough with CM Miller and the offices of CM Gennaro, AM Hyndman, and SS Comrie
- **June 30, 2021:** Walkthrough with CB 12 TC
- **July 21, 2021:** CAB #2



Potential Design Concepts

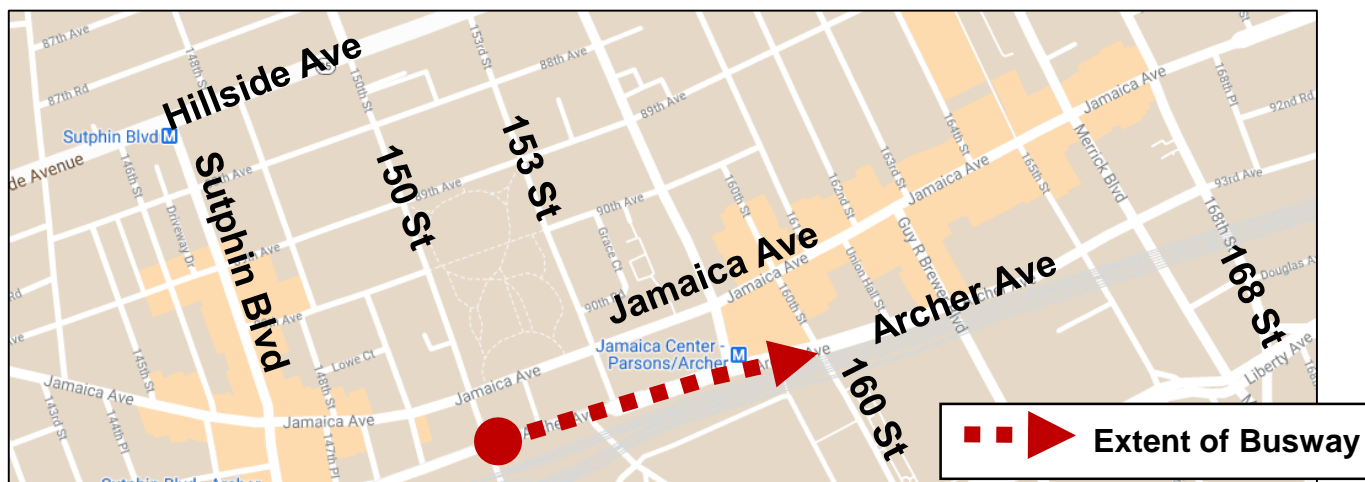
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Extent of Jamaica Ave and Archer Ave Busway Pilots



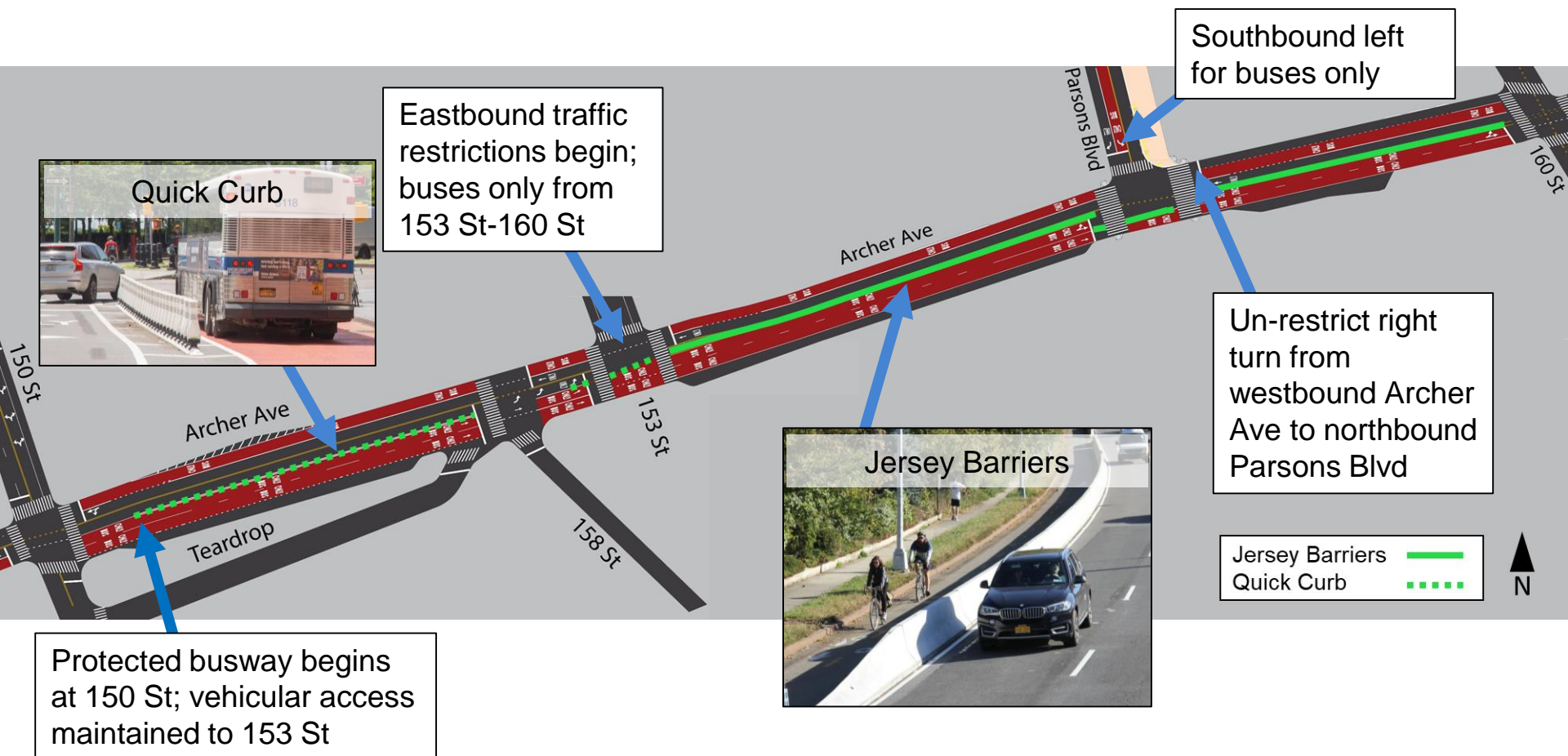
Archer Ave Busway Pilot

- Eastbound busway will begin at 150 St and extend to 160 St
- Commercial and passenger vehicles will not have curbside access between 150 St and 160 St
- Busway is proposed to be in effect 24 hours a day



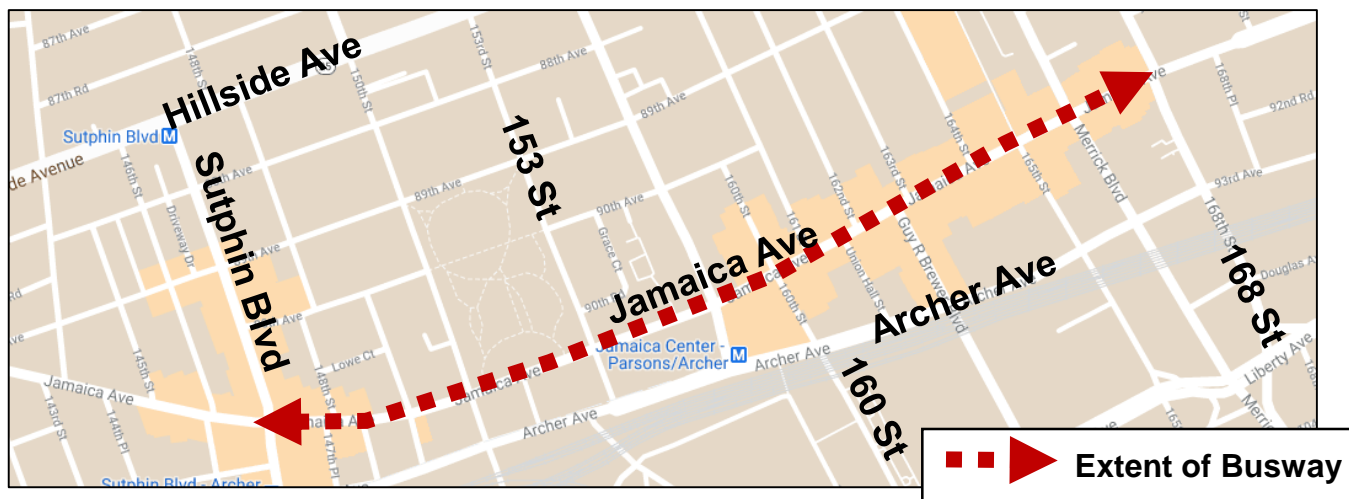
Archer Ave Busway Pilot

Proposed Eastbound Busway Configuration on Archer Ave



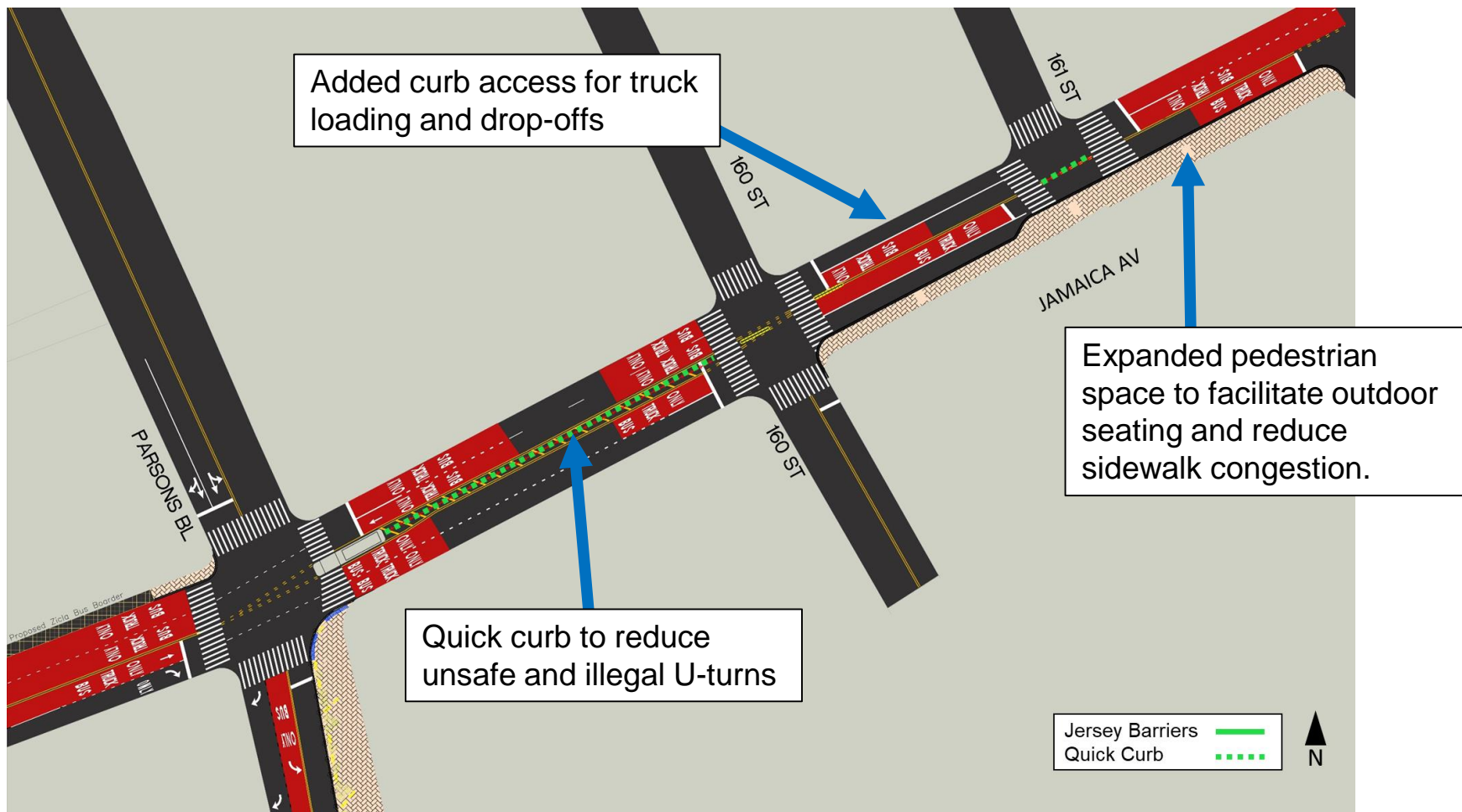
Jamaica Ave Busway Pilot

- Busway will begin at Sutphin Blvd and extend to 168 St in both directions
- Buses and commercial trucks will have local and thru access
- Passenger vehicles will be able to access most blocks, but would have to make the next right turn
- New parking, loading, and pedestrian space where bus lanes are removed
- Busway is proposed to be in effect 24 hours a day



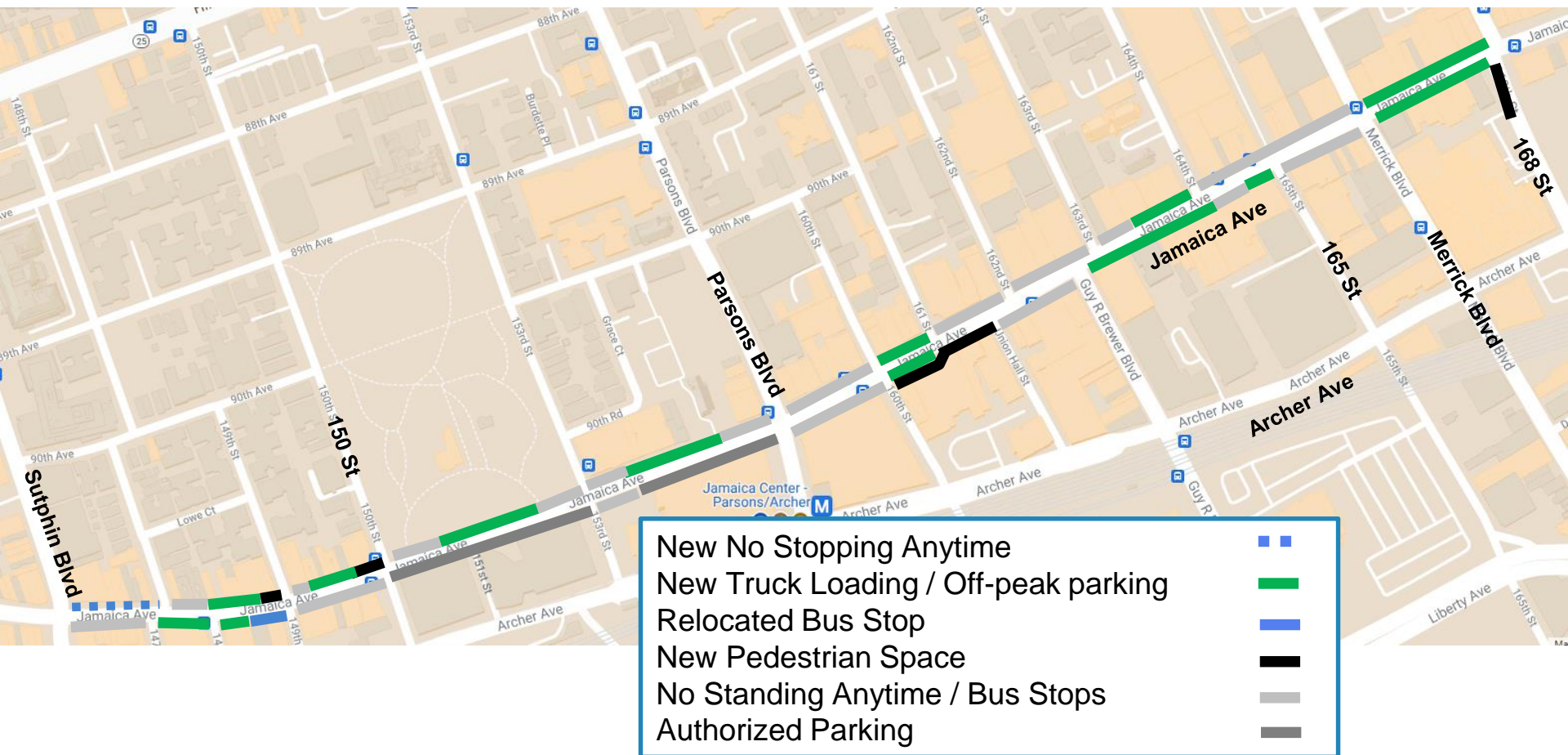
Jamaica Ave Busway Pilot

Sample of Proposed Busway Configuration on Jamaica Ave



Jamaica Ave Busway Pilot

Curb Regulation Proposal

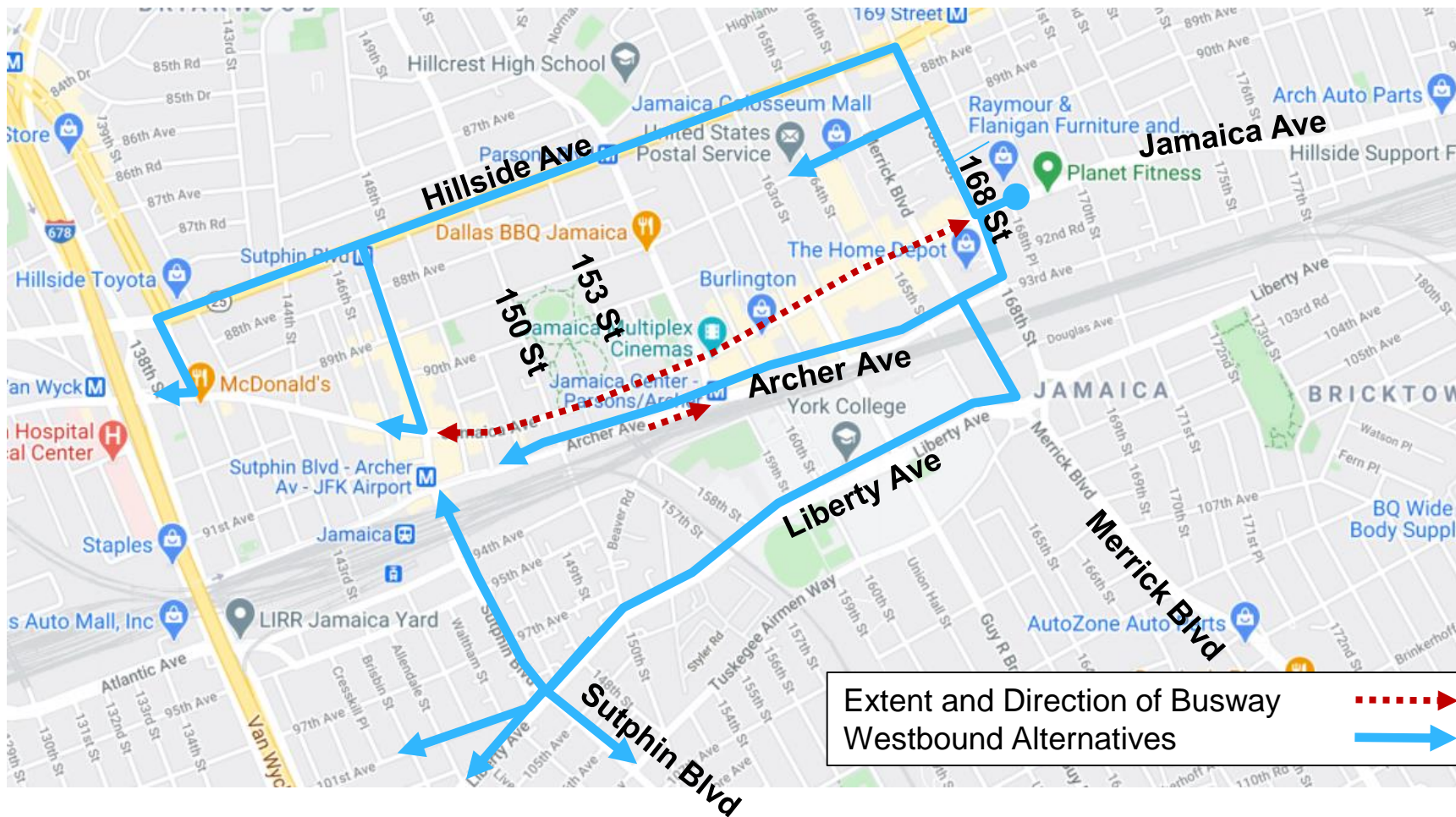


Diversions and Traffic

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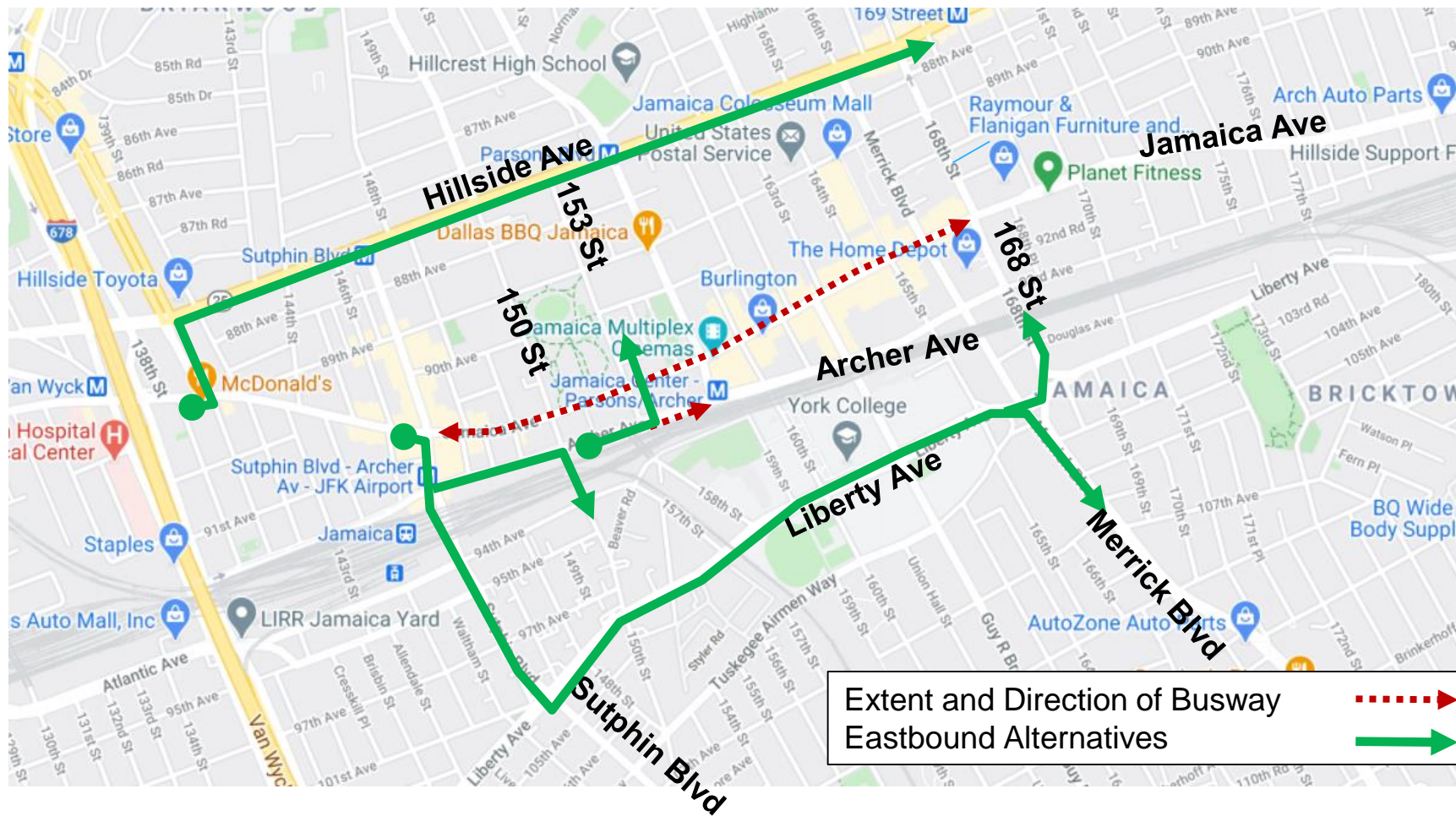
Busway Passenger Vehicle Diversions

Westbound Alternatives



Busway Passenger Vehicle Diversions

Eastbound Alternatives



Next Steps and Implementation

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Next Steps

August 2021: Complete Community Outreach

- Early August: outdoor public Open House
- Late August: CAB #3 – present final plan and schedule

Late Summer / Early Fall: Project implementation

Fall 2021:

- Project launch
- Monitoring begins of traffic and bus speeds

Winter 2022:

- Monitoring continues
- CAB #4 update

Thank You!

Questions?



NYC DOT



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