Better Buses Restart: Jamaica Busway
Monitoring Update – November 2022
Why Jamaica and Archer Aves?

- **Jamaica Ave**
  - Serves 139,000 daily riders
  - 14 bus routes
  - Pre-busway speeds of 6.8 MPH (PM)

- **Archer Ave**
  - Serves 189,000 daily riders
  - 19 bus routes
  - Pre-busway speeds of 5.3 to 6.1 MPH (PM)

- Congestion is a major issue for buses, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians
- Many of these bus routes travel through neighborhoods that rank high on the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

*Routes running between Sutphin Blvd & 168 St only*
Bus Corridors Citywide

- Jamaica Ave is one of the highest corridors for bus ridership in the city

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corridor</th>
<th>Daily Ridership</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archer Ave, QN</td>
<td>189,000</td>
<td>All Days, 24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main St, QN</td>
<td>173,000</td>
<td>All Days, 6AM-7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica, QN</td>
<td>139,000</td>
<td>All Days, 6AM-8PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay St, BK</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td>Weekdays, 7AM-7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181st St, MN</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>All Days, 6AM-8PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th St, MN</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>All Days, 6AM-10PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MTA
Busway Pilot Monitoring

• NYCDOT has been monitoring the following metrics to evaluate busway success:
  • Bus Speeds
  • Private Vehicle Speeds
  • Safety Metrics
  • Community Feedback
  • Business Feedback
Bus Speed Trends – Jamaica Avenue

- Busway launch has reversed 2021 trend of declining bus speeds
Bus Speeds – Jamaica Avenue

- Greatest bus speed gains are in the westbound direction
- Compared to 2019, bus speeds are over 12%-18% faster in the AM and PM peaks
- Saturday speed gains are concentrated in the midday and PM hours

Jamaica Ave Busway - Percentage Speed Change Pre-Busway and Post-Busway (May 2019 vs. May 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Eastbound</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Westbound</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekday</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Weekday</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM Peak (6-10 AM)</td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+0%</td>
<td>+17%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midday (10AM-3PM)</td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>+11%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>+18%</td>
<td>+15%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM Peak (3-7PM)</td>
<td>+15%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
<td>+8%</td>
<td>+17%</td>
<td>+11%</td>
<td>+7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late PM (7-10PM)</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+13%</td>
<td>+15%</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight (10PM-6AM)</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+6%</td>
<td>+6%</td>
<td>+8%</td>
<td>+12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>+8%</td>
<td>+7%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>+11%</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MTA
PM Peak Vehicular Travel Times in Jamaica Pre-implementation compared to Post-implementation

- Travel times on parallel routes (89th Ave, Hillside Ave, and Liberty Ave) increased from 15-30 seconds.
- Travel times on all cross-streets increased less than 30 seconds, except for 160th St with a 36 second increase.

Source: Inrix Data
Safety – Jamaica Avenue

- Jamaica Ave has seen a reduction in crashes and injuries since busway launch.
  - Total crashes down 68%
  - People injured or killed down 45% (60% decrease for serious injuries)
    - -100% for cyclists
    - -28% for pedestrians
    - -49% for motor vehicle occupants

Source: NYPD Crash Data
Door-to Door Business Outreach

March 21 & 25, 2022

• DOT’s Street Ambassadors went door-to-door on Jamaica Ave to hear concerns about the Busway from the business community

• Businessowner concerns:
  • Difficult to receive deliveries due to lack of commercial loading, unpredictable delivery times, and cars with placards blocking loading zone spaces
  • Street vendors and dollar vans taking loading space
  • Inconvenient to access busway via taxi
  • Merchants felt business revenue and customer traffic has suffered
Pedestrian Survey

April 18 – 22, 2022:

• DOT conducted on-street outreach with pedestrians on Jamaica Ave to gather feedback on their experience with the Busway
Pedestrian Survey

Respondent Demographics:

- 62% of respondents lived or worked in Jamaica
- 61% of respondents relied on the bus as their main form of transportation
- Shopping was the most common reason for their visit to Jamaica Ave
- 80% of people were visiting Retail, Food/beverage, and service businesses

Gender:
- Female: 61%
- Male: 35%
- Prefer not to say: 4%

Race:
- Black: 40%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 24%
- White: 4%
- Other race: 5%
- Prefer not to say: 12%

Participant Age:
- 18 – 24: 8%
- 25 – 34: 10%
- 35 – 44: 12%
- 45 – 54: 18%
- 55 – 64: 27%
- 65+: 12%

Typical Transportation Mode(s):
- Walk: 9%
- Bus: 61%
- Subway: 19%
- Car: 6%
- Bike: 2%
- Taxi/FHV: 3%

What brings you to Jamaica Ave today?
- Shopping: 29%
- Work: 17%
- School: 7%
- Medical visit: 8%
- Dining: 4%
- Personal errand: 12%
- Social/recreational: 6%
- Transit transfer: 5%
- Going home: 11%

Which type of businesses do you frequent on Jamaica Ave?
- Food & beverage: 24%
- Service industry: 17%
- Retail: 39%
- Recreation: 5%
- Community centers: 8%
- I don't frequent businesses here: 7%

Relationship to Jamaica Ave
- I live here: 41%
- I work here: 21%
- Visiting from NYC: 31%
- Visiting from outside of NYC: 1%
- I attend school here: 5%
Pedestrian Survey

Experience crossing down Jamaica Ave feels...

For those who identified as Pedestrians:

- Much safer: 18%
- Somewhat safer: 36%
- Stayed the same: 26%
- Somewhat less safe: 10%
- Much less safe: 9%

For those who identified as seniors (62+) and persons with disabilities:

- Much safer: 53%
- Somewhat safer: 12%
- Stayed the same: 24%
- Somewhat less safe: 6%
- Much less safe: 6%

Bus Trips and Service along Jamaica Ave:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus service feels...</th>
<th>More frequent</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Less frequent</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus travel is...</th>
<th>Faster</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Slower</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>