

Merrick Blvd Bus Lanes

NYC DOT | Better Buses Restart | September 24, 2020

Merrick Blvd, Queens



Recap

- Merrick Blvd and 168 St between Hillside Ave and Springfield Blvd
- 3.2 mile, mostly commercial corridor
- Served by Q4, Q5, Q84, Q85, X63, N4 and N4X routes south of Archer Ave
- Many more routes circulate on Merrick/168 St north of Archer Ave
- Serves 94,000 daily riders



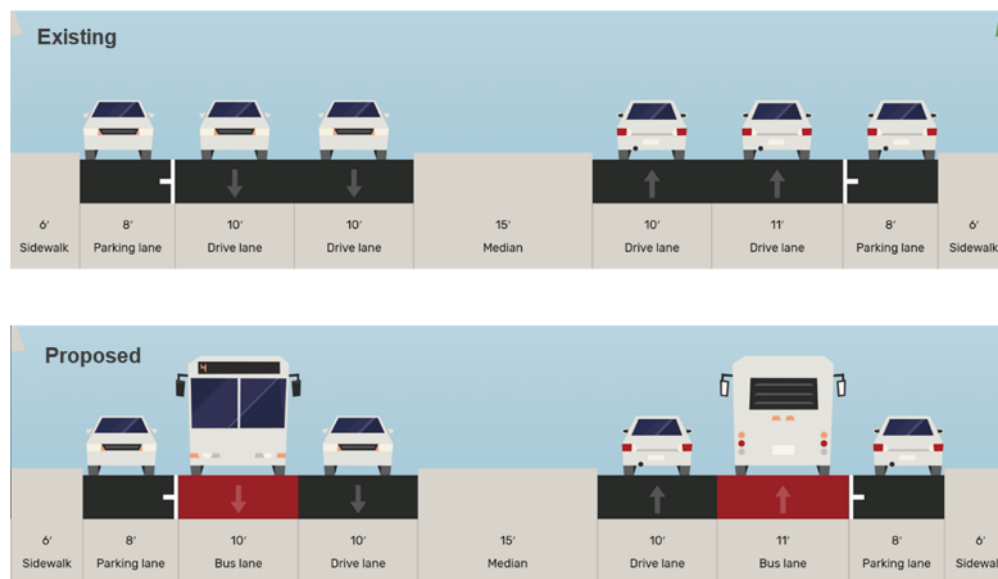
Community Advisory Board #2 Recap

DOT Bus Lane Proposal

- Merrick Blvd and 168th St between Springfield Ave and Archer Ave: offset bus lanes (one lane out from the curb)
- Merrick Blvd and 168th St between Hillside Ave and Archer Ave: mostly offset bus lanes, some curb regulations changes
- 6.4 miles in total
- Only markings, no red paint in 2020
- Enforcement cameras after implementation
- Exploring pedestrian safety elements

MTA Bus Stop Spacing

- Proposed revisions to bus stop spacing to improve speed and reliability



Merrick Blvd and 168th St between Springfield Ave and Archer Ave design concept

Community Advisory Board #2 Recap

Issues raised at CAB #2:

- Show detailed corridor bus ridership
- Further outreach needed to businesses regarding double parking and parking on sidewalk
- U-turns across the median
- Need for commercial loading space



Merrick Blvd

Proposed Project

Corridor Ridership

- Serves 89,000 MTA riders and 5,000 NICE bus riders daily
- Routes using Merrick Blvd south of Archer and routes using Merrick Blvd/168 St are listed with ridership below
- Other routes that only use Merrick Blvd/168 St for short stretches are not included

Merrick Boulevard Corridor Routes		Downtown Circulation Routes	
Route	Riders	Route	Riders
Q4	9,354	Q17	16,858
Q5	11,705	Q6	11,022
Q84	4,534	Q8	10,683
Q85	11,542	Q9	4,806
X63	625	Q41	7,500
N4/N4X	4,890		

Community/Business Outreach Update

- 80 businesses spoken to to-date during multiple outreach events
 - Multiple follow-ups conducted via in-person meetings, phone calls/emails
 - Early stages of working with businesses to identify requested loading zones:
 - Metropolitan Best Hardware and Lumber - 108-20 Merrick Blvd.
 - Towns of Bargains Corp. Furniture and Bedding - 128-03 Merrick Blvd.
- Walking tour conducted w/CB12 on September 17th (northern portion), working to schedule walking tour of southern portion in early October
- Planning follow-up onsite with residents of Allen Cathedral Senior Residence
- Scheduling additional weekend observations of Merrick Blvd.
- Scheduling additional outreach effort with Small Business Services
- Outreach continues into October



Merrick Blvd Concept Plan

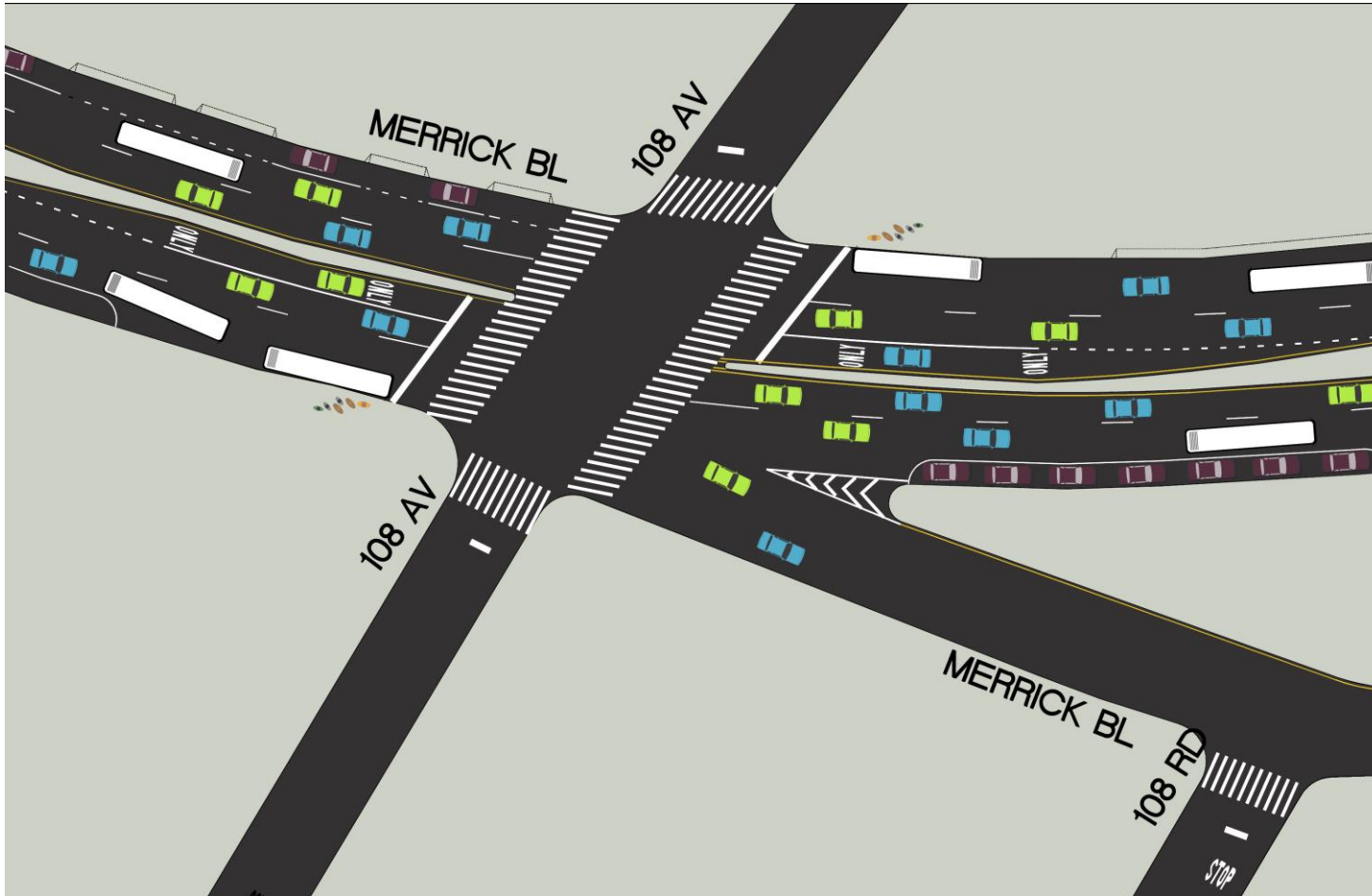
Corridor design incorporates:

- Bus lanes
- Changes to bus stops MTA proposed at CAB #2
- Pedestrian space extensions identified at areas in need of pedestrian safety improvements
- Physical barrier in median (“quick kurb”) to restrict illegal U-turns at Hendrickson Pl
- Curb regulation updates



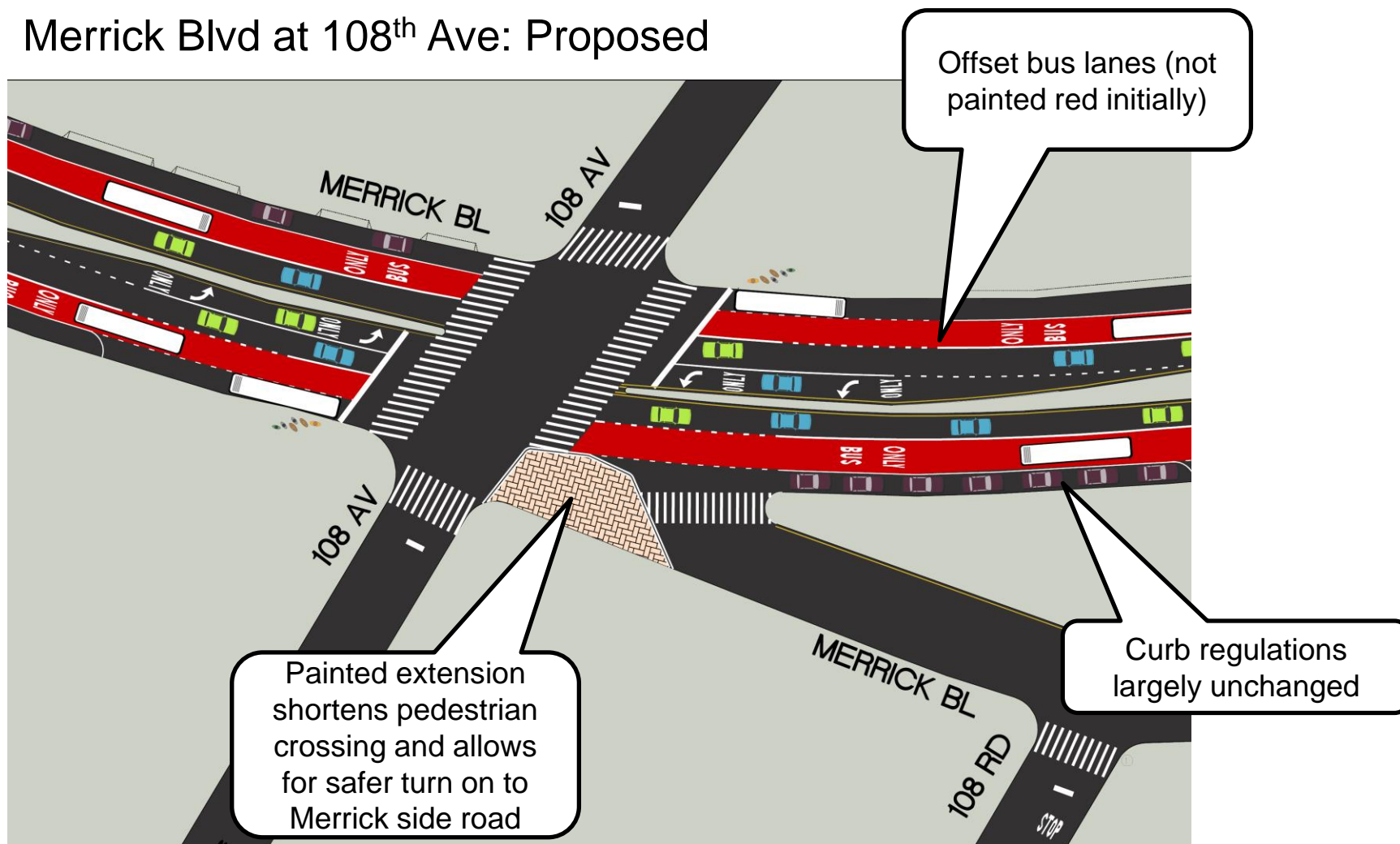
Merrick Blvd Concept Plan

Merrick Blvd at 108th Ave: Existing



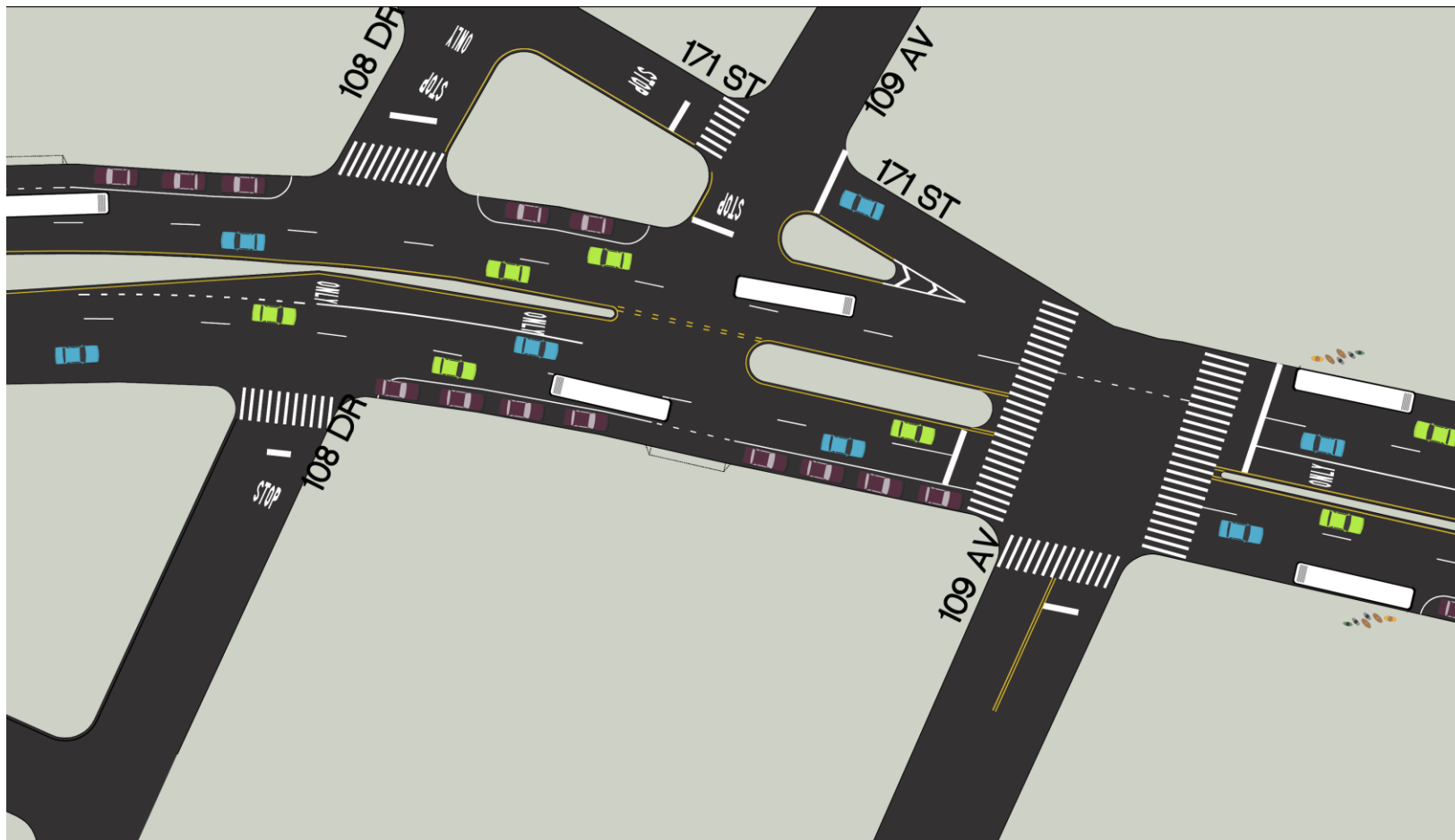
Merrick Blvd Concept Plan

Merrick Blvd at 108th Ave: Proposed



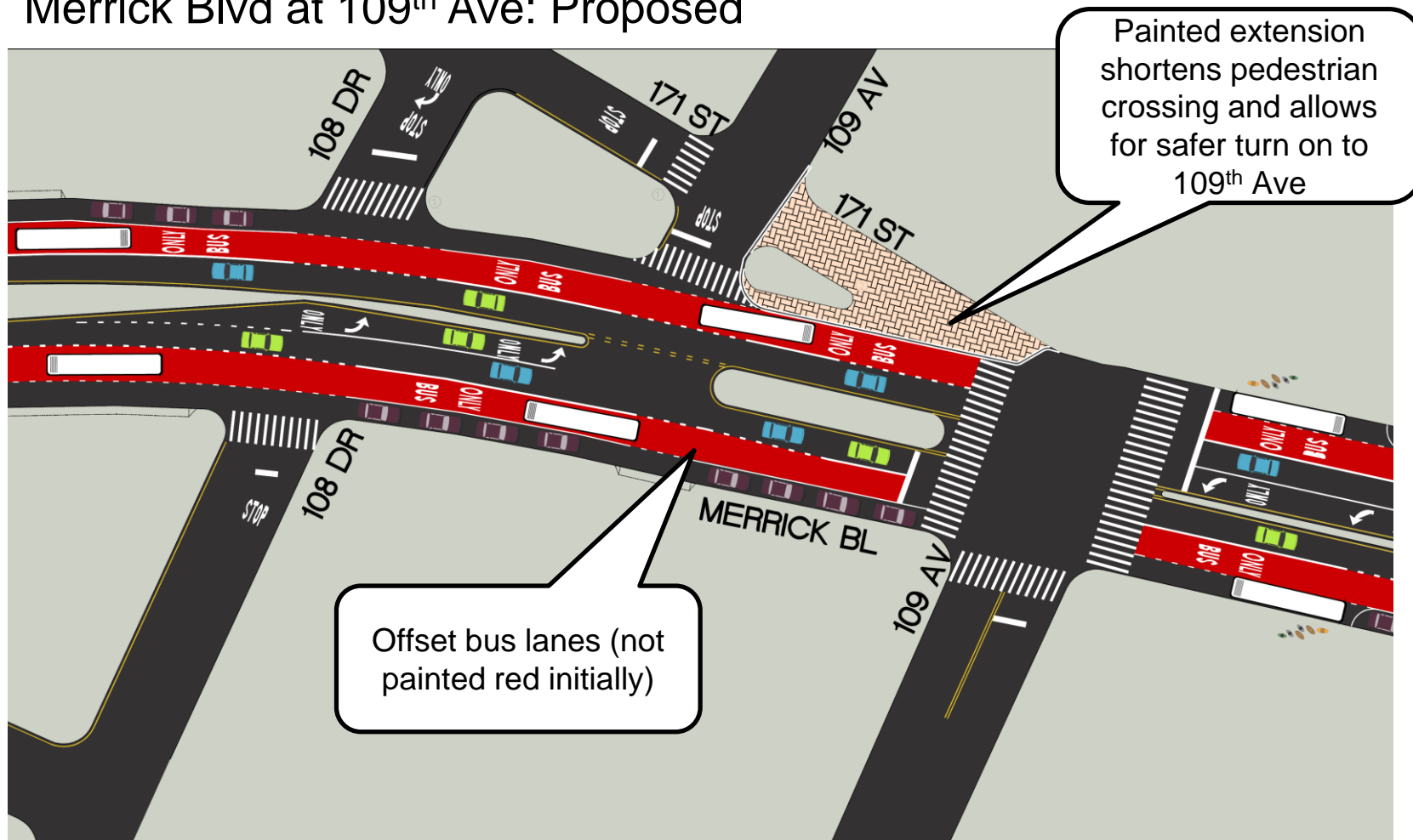
Merrick Blvd Concept Plan

Merrick Blvd at 109th Ave: Existing



Merrick Blvd Concept Plan

Merrick Blvd at 109th Ave: Proposed



Enforcement

- Update: DOT looking to place bus lane cameras to this corridor in 2020
- DOT will work with NYPD to address:
 - Keeping bus lanes clear
 - Illegal sidewalk parking and double parking
 - Placard abuse in downtown Jamaica

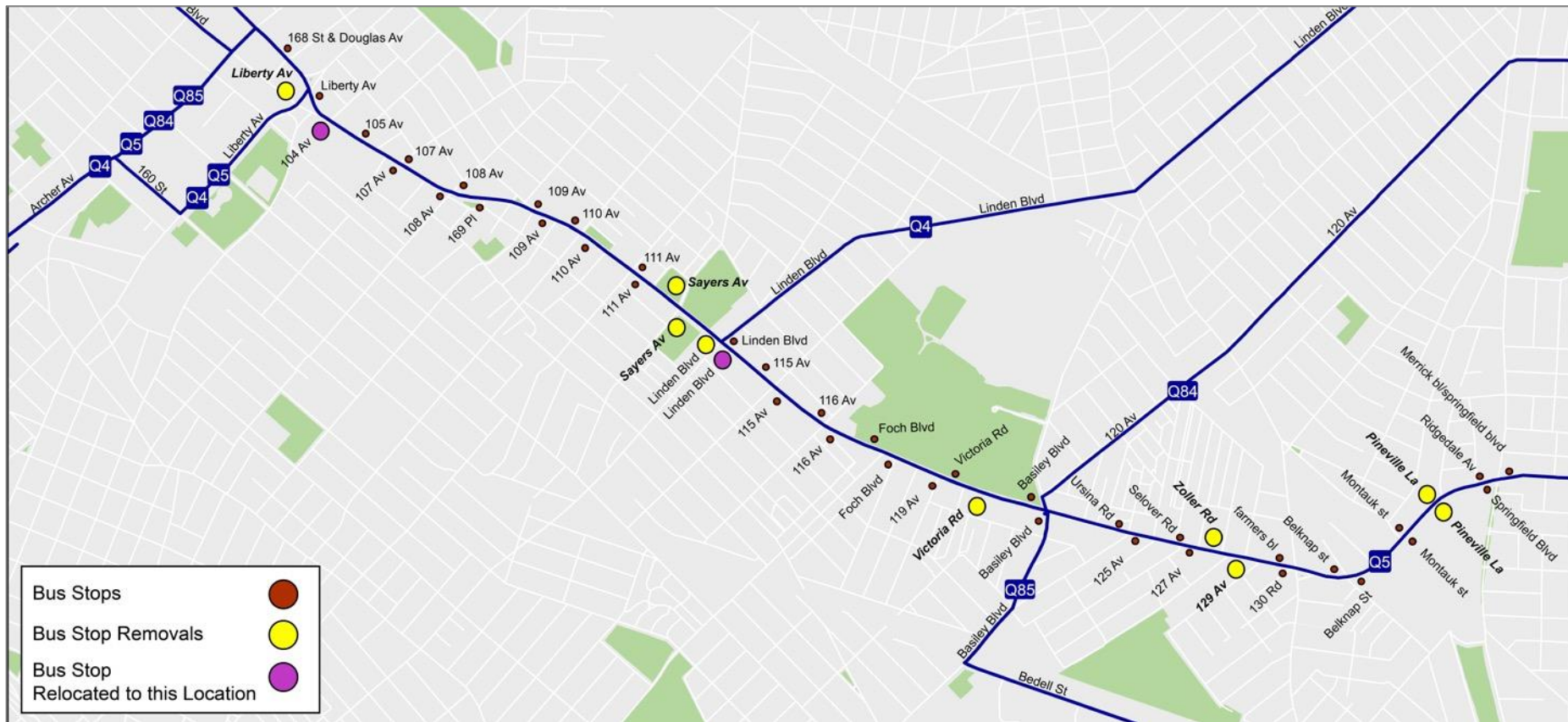


Improved Bus Stop Spacing

- Better, more consistent stop spacing can improve speed and reliability
- Adjusting stop locations at critical intersections can improve bus reliability and traffic flow



Improved Bus Stop Spacing - Overview



Next Steps

- DOT will begin implementing bus lanes in early October 2020
- Curb regulations changes to take place over fall and winter
- Following bus lane implementation DOT will monitor the corridor for:
 - Vehicle speeds and travel times
 - Bus speeds
 - Bus reliability
 - Parking and enforcement issues
- Additional CAB meetings will be scheduled after implementation is complete

Thank You!

Questions?



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