

Better Buses

Rockaway Beach Boulevard Improvements

Queens Community Board 14 | June 3, 2019



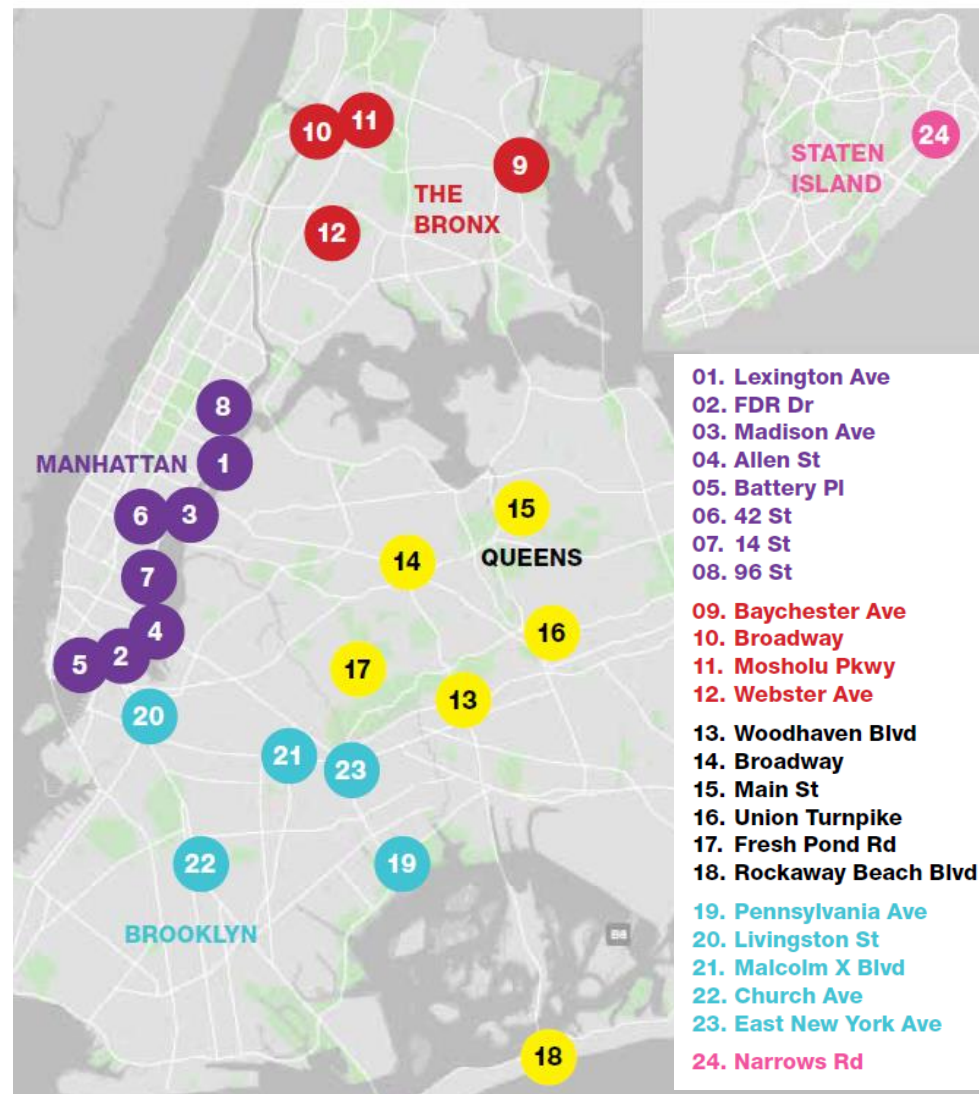
BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

- Mayor's 2019 State of the City
 - Improve bus speeds 25% by 2020
- Better Buses Action Plan released April 2019
 - 24 priority projects announced for 2019 to increase bus speeds across all 5 boroughs



BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

- Rockaway Beach Blvd identified as priority 2019 project due to:
 - Slow bus speeds & unreliable bus travel times
 - High ridership & high volume of buses
 - Safety and transit improvements requested by community and elected officials

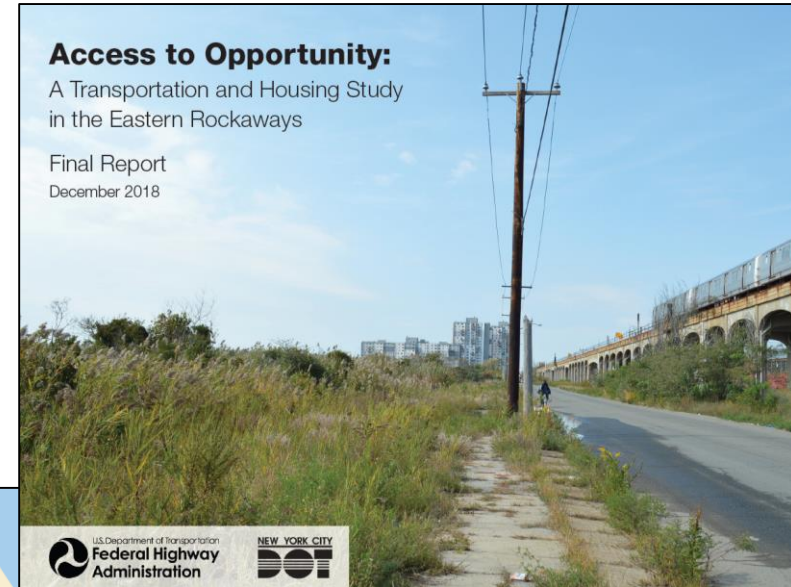
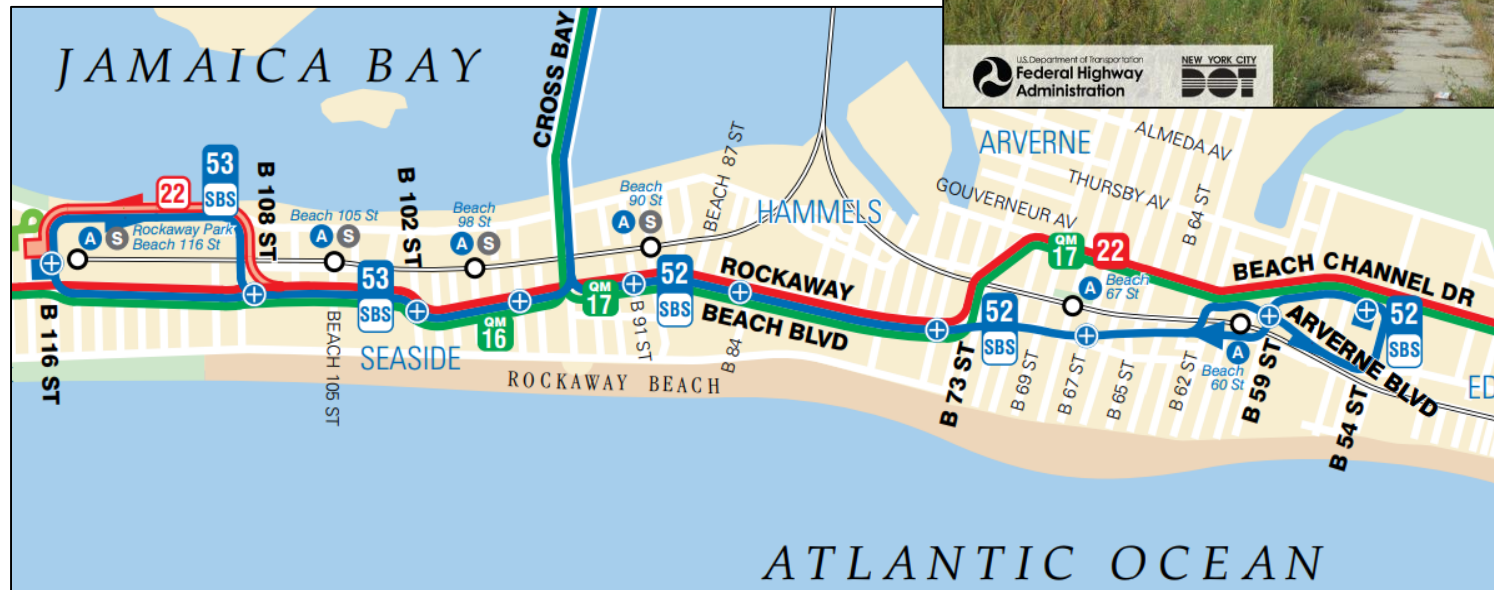


Background

1

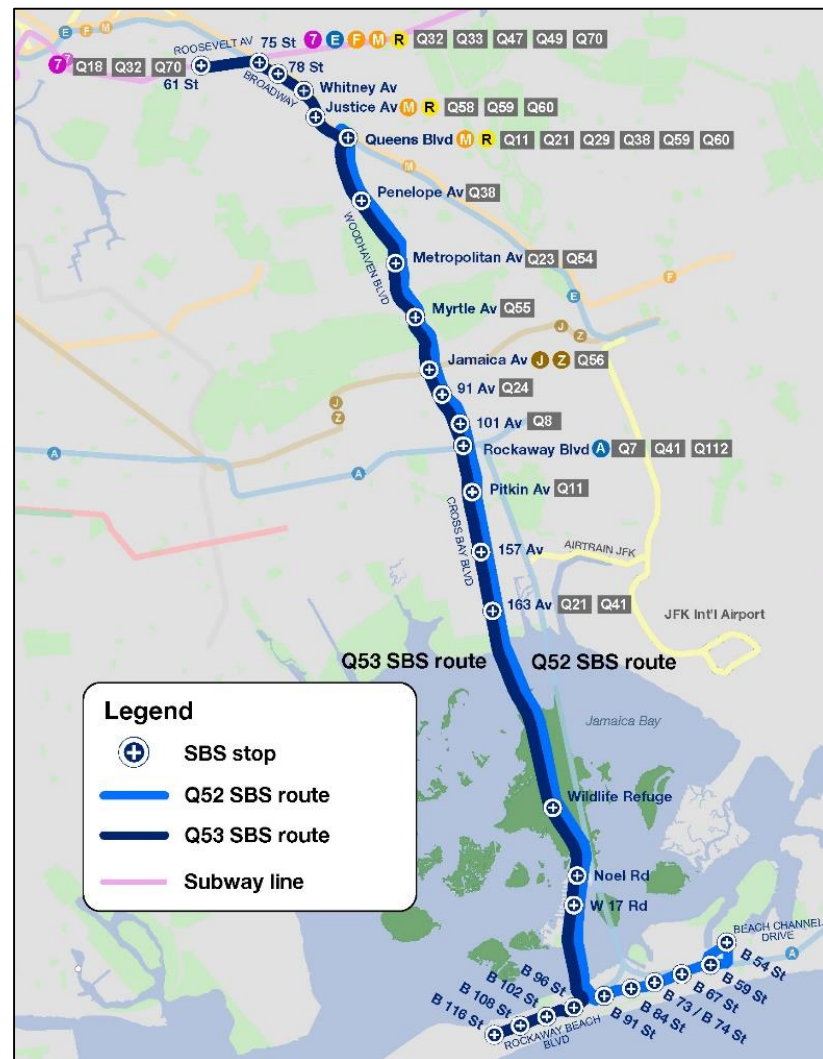
BACKGROUND

- Rockaway Beach Blvd services the primary east-west transit connections in the Rockaways
- 2018 Access to Opportunity Study identified numerous locations for pedestrian and transit improvements
- Numerous traffic crashes and injuries throughout the corridor



BACKGROUND

- Q52/Q53 Select Bus Service (SBS) launched in November 2017, with pedestrian safety and transit improvements installed corridor-wide
- Improvements resulted in:
 - 5-8% increase in Q52/Q53 ridership
 - Reduced bus bunching and improved schedule adherence
 - 9-10% improvement in Q52/Q53 SBS travel times
 - Maintained vehicle travel times
 - 6% reduction in crashes
- Beyond bus service and routing enhancements, no street improvements made in the Rockaways
- Targeted improvements can further improve bus service, bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety in the Rockaways



PROJECT AREA

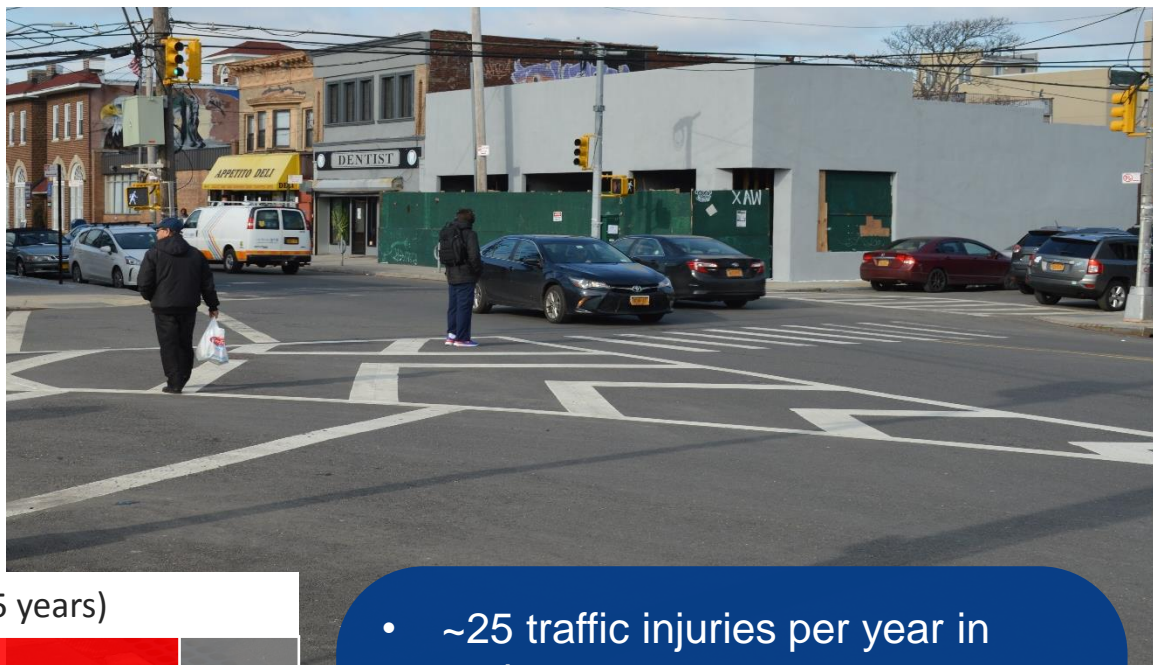
Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



PROJECT GOAL – ENHANCE TRAFFIC SAFETY

Existing Issues

- Long crossing distances
- Lack of pedestrian refuge
- Unclear and inconsistent lane markings



Injury Summary, 2013-2017 (5 years)

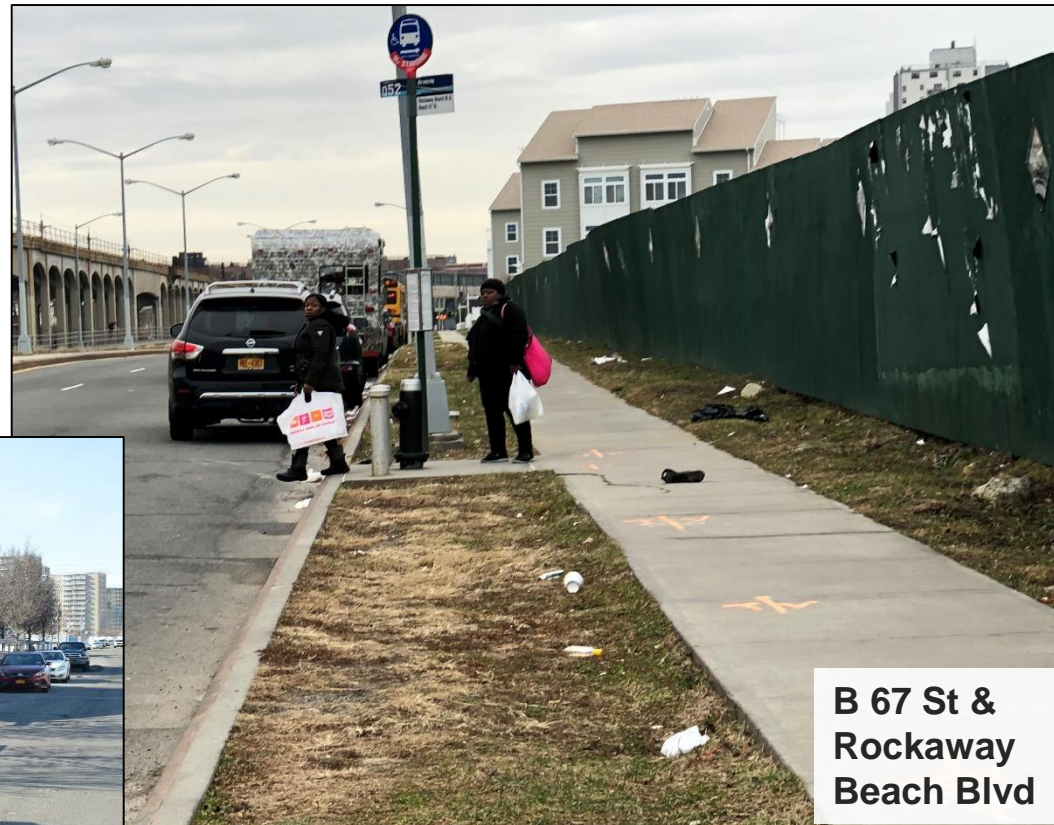
Injury Summary	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	25	3	1	4
Bicyclists	4	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Occupant	95	2	0	2
Total	124	5	1	6

- ~25 traffic injuries per year in project area (2013-2017)
- 3 pedestrian fatalities (2013-2018)
 - Beach 59 St / Rockaway Freeway (Sept 2016)
 - Beach 73 St / Rockaway Beach Blvd (July 2018)
 - Beach 116 St (Aug 2018)

PROJECT GOAL – IMPROVE BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY

Existing Issues

- Bus stops where bus drivers cannot deploy ramps
- Insufficient sidewalk width to provide City Benches and Leaning Bars



PROJECT GOAL – IMPROVE BUS SERVICE

Existing Issues

- Slow bus speeds
 - **7.6 mph – 15.1 mph average** *(depending on the segment of the route)*
- Substandard moving lanes
- Difficult bus movements

5 bus routes operate on various sections of Rockaway Beach Blvd:

Q22, Q52 SBS,
Q53 SBS, QM16,
QM17



Proposed Improvements

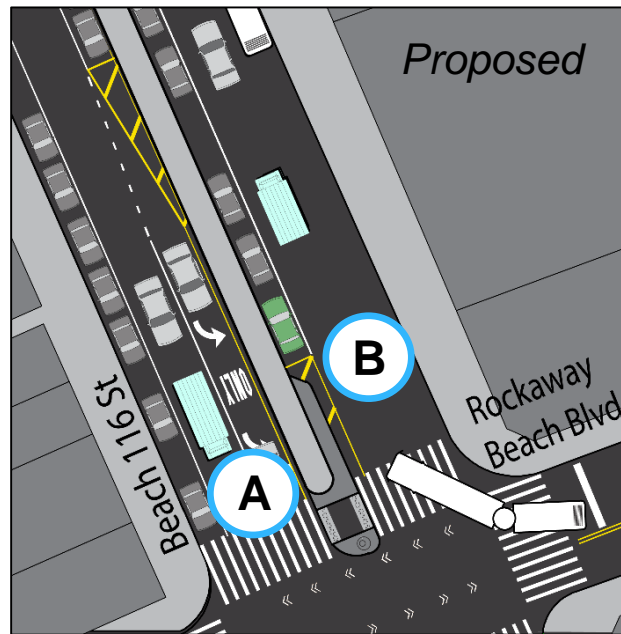
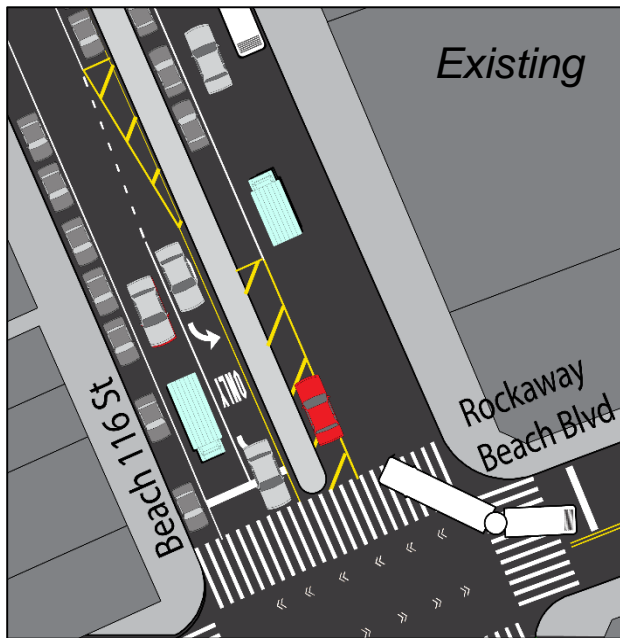
2

1. B 116 ST & ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD

Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



1. B 116 ST & ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD



- 13 traffic crashes resulting in 7 injuries including 3 pedestrians (2013-2017)
- 1 pedestrian fatality (August 2018)

A

Add concrete median extension

B

Add 1 parking space along median

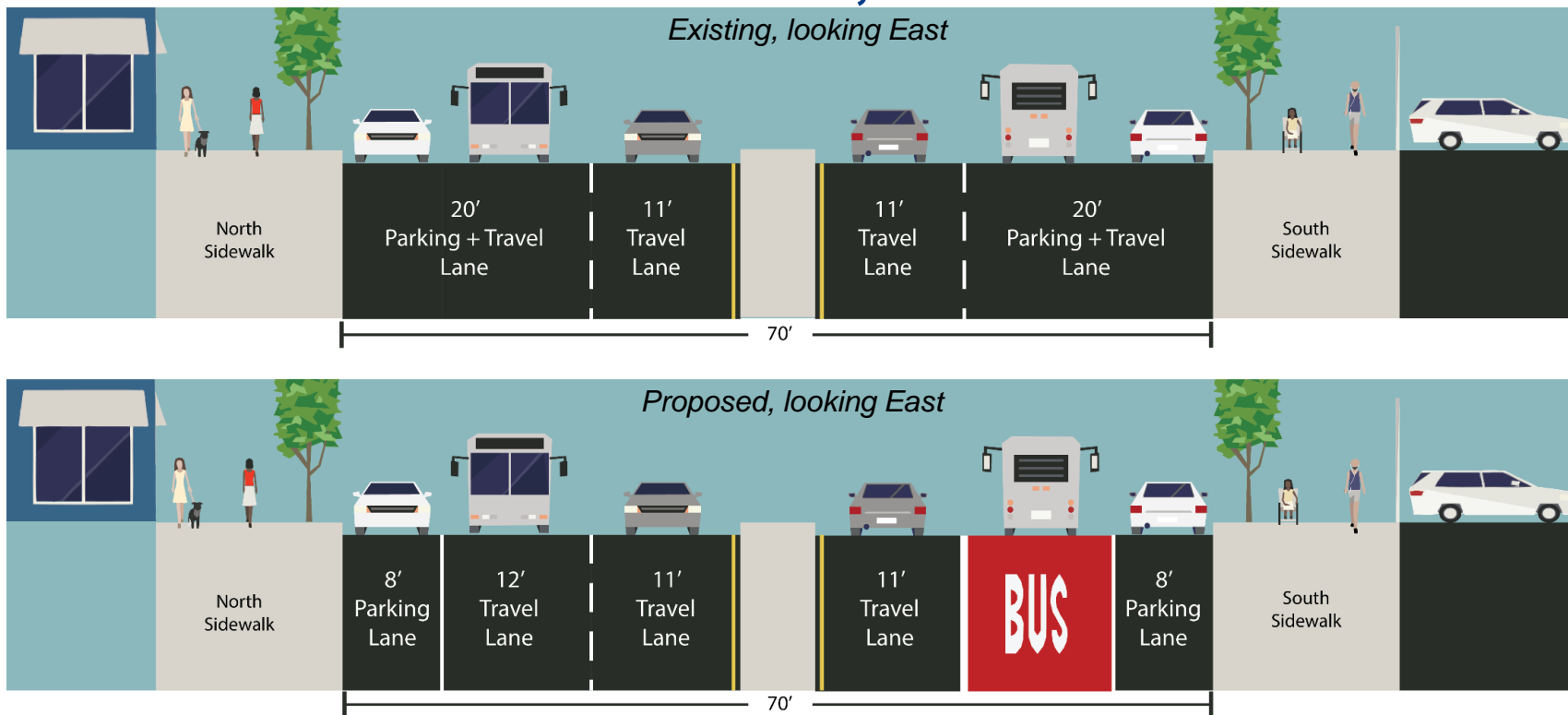


2. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 108 ST – B 102 ST

Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



2. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 108 ST – B 102 ST



Add eastbound bus lane (24/7)

Benefits:

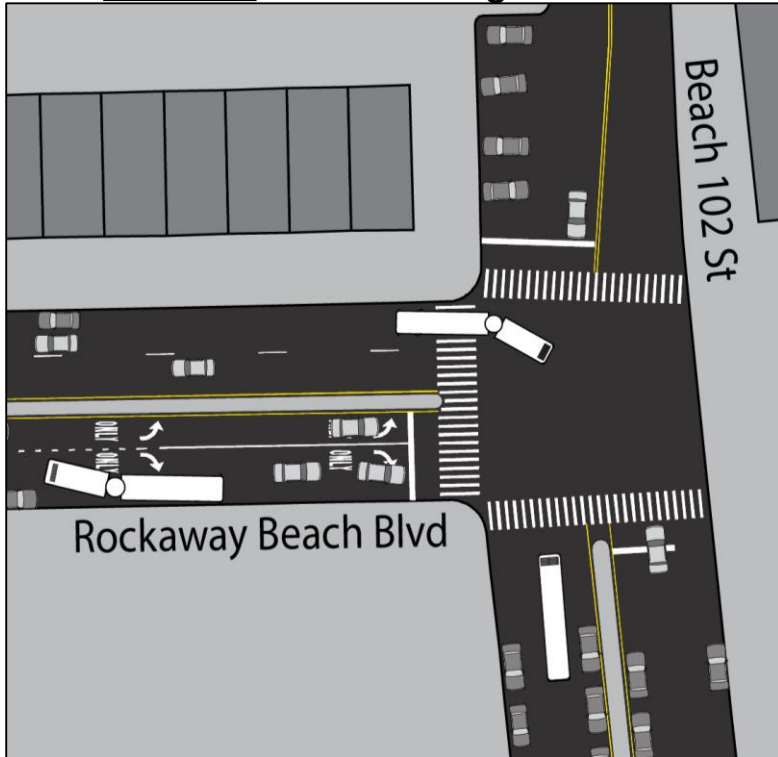
- Improves bus speeds
- Calms traffic

Traffic Data:

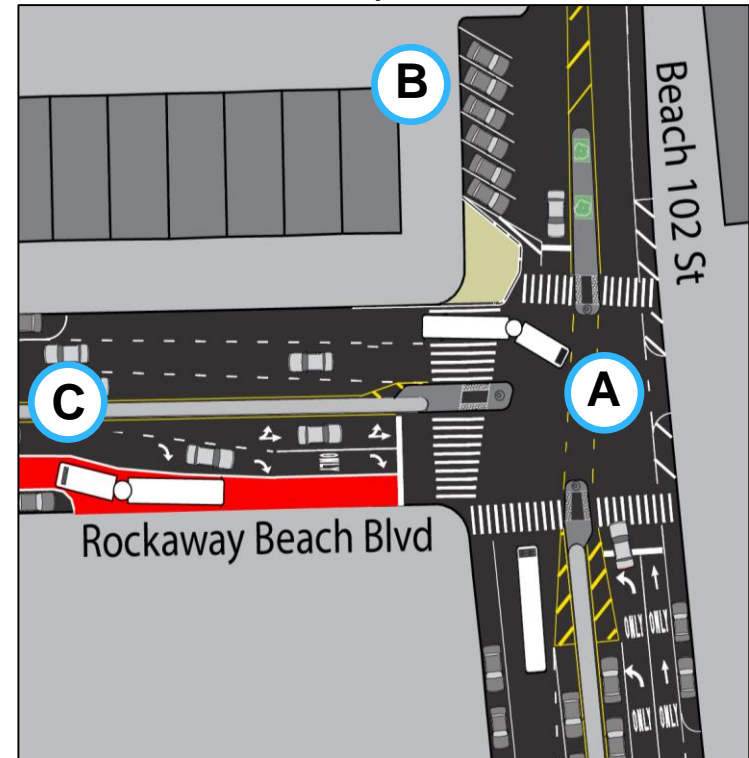
- Maximum eastbound traffic volume:
 - 265 (7-8am)
 - 355 (3-4pm)
- Average bus speeds:
 - 15.1 mph (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 14.9 mph (Summer 2018 Weekends)
- Average daily bus ridership:
 - 1,500 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 1,300 (Summer 2018 Weekends)
- 9 traffic injuries, including 1 cyclist and 1 pedestrian (2013-2017)

2. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 108 ST – B 102 ST

Existing



Proposed



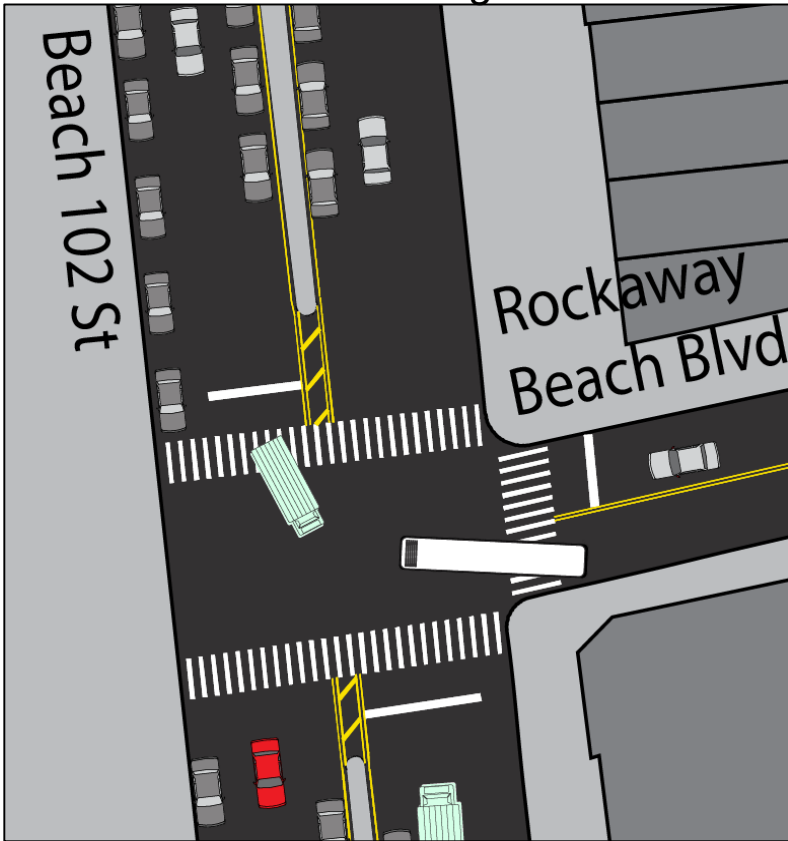
**B 102 St –
North Leg**

- 5 traffic injuries (2013-2017)
 - 1 pedestrian fatality-
Southbound right turn onto
west crosswalk – failure to
yield (April 2017)

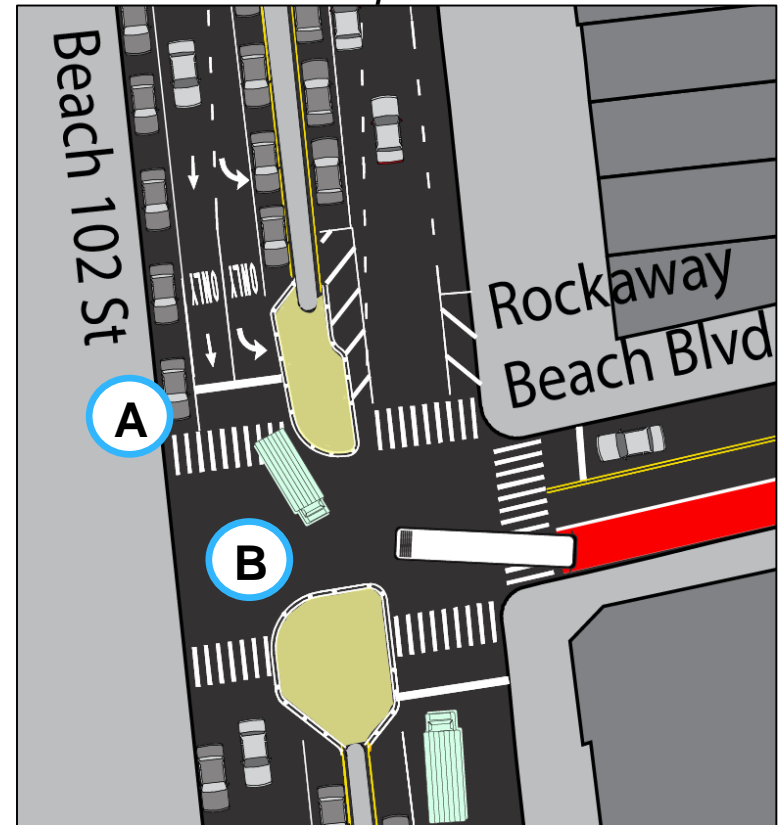
- A** Add 2 concrete median tip extensions and 1 concrete pedestrian island
- B** Add painted curb extension and formalize angled parking (+6 spaces)
- C** Separate moving traffic from bus stop

2. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 108 ST – B 102 ST

Existing



Proposed



B 102 St –
South Leg

- 3 traffic injuries, including 1 pedestrian injury (2013-2017)
 - Southbound left from 102 onto RBB – failure to yield (Feb 2017)

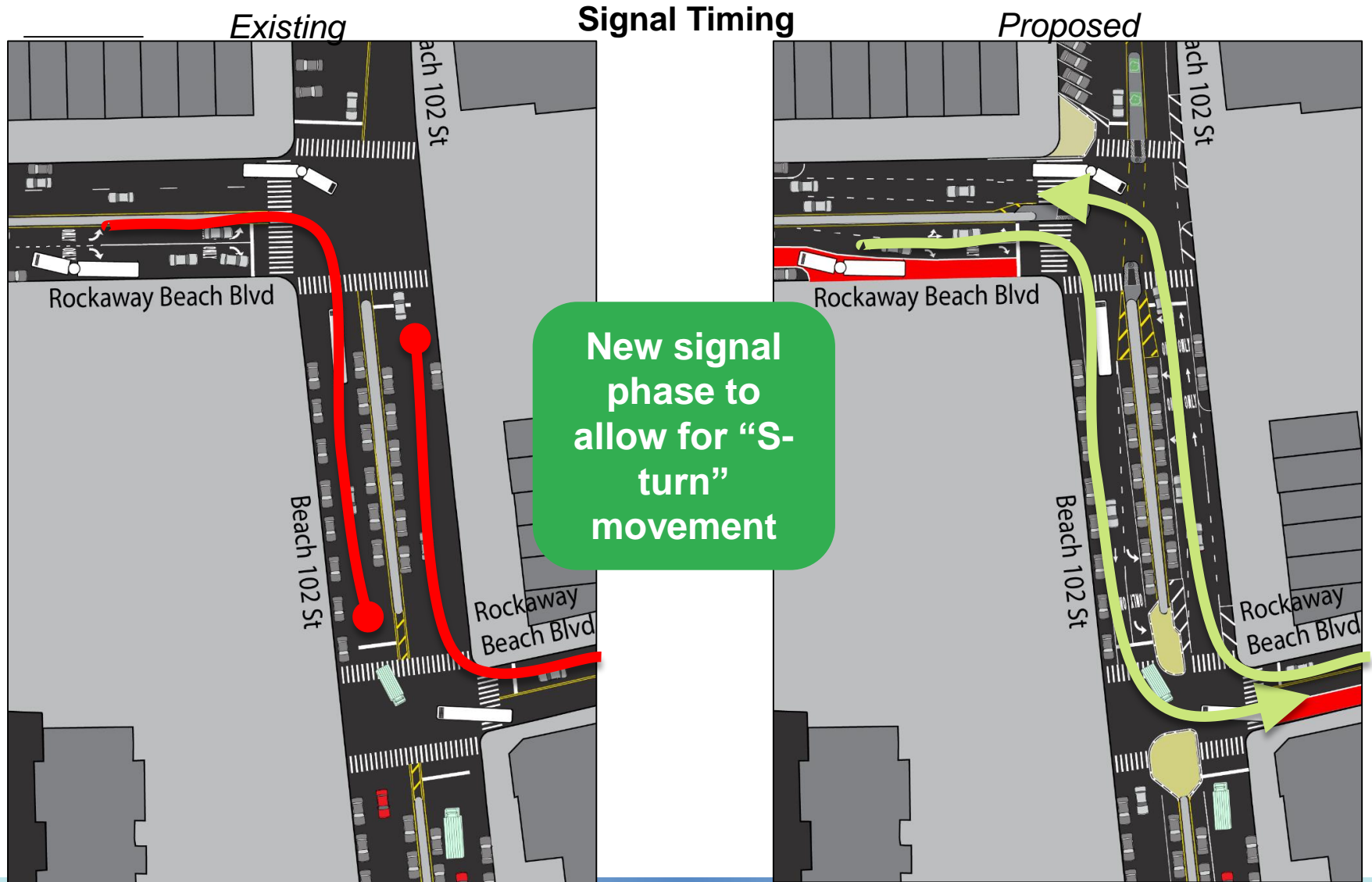
A

Clarify travel lanes and delineate parking

B

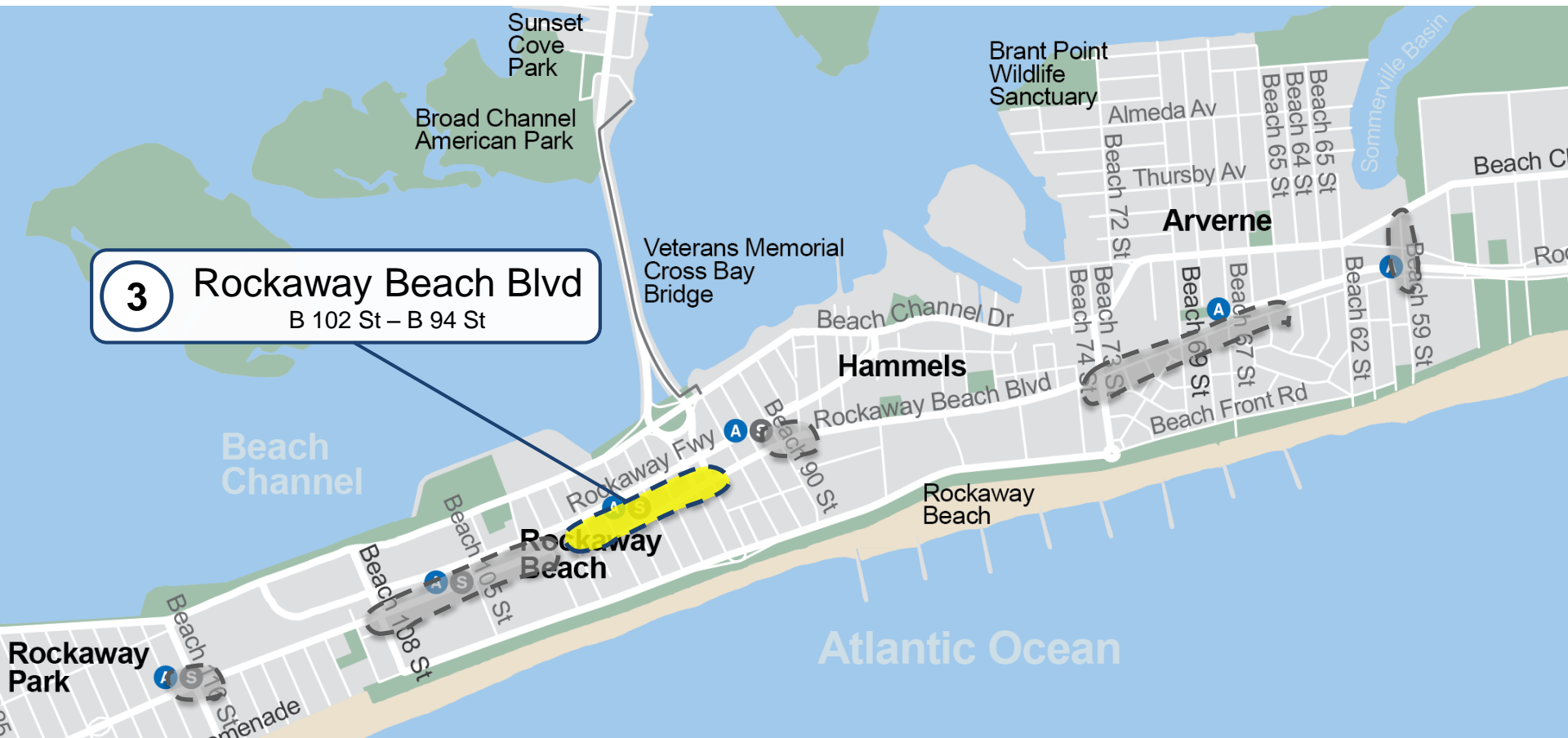
Add painted median extensions
(to be built in concrete in future years)

2. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 108 ST – B 102 ST

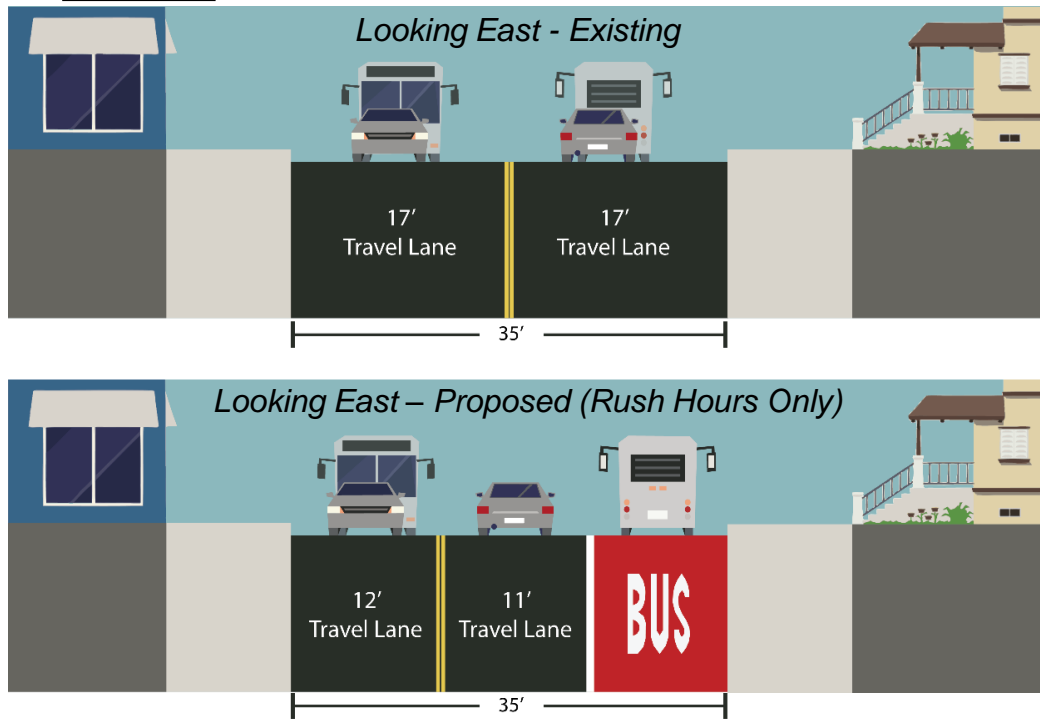


3. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 102 ST – B 94 ST

Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



3. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 102 ST – B 94 ST



Traffic Data:

- Maximum eastbound volume:
 - 275 (7:30-8:30am)
 - 400 (5-6pm)
- Average bus speeds:
 - 9.3 mph (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 9.7 mph (Summer 2018 Weekends)
- Average daily bus ridership:
 - 1,980 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 1,500 (Summer 2018 Weekends)

Add eastbound bus lane (Peak hours only – 7-10am, 3-7pm on weekdays and 10am-7pm during summer weekends) between B 102 St and Cross Bay Parkway

- Daytime loading/parking would be added
- Overnight parking added for entire corridor
 - Gain of ~29 spots for daytime loading/commercial parking and overnight
 - Conversion of ~7 permanent spots (B 99 St – B 98 St, south side) to daytime loading and overnight parking

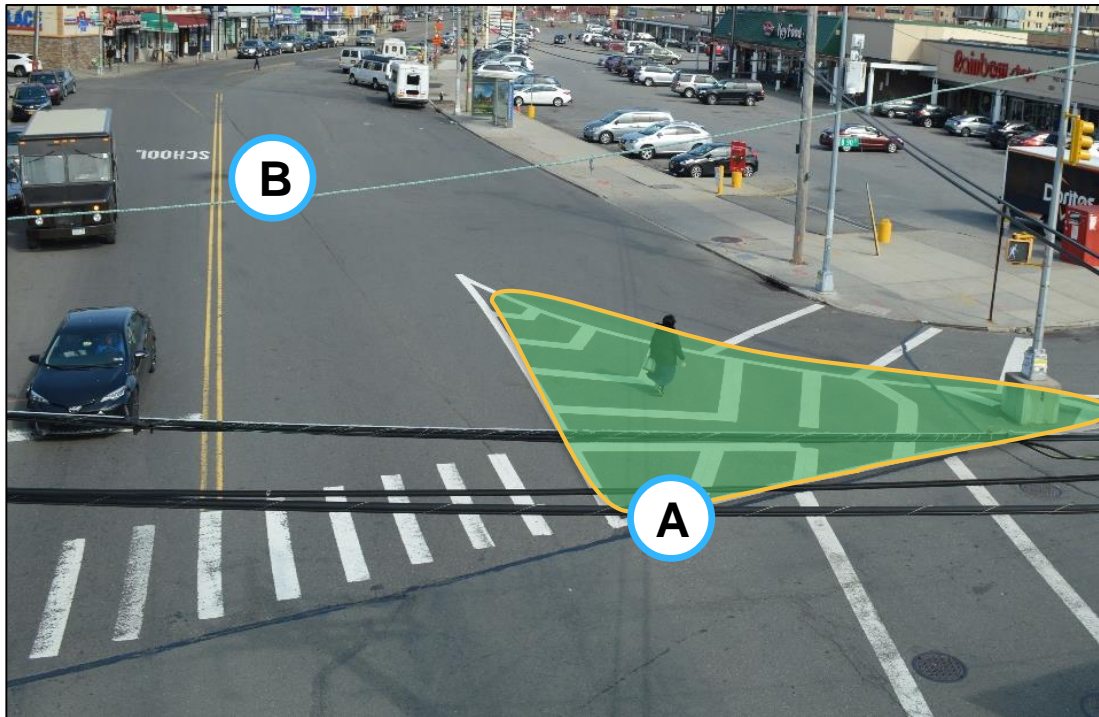
4. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD & B 90 ST

Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



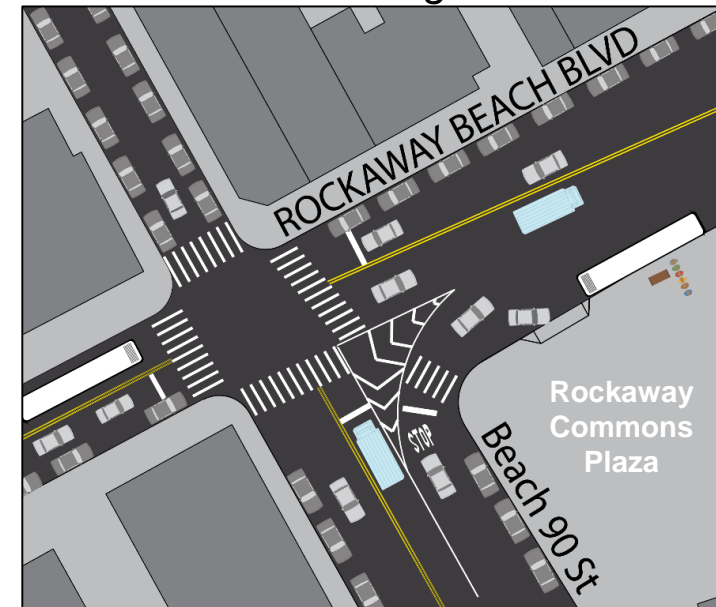
4. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD & B 90 ST

3 traffic crashes, including 1 injury
(2013-2017)

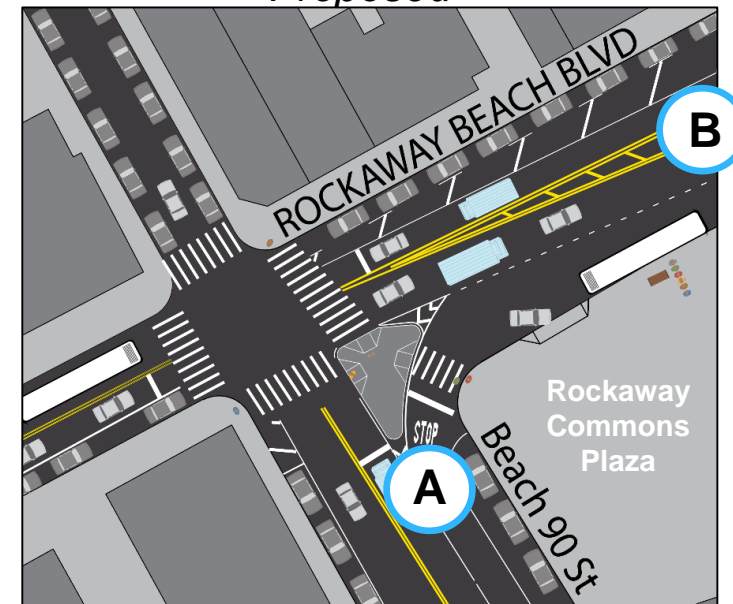


- A** Add concrete pedestrian island
- B** Add markings to improve lane alignment

Existing

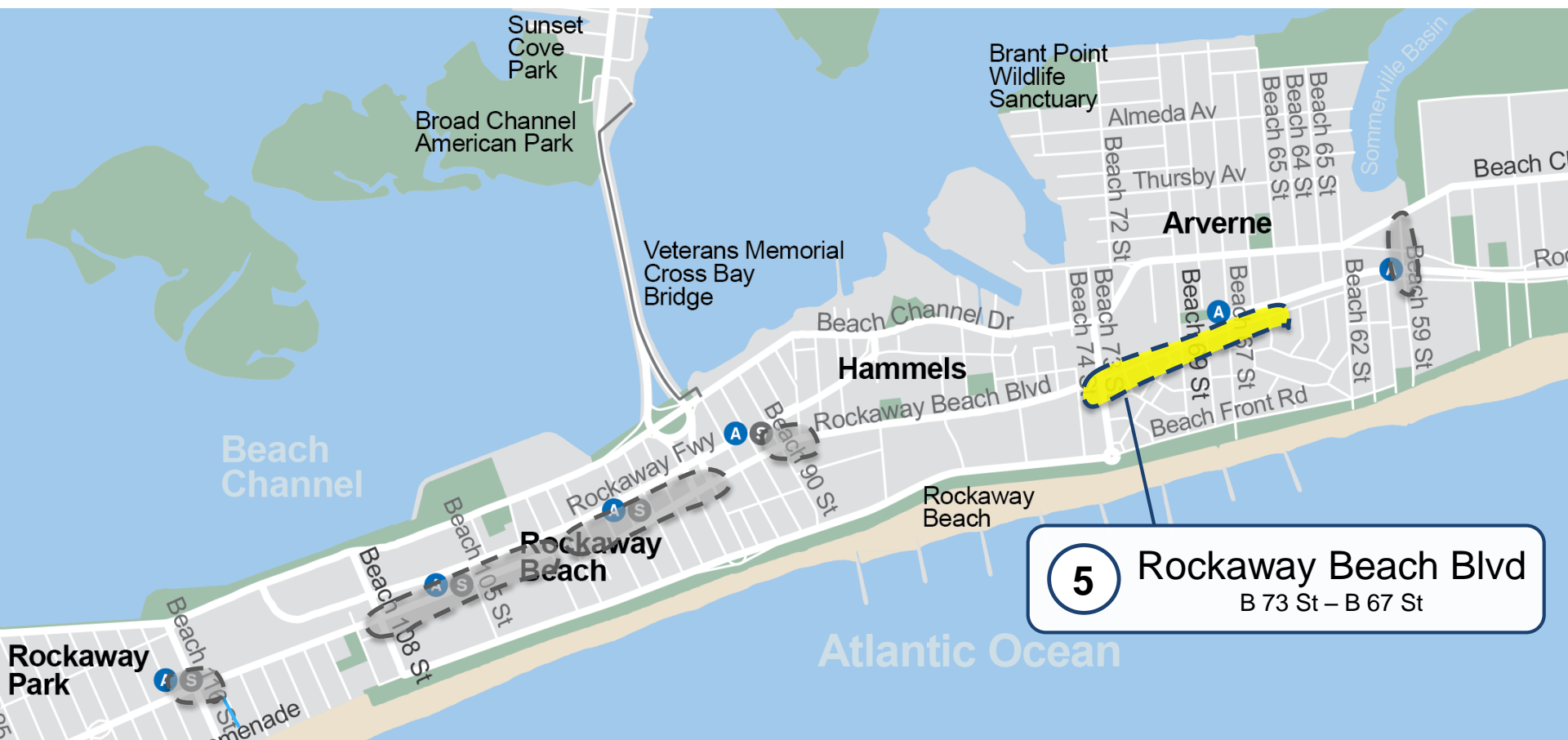


Proposed



5. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 73 ST – B 67 ST

Targeted improvements for bus service,
bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



5. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 73 ST – B 67 ST

- 9 traffic crashes resulting in 11 injuries, including 2 pedestrians (2013-2017)
- Pedestrian fatality (July 2018) – westbound left turn onto south crosswalk



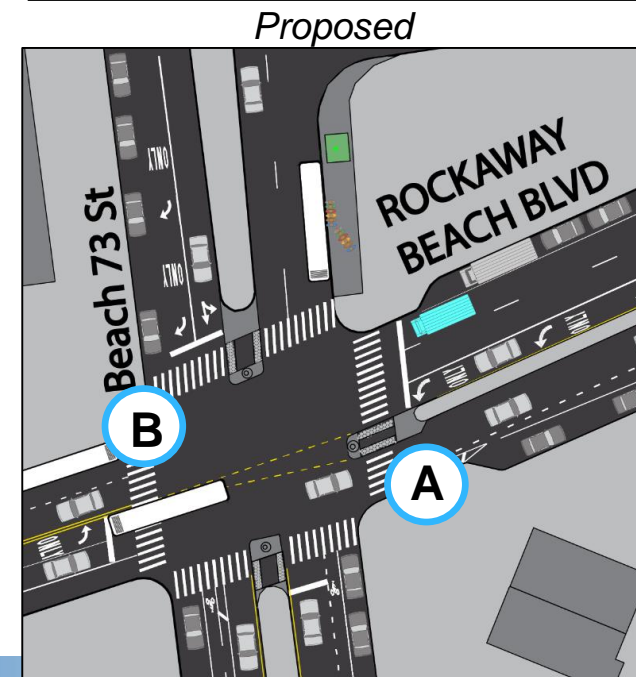
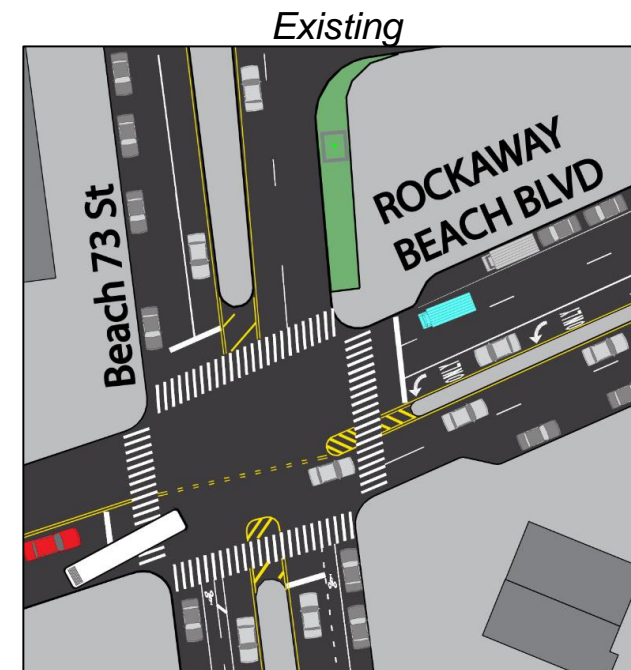
A

A

Add 3 concrete median extensions

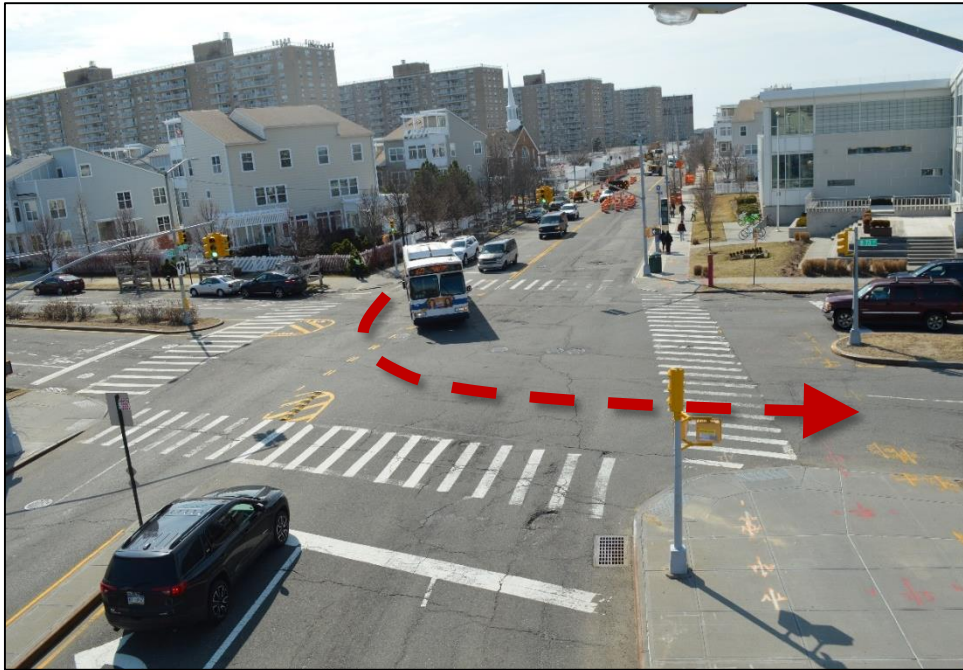
B

Add turning lanes (eastbound left, southbound right)



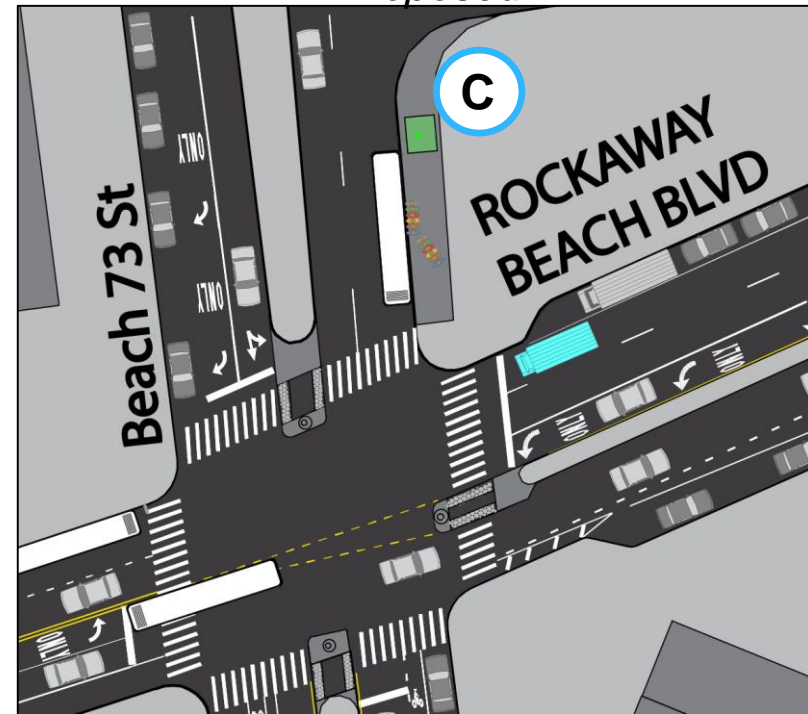
5. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 73 ST – B 67 ST

Existing near side eastbound Q22 Stop is inaccessible due to trees and grass. The current stop location forces bus to make difficult merge to make left turn

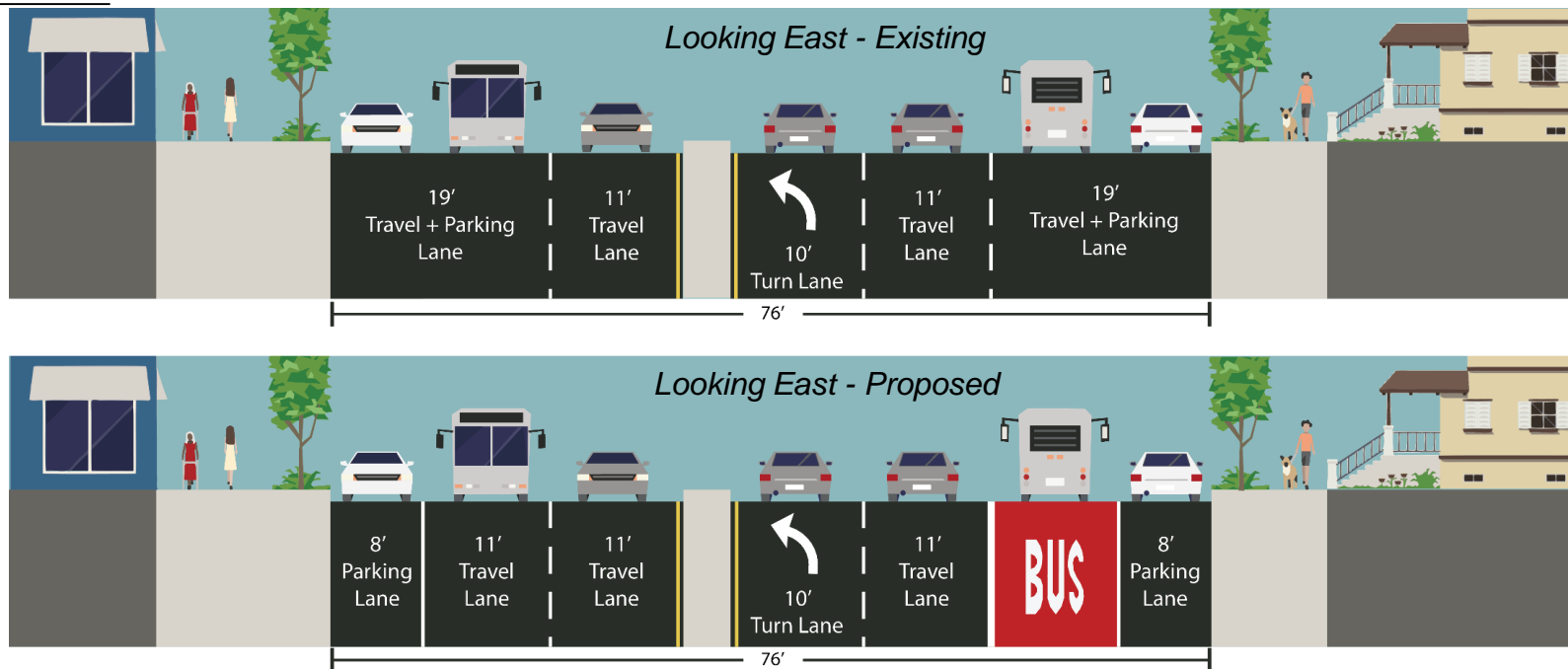


C Relocate Q22 Stop and build new sidewalk to create accessible stop

Proposed



5. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 73 ST – B 67 ST



**Add eastbound bus lane
(24/7)**

Benefits:

- Improves bus speeds
- Calms traffic

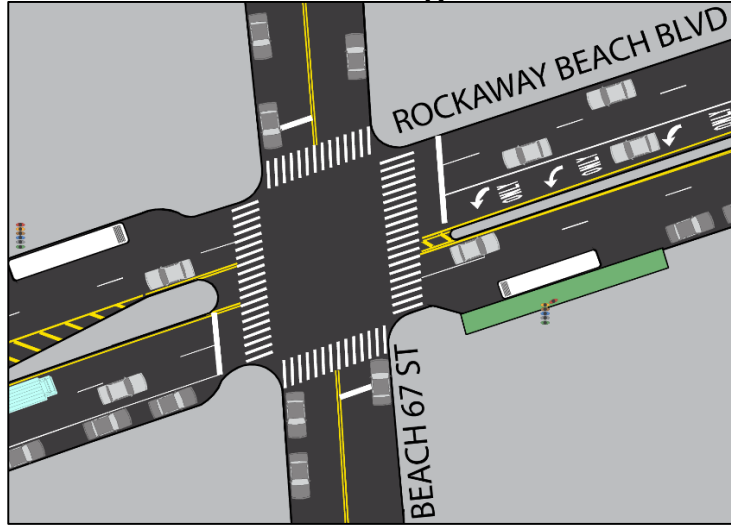
14 traffic injuries, including 2 pedestrians (2013-2017)

Traffic Data:

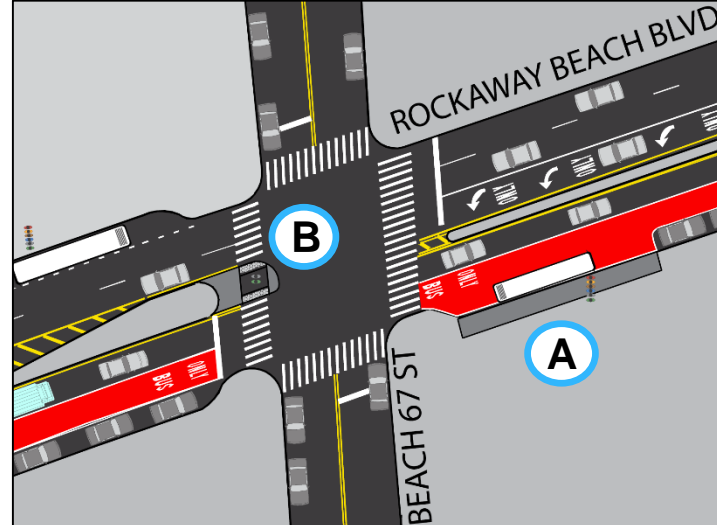
- Maximum eastbound volume:
 - 545 (7-8am)
 - 425 (5-6pm)
- Average daily bus ridership:
 - 240 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 130 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
- Average eastbound bus speeds:
 - 14.3 mph (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 12.9 mph (Summer 2018 Weekends)

5. ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD, B 73 ST – B 67 ST

Existing



Proposed

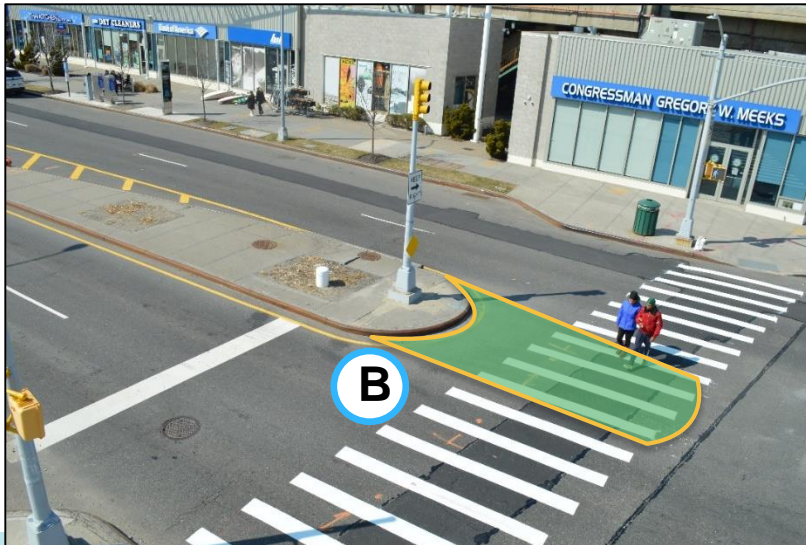


Build new sidewalk at stop to make accessible

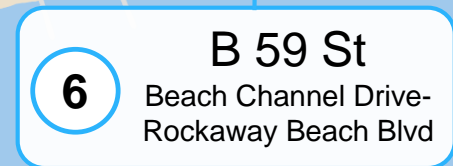
A

Build concrete median extension

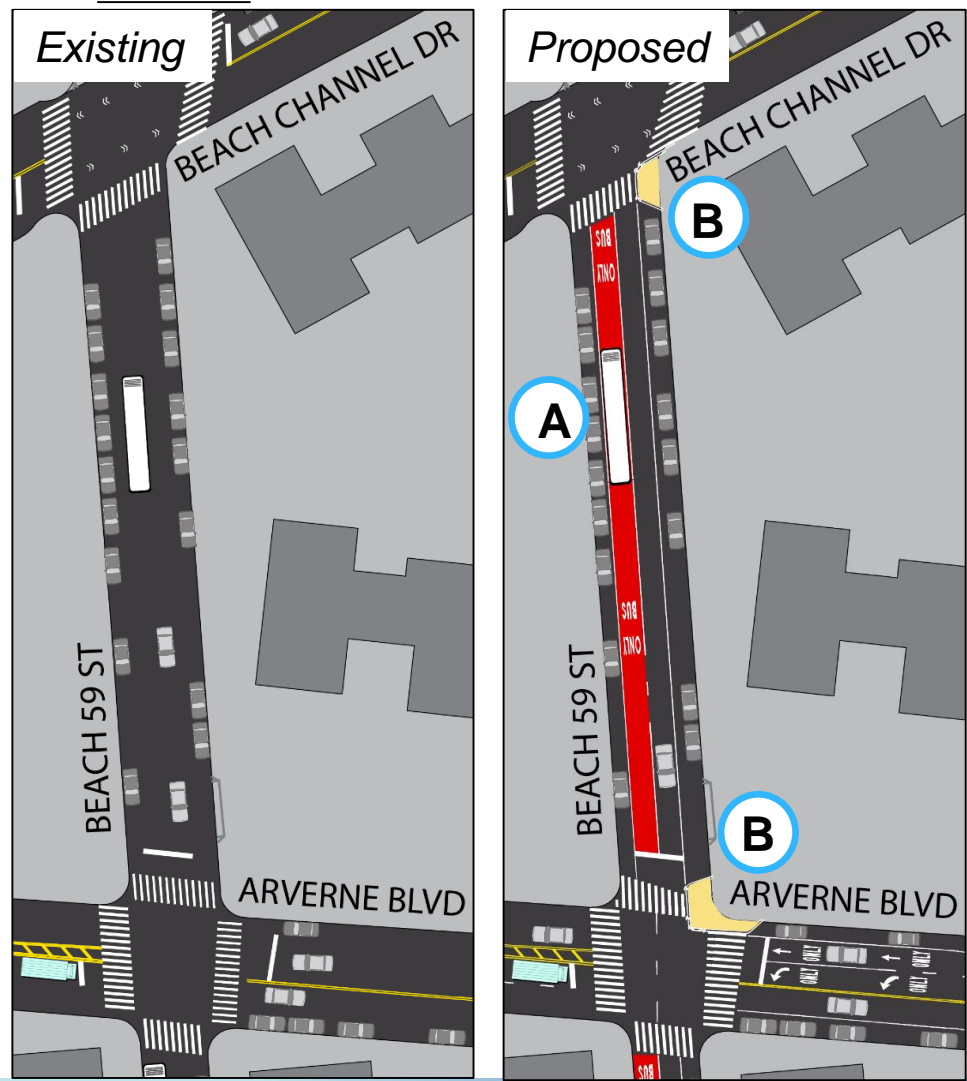
B



Targeted improvements for bus service, bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian safety



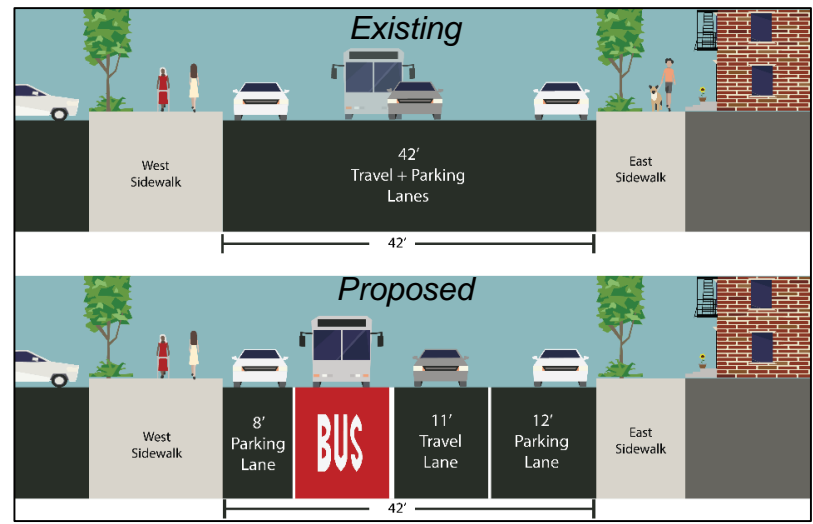
6. B 59 ST, BEACH CHANNEL DR – ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD



Traffic Data:

- Maximum southbound volume:
 - 80 (7-8am)
 - 90 (5-6pm)
- Average westbound bus speeds:
 - 7.6 mph (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 8.0 mph (Summer 2018 Weekends)
- Average daily bus ridership:
 - 300 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 265 (Summer 2018 Weekends)

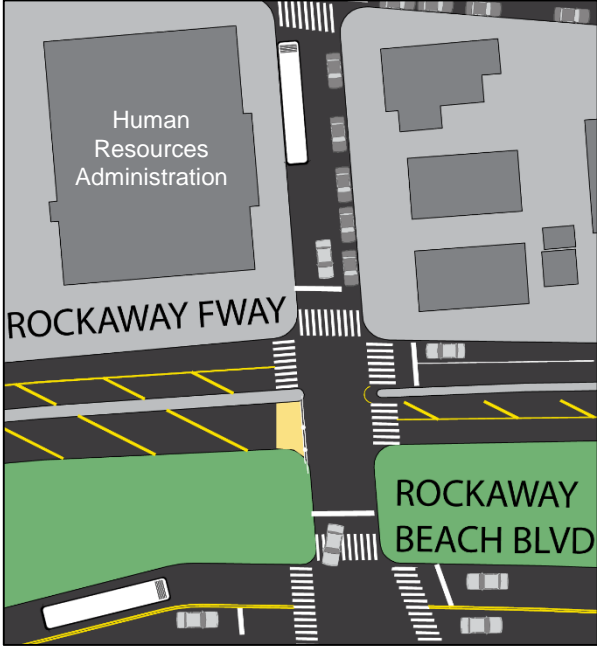
13 traffic injuries, including 3 pedestrians (2013-2017)



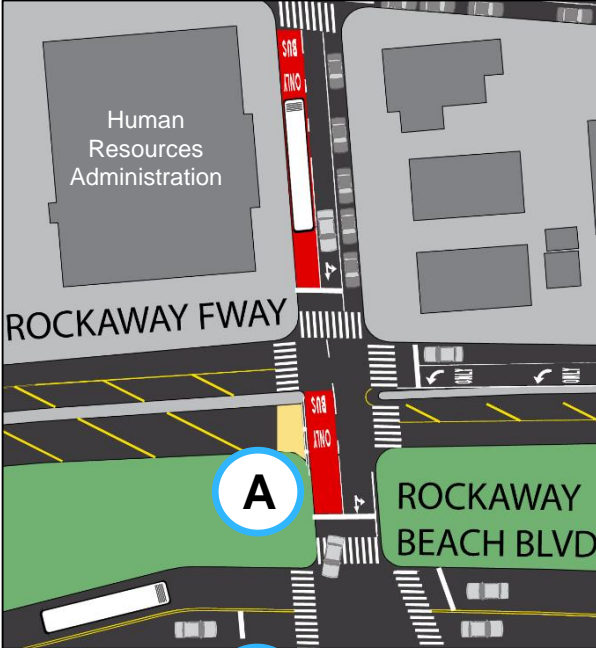
- A** Add southbound bus lane (24/7)
- B** Add painted curb extensions

6. B 59 ST, BEACH CHANNEL DR – ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD

Existing



Proposed

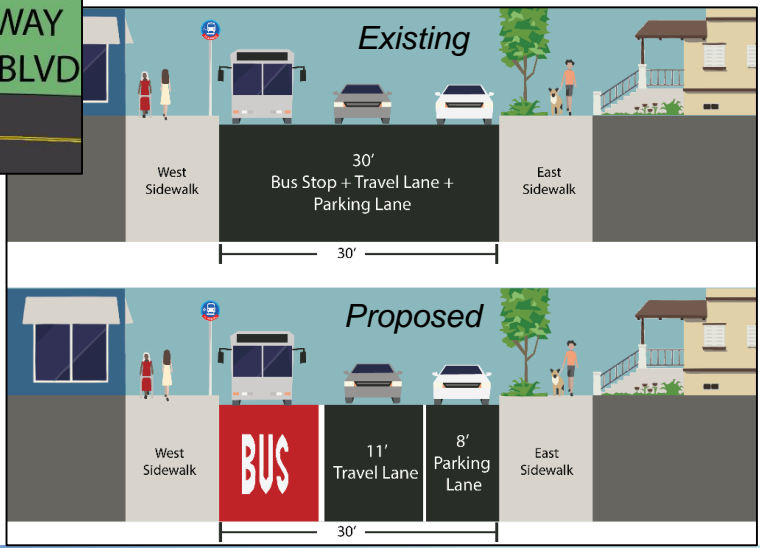


Traffic Data:

- Maximum southbound volume:
 - 170 (7-8am)
 - 127 (5-6pm)
- Average westbound bus speeds:
 - 7.6 mph (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 8.0 mph (Summer 2018 Weekends)
- Average daily bus ridership:
 - 510 (Fall 2018 Weekdays)
 - 515 (Summer 2018 Weekends)

- 10 traffic injuries, including 4 pedestrians (1 fatality) (2013-2017)

- A** Add southbound bus lane (24/7)
- B** Recess eastbound stop bar on Rockaway Beach Blvd to ease bus turns





PROJECT BENEFITS

- Enhances access to transit service
- Improves bus stop accessibility
- Enhances pedestrian safety
- Calms traffic
- Improves bus operations, bus reliability, and bus speeds on the Q22, Q52 SBS, Q53 SBS, QM16, QM17 routes
- Adds overnight parking and daytime loading
- Improves ADA accessibility throughout the corridor

THANK YOU!

Questions?



NYC DOT



NYC DOT



nyc_dot



NYC DOT