

# Story Avenue Bus & Safety Improvements

Bronx Community Board 9 | June 15, 2021



# Updates Since April Presentation

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1. DOT conducted on-street outreach on Story Ave & had conversations with **over 175 Soundview bus riders**
  - Sunday, June 6
  - Monday, June 7
  - Wednesday, June 9
2. Updated bus lane designs on Bronx River Av and White Plains Rd
3. Bus lanes will be camera enforced

# Background



# Better Buses

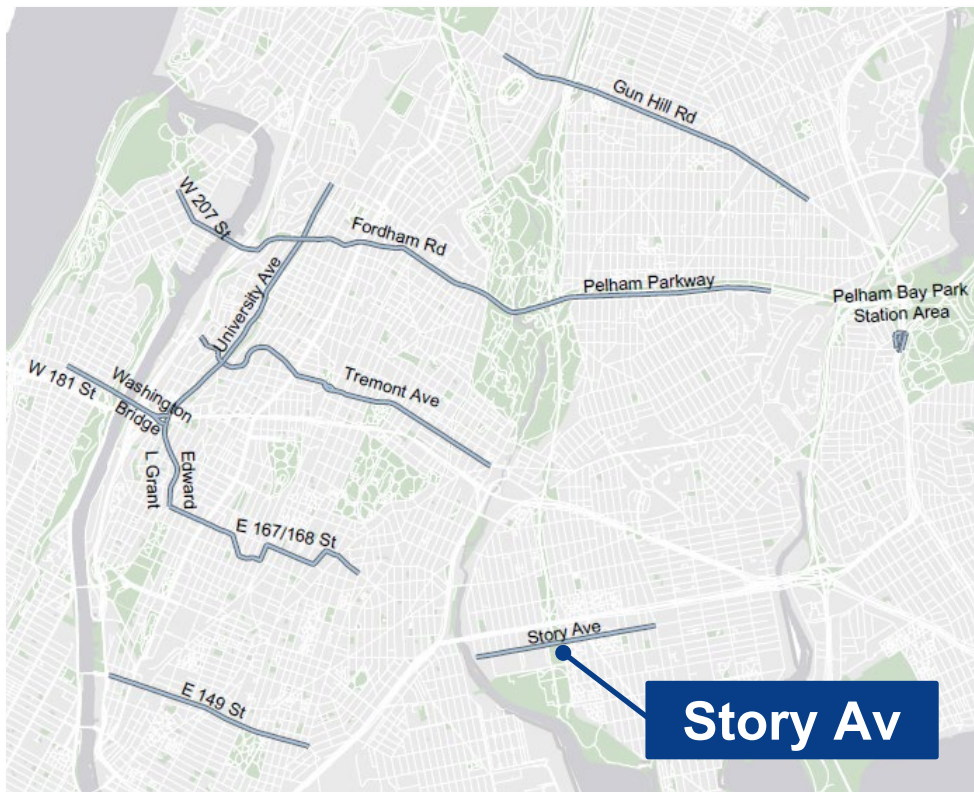
## Better Buses Program

- Mayor's 2019 State of the City:
  - Improve bus speeds 25%
- Better Buses Action Plan
  - Released April 2019
- Bus Priority Projects
  - 22 projects implemented in 2019
  - 16.3 miles of bus lanes installed 2020
  - 2 projects completed in the Bronx in 2020:
    - Edward L Grant Hwy
    - E 149 St



# Better Buses

## Bronx Bus Priority Corridors



- Analyzed major Bronx corridors to identify locations to improve bus speed and reliability
- Ranked potential bus priority corridors by:
  - Demand for bus service
  - Bus performance (speed and reliability)
  - Service levels proposed by MTA
  - Neighborhood demographics
  - Feasibility of implementation
- Selected 10 of the highest ranking corridors for future projects, including Story Av

# MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign: Story Av



- MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign currently on hold
- Redesign Plan proposes to:
  - Re-route Bx6 SBS east along Story Av
  - Create new Bx6 SBS terminal at Turnbull Av and Pugsley Av
  - Use Bx6 Local to serve Hunts Point
  - Bx5 would continue to run on Story Av
- Proposed 2021 project will continue with some of the bus priority changes:
  - Make Bx5 faster and more reliable
  - Improve access to destinations on the route
  - Support future changes that would increase bus frequency on the corridor



# Reconstruction of Bruckner Expressway

- Current New York State DOT project is reconstructing a ½ mile section of the Bruckner Expressway (I-278)
- Construction at Bronx River Av and Bruckner Blvd may impact timeline of any changes at that intersection
- DOT will continue to monitor the area & coordinate with NYS DOT and the MTA



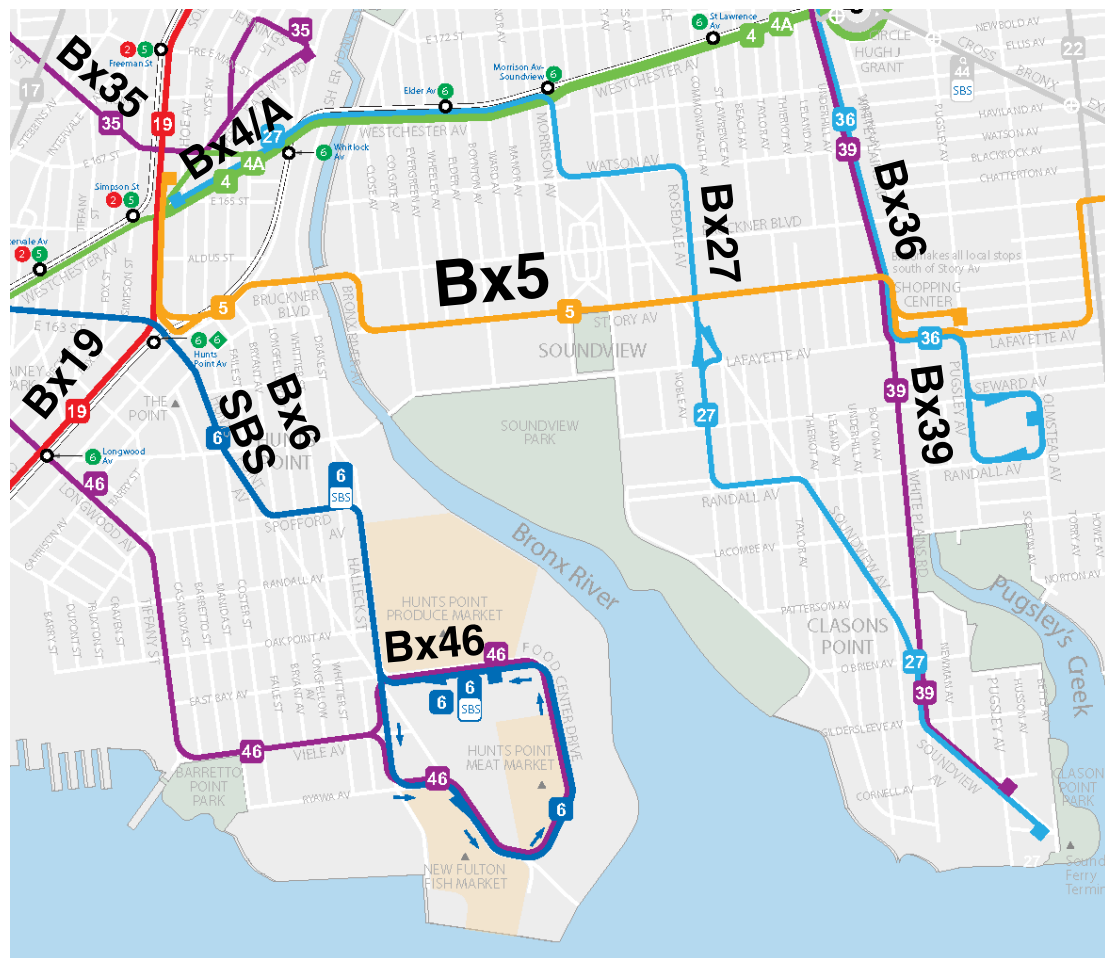
Bronx River Av at Bruckner Blvd, facing north

# Existing Conditions



# Story Av Overview

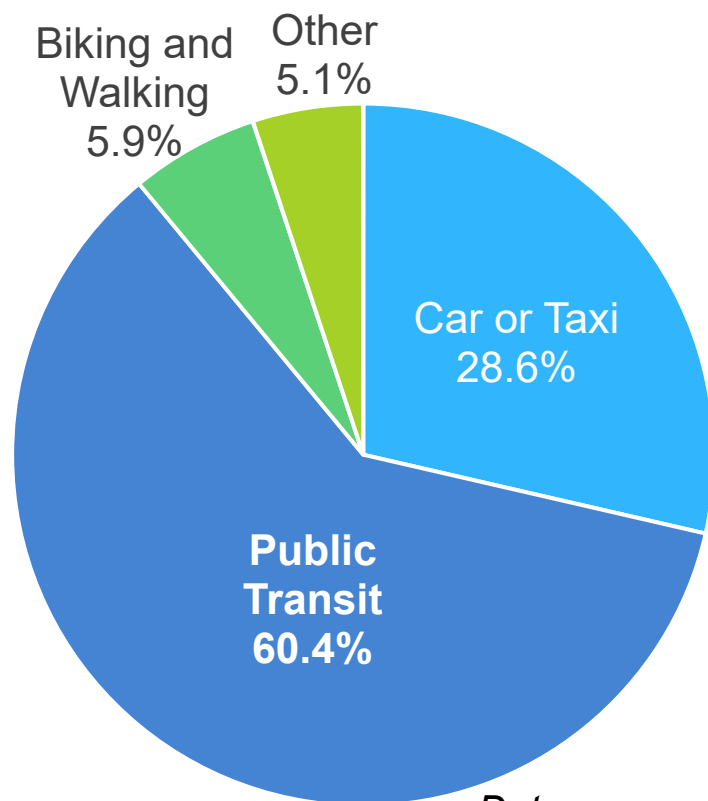
- Carries Bx5 bus (**14,781 daily passengers** in May 2019)
- Key connections to:
  - **2** **5** **6**
  - 20 bus routes, including Bx6 SBS
- Bus averages 5-6 MPH during peak periods
- Key issues:
  - Slow bus speeds
  - Traffic congestion
  - Long distances between pedestrian crossings



# Community Overview

## Bronx Community Board 9

Primary Modes of Transportation to Work in CB9

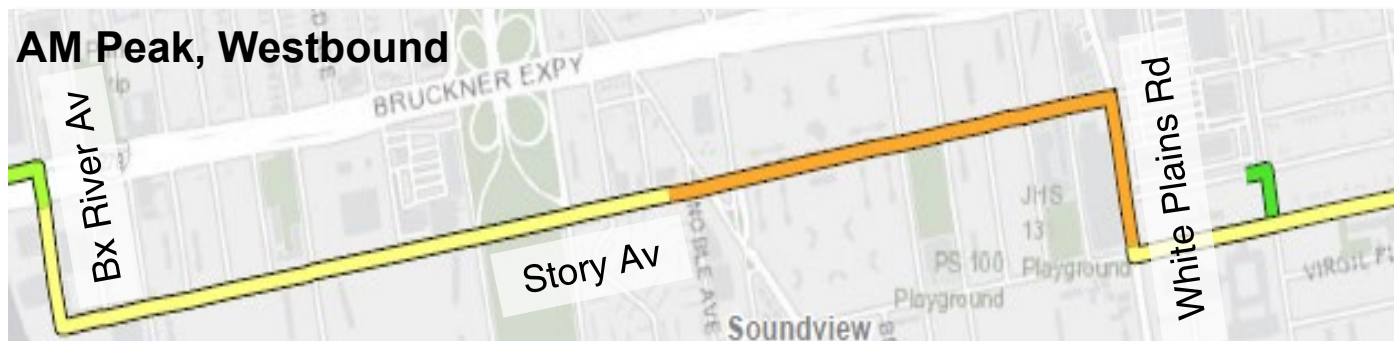
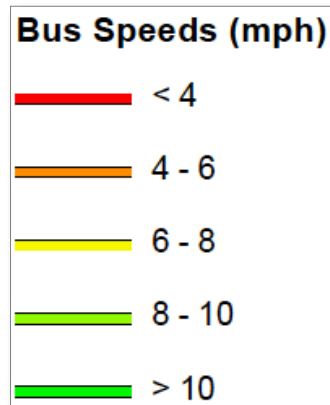


Data source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019

- Majority of residents living in Bronx CB 9 use public transit to get to work
  - 60.4% use public transit
  - 28.6% use a car/carpool
- Despite high ridership, minimal space dedicated to buses, resulting in slow bus speeds
- Bus and street improvements to the Story Av corridor would directly benefit CB 9 residents

# Existing Conditions

- Speeds drop as low as **5 MPH** during peak periods

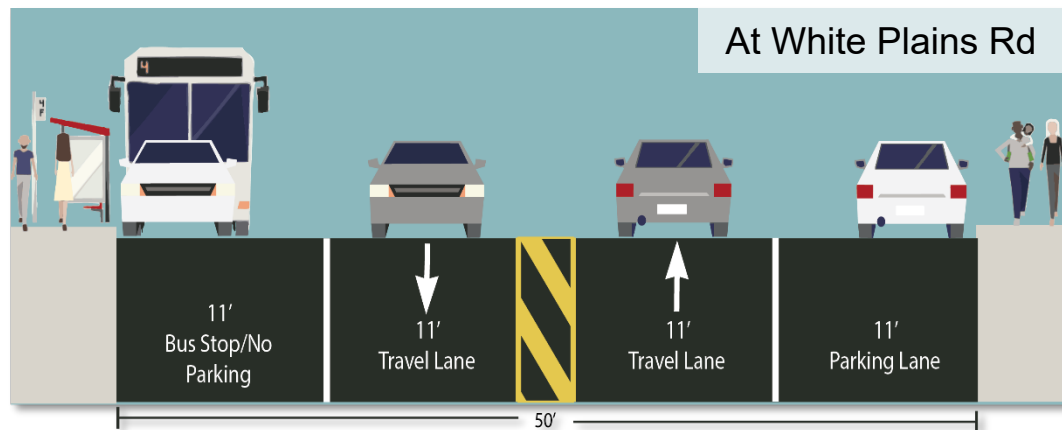


*Data source: NYCT Bus Time Data, Bx5 Local Speed Data, Oct 2019*

# Existing Conditions on Story Av



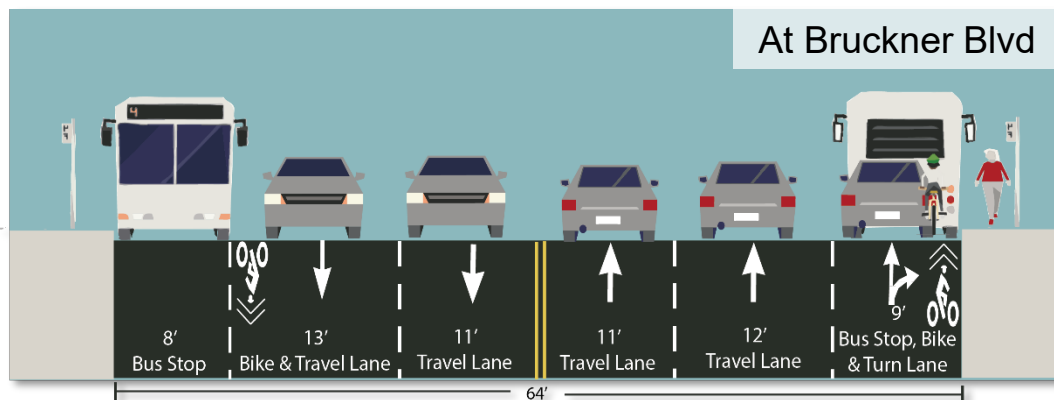
Story Av at Evergreen Av



- Key Issues:
  - Peak-period bus speeds drop to 5 mph
  - Double parking, weaving & merging
  - Vehicles blocking bus stops
  - Traffic congestion



# Existing Conditions on Bronx River Av

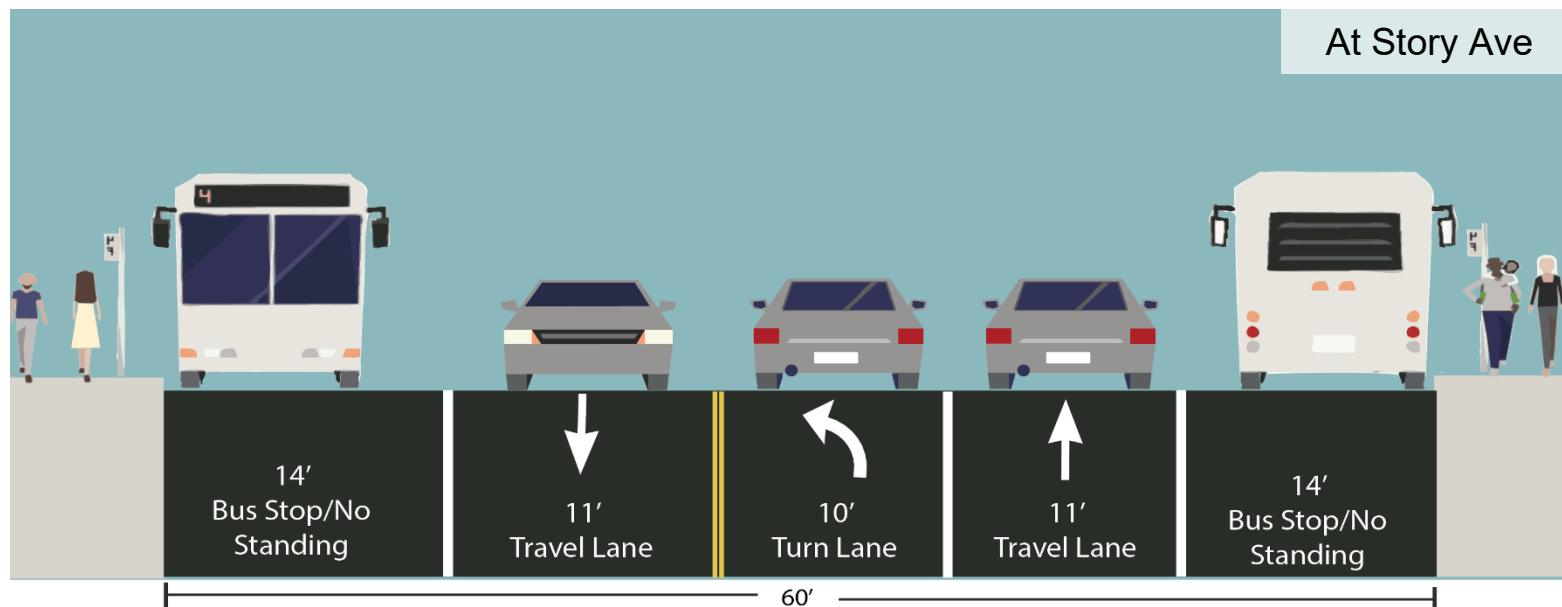


- Key Issues:
  - Peak hour bus speeds drop to 5 mph
  - Double parking, weaving & merging
  - Vehicle blocking bus stops
  - Lanes often blocked, heavy truck and auto activity
  - Traffic congestion



Northbound congestion on Bronx River Av

# Existing Conditions on White Plains Rd



- Key Issues:
  - AM Peak hour bus speeds drop below 5 mph
  - Vehicles blocking bus stops
  - Parking and double parking in No Standing areas of curb in front of shopping plazas

# Traffic Safety

## Story Av, Bronx River Av to White Plains Rd, BX Injury Summary, 2014-2018 (5 years)

- 16 people killed or severely injured on Story Av (2014 – 2018)
- Story Av intersects with Vision Zero Priority Corridors and Intersections
- In addition to transit improvements, DOT will continue to study safety enhancements for all roadway users

	Total Injuries	Severe Injuries	Fatalities	KSI
Pedestrian	64	2	3	5
Bicyclists	16	2	0	2
Motor Vehicle Occupant	333	9	0	9
Total	413	13	3	16

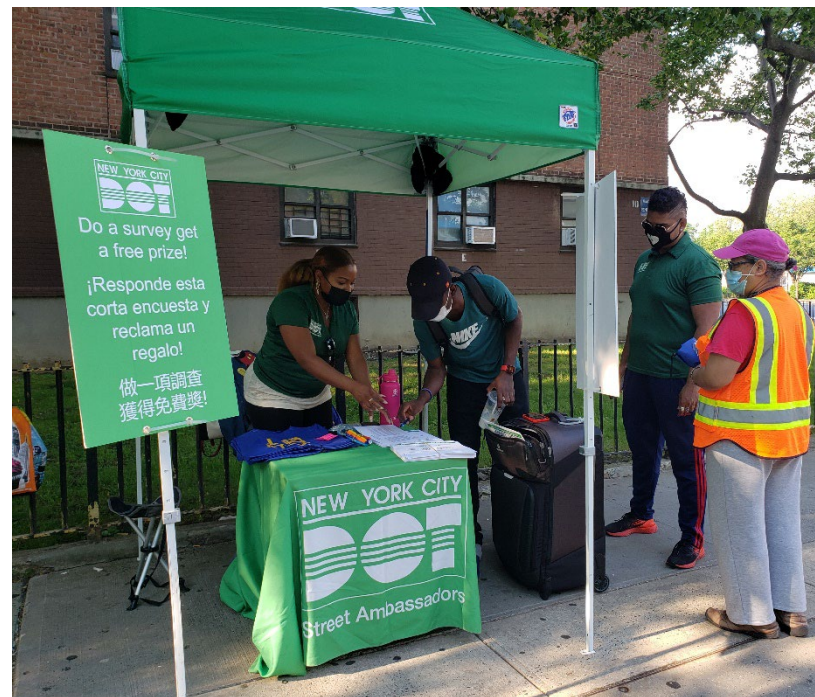
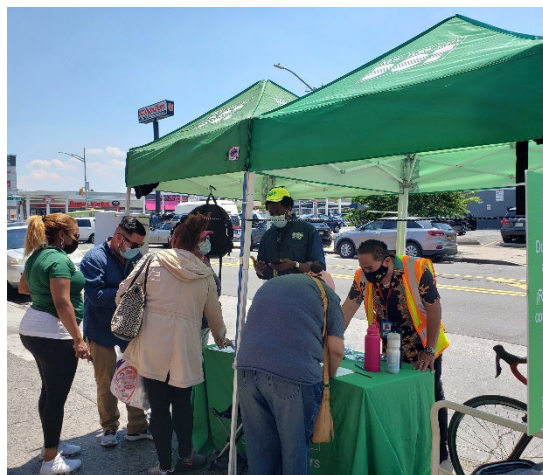
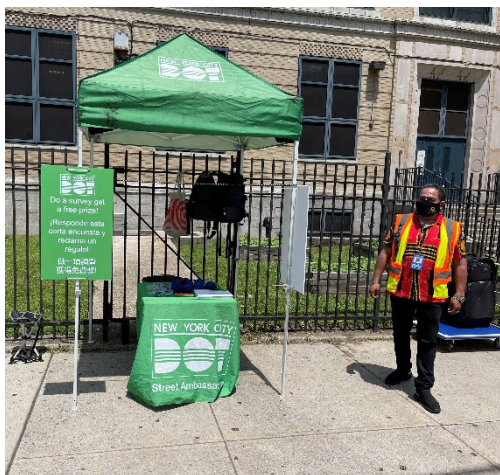
# On-Street Outreach



# Community Feedback

DOT spoke with the public on Story Ave and had conversations with **over 175 Soundview bus riders**

- Sunday, June 6
- Monday, June 7
- Wednesday, June 9



# Community Feedback

## Bus riders' top requests:

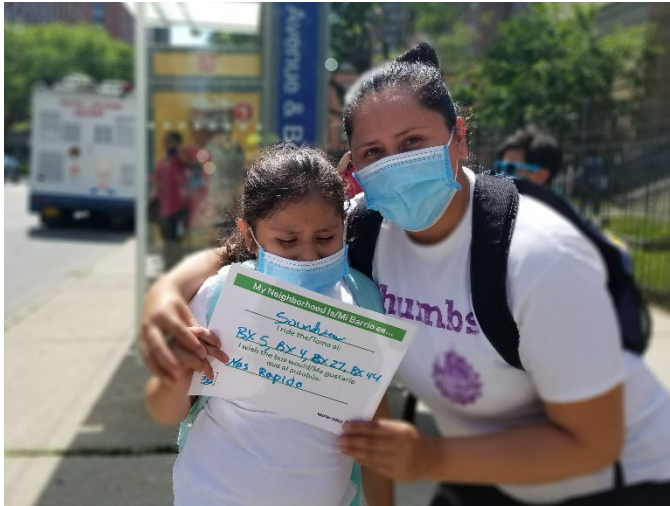
- More frequent / shorter wait times
- Faster service
- Run on time

Bus lanes can address all of these

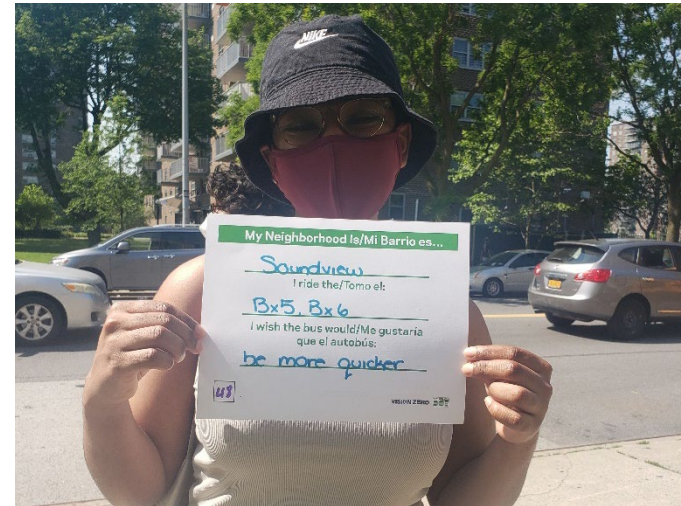




# Community Feedback: Story Av & Rosedale Av



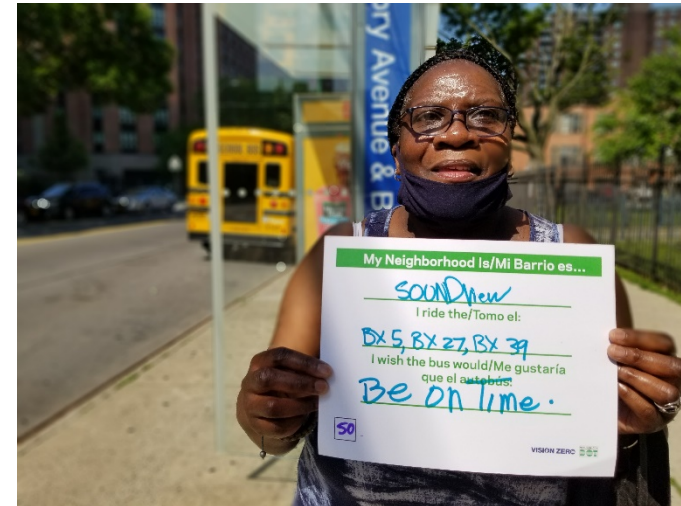
"Mas Rapido" ("Faster")



"Be More Quicker"



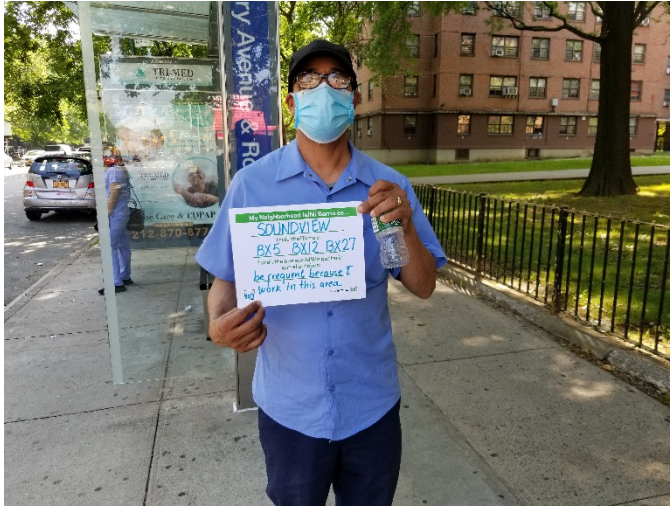
"I wish the service [would] be faster"



"Be on Time"



# Community Feedback: Story Av & Rosedale Av



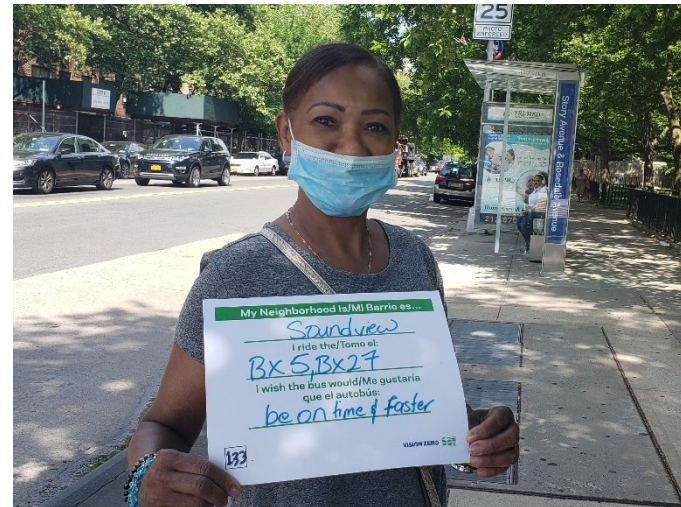
"Be frequent because I work in this area"



"Run on Time"



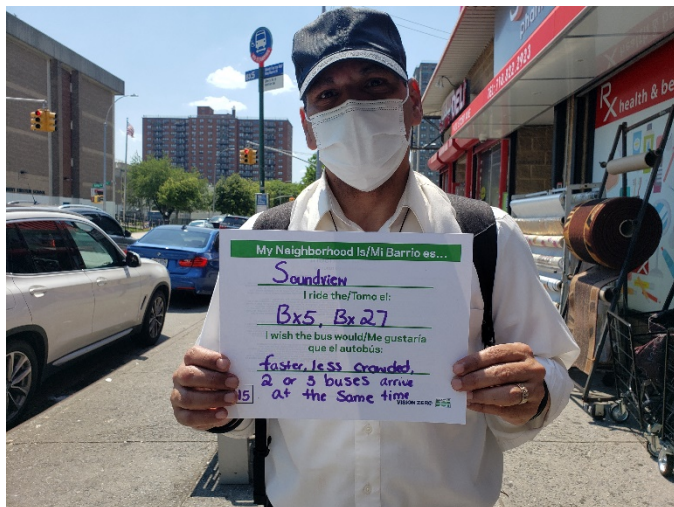
"Less Waiting"



"Be on Time and Faster"



# Community Feedback: Story Av & White Plains Rd



"Faster, less crowded,  
2 or 3 buses arrive at the same time"



"Mas a Menudo" ("More Often")



"Come on Time!"



"Run Frequently"

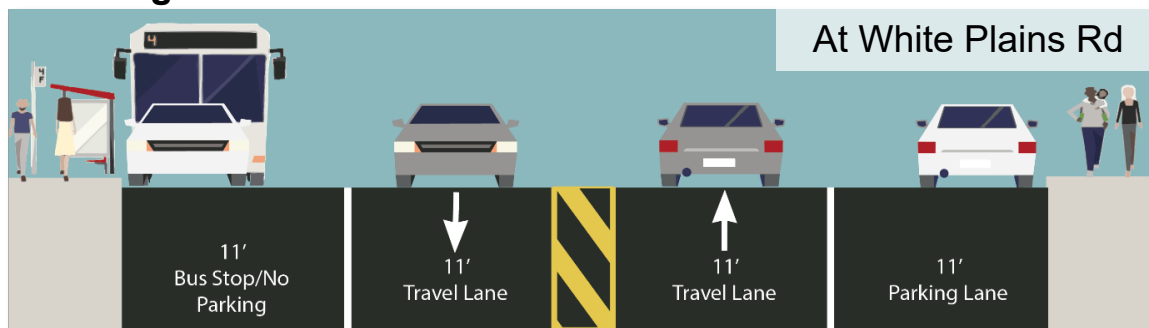
# Proposals

# Proposed: Story Av

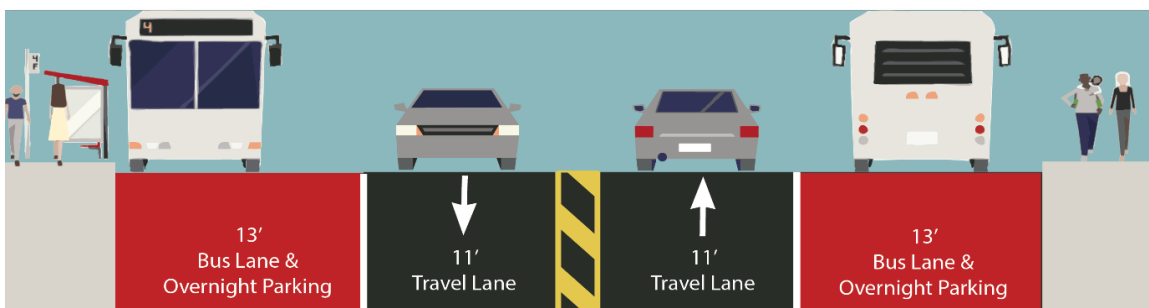
## Curbside Bus Lanes between Bronx River Av and White Plains Rd

- Addresses slow and unreliable bus service along congested corridor
- Provides dedicated road space for buses, increasing speed and reliability
- Reduces congestion by removing buses from general travel lanes
- Provides clearance for bus stops
- Maintains overnight parking

### Existing

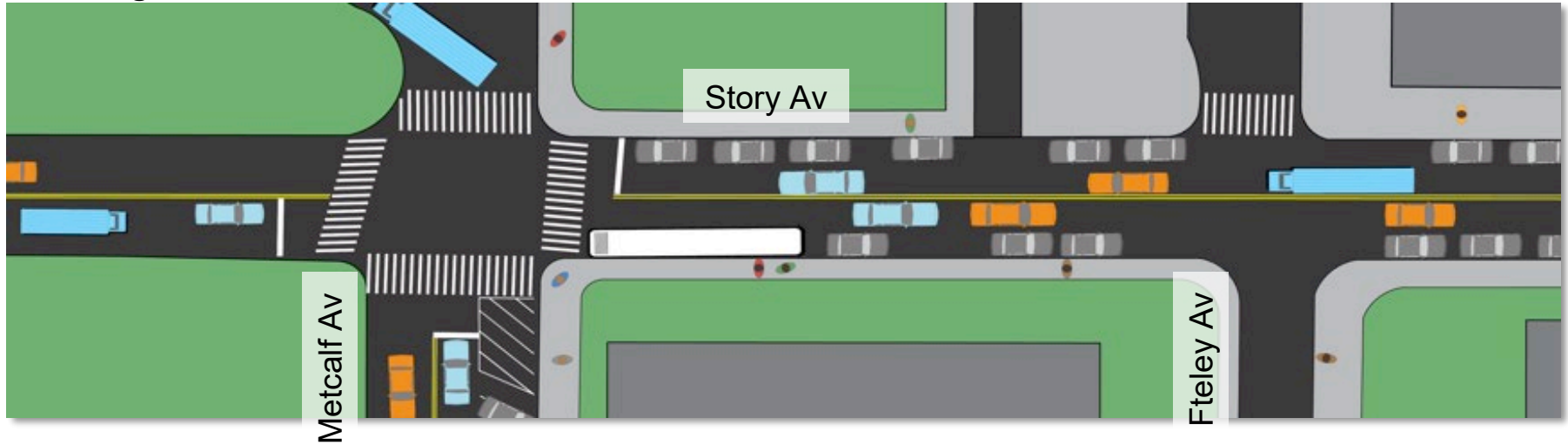


### Proposed

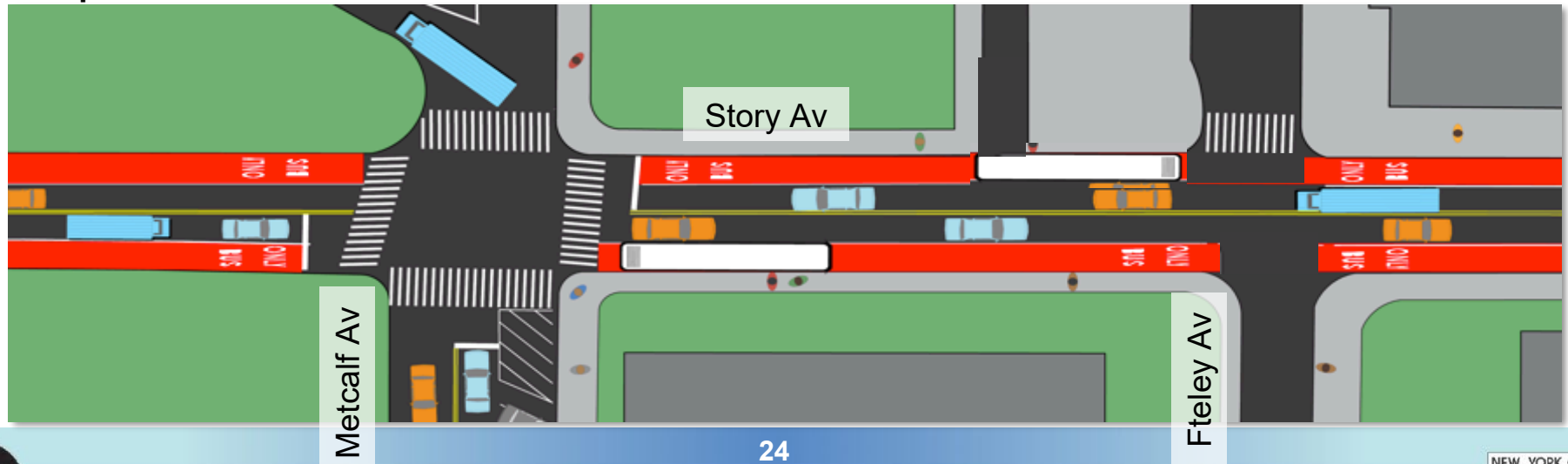


# Proposed: Story Av

Existing



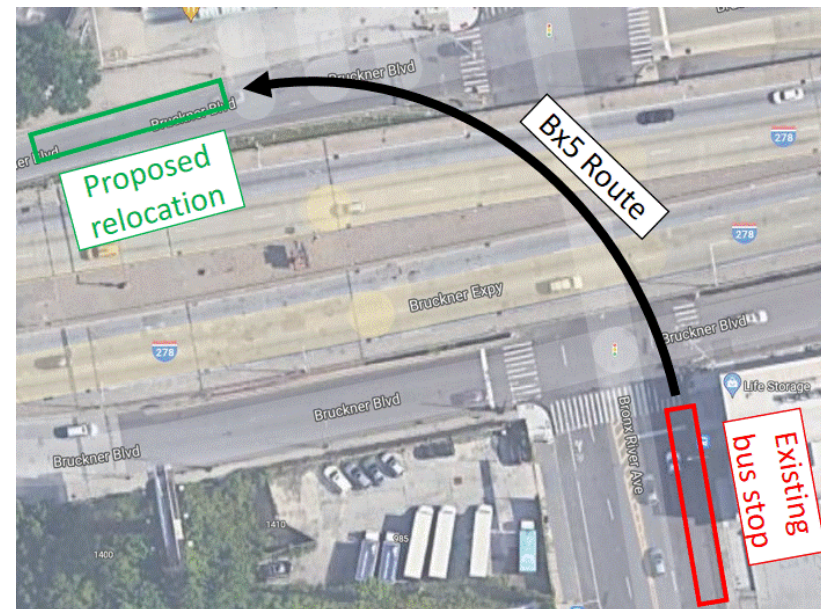
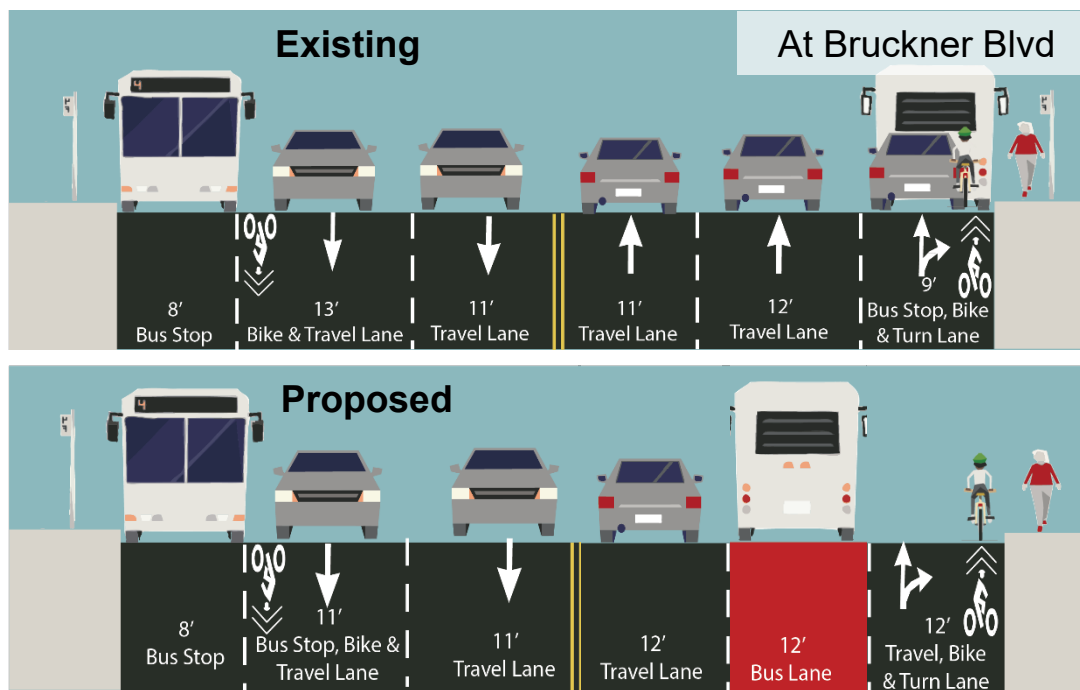
Proposed





# Proposed: Bronx River Av

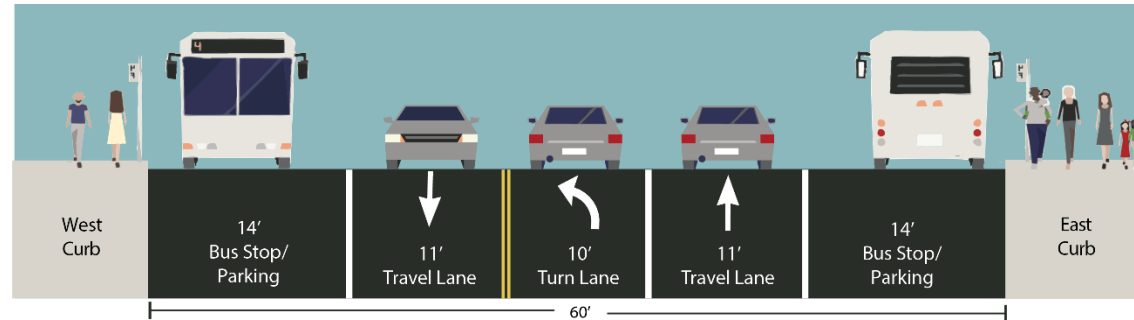
- **Bus lane moved to offset lane (2<sup>nd</sup> lane from the curb)**
- **Northbound bus stop moved from Bronx River Av around the corner to Bruckner Blvd**
- Makes the bus faster & more reliable
- Helps bus turn left at Bruckner Blvd, saving time
- Maintains curb access for industrial businesses
- Improves access to jobs & destinations north of Bruckner Blvd



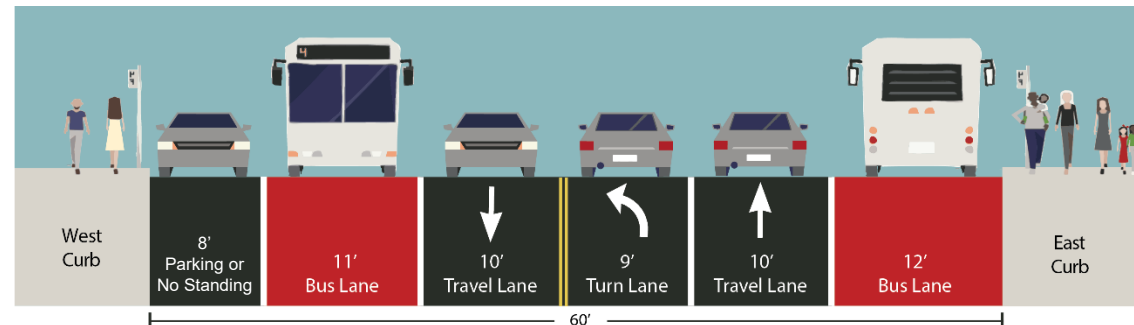
# Proposed: White Plains Rd from Story Av to Lafayette Av

- Add bus lanes to make bus faster and more reliable
- Benefits Bx5, Bx36 & Bx39
- **Project update:**  
**southbound lane moved from curbside to offset**
  - Preserves access to west curb
- Reduces congestion by removing buses from general travel lanes

Existing

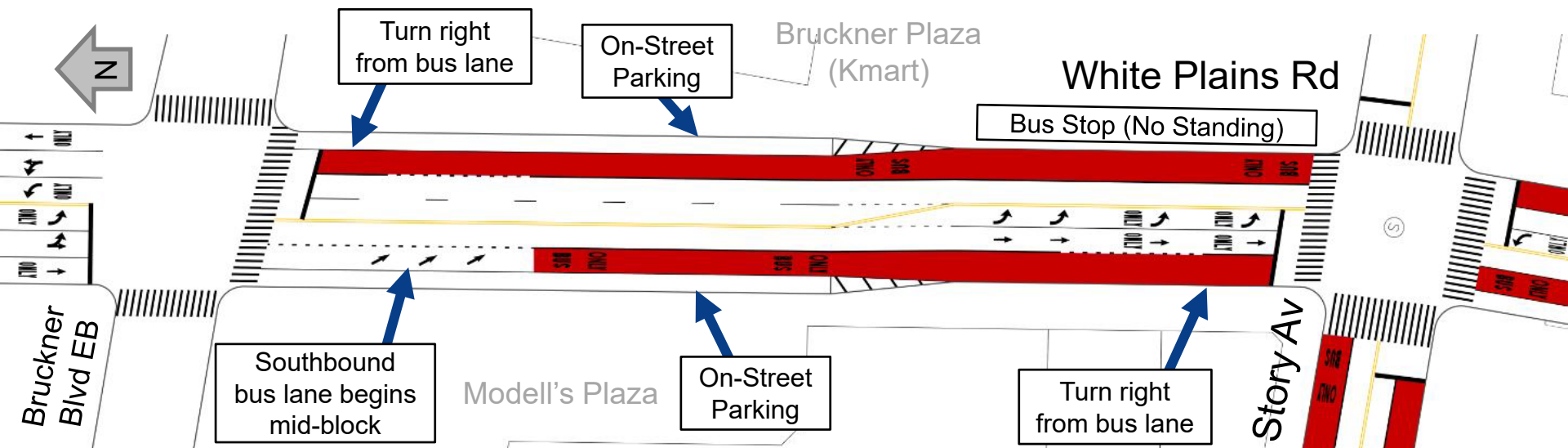


Proposed



# Proposed: White Plains Rd from Bruckner Blvd to Story Av

- **Project update: bus lanes added at CB 9's request (April 2021 meeting)**
- Makes the Bx36 & Bx39 buses faster and more reliable
- No changes to parking



# Proposed: Story Av between Fteley Av and Croes Av

## Update Curb Regulations



Story Av at Fteley Av

- **Issues:**
  - Due to overflow parking for NYPD vehicles and no parking in FDNY fire zone, vehicles block bus stops and block the bus from reaching the curb
  - Creates traffic, especially for buses and cars travelling eastbound and westbound in peak AM/PM hours
- **Benefits:**
  - Allows buses to stop at the curb, especially for passengers using wheelchairs/walkers
  - Creates designated parking for authorized vehicles on side streets
  - Keeps traffic moving on Story Av
  - Emergency vehicles can travel in bus lanes at all hours



# Proposed: Story Av between Underhill Av and Bolton Av

## Update Curb Regulations

- **Issues:**

- Due to Alternate Side Parking, school buses must double park for student pick-up on school days
- Buses can't reach the curb and must let students off in the street
- Creates traffic, especially for buses and cars travelling eastbound during AM and PM peak hours

- **Benefits:**

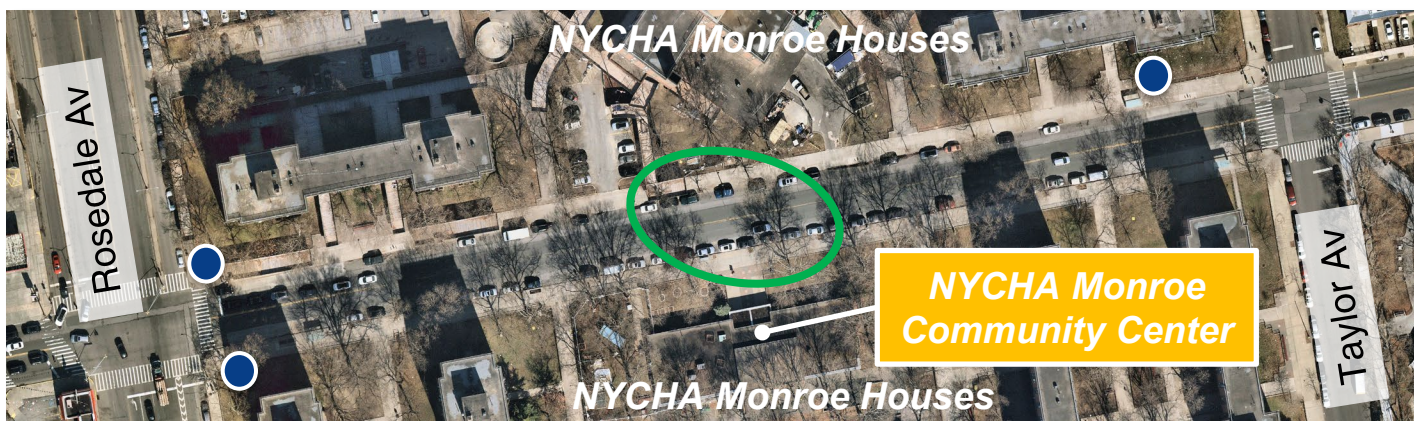
- School buses can stop in the bus lane at the curb, rather than letting students off in the street
- Keeps traffic moving on Story Av





# Proposed: Mid-Block Crossing

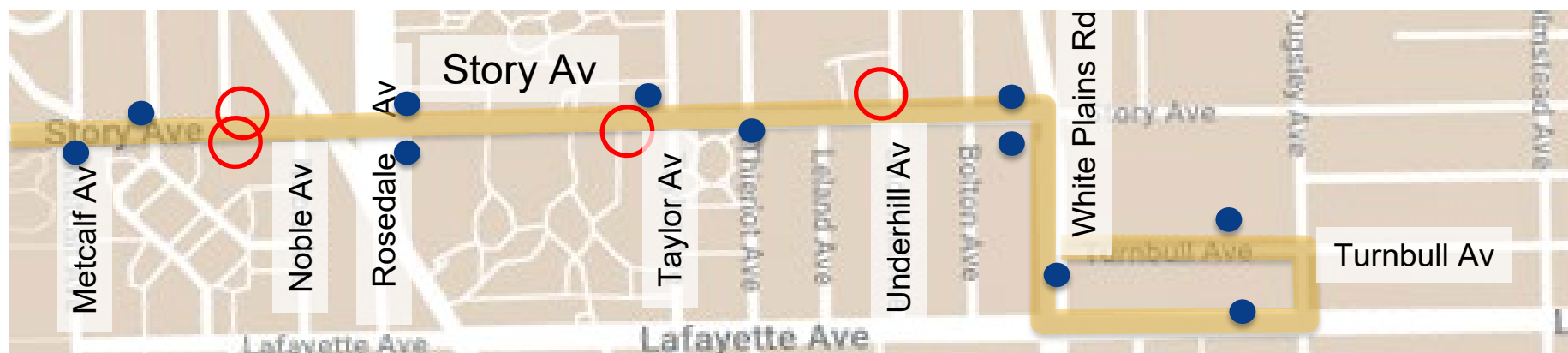
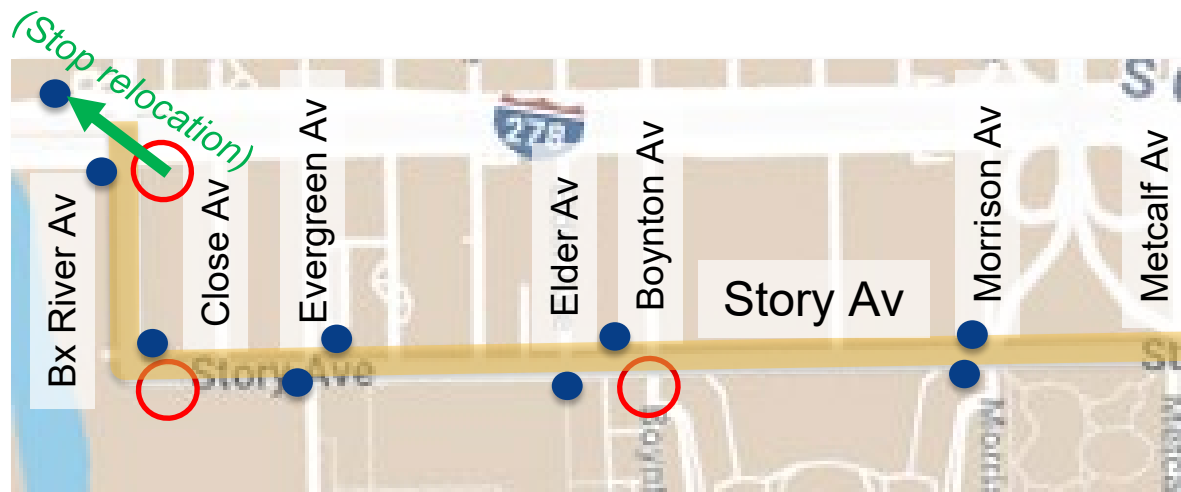
- Story Av between Rosedale Av and Taylor Av is a long block without a crosswalk (over 900' long)
- DOT is studying the feasibility of a new, mid-block pedestrian crossing
- Improve pedestrian safety for those crossing Story Ave, accessing bus stops or Community Center



Bx5 bus stop  
(after stop  
consolidation)

# Proposed: Bus Stop Changes

- Consolidate bus stops along Story Ave
- Makes bus faster & more reliable (less stop-and-go)
- Bus stops will be evenly spaced every 3-4 blocks
- Adds overnight parking spaces
- Most bus stops unchanged



Bx5 Local bus stop



Bx5 Local bus stop to be removed

# Parking Changes on Story Av

- Parking would be preserved overnight
- Stop consolidations would add up to 16 parking spaces overnight

Story Av, Bronx River Av to White Plains Rd (EB & WB)

	Parking	
	South Curb	North Curb
Current	191	146
Proposed	Segments of curbside bus lanes in effect during peak hours.	
Full-time Parking Changes	+11	+5
	Full-time parking spaces gained from bus stop removals	
Part-time Parking Changes	-172	-130
	Alternate side parking spaces repurposed during daytime bus lane hours; preserved for overnight parking	



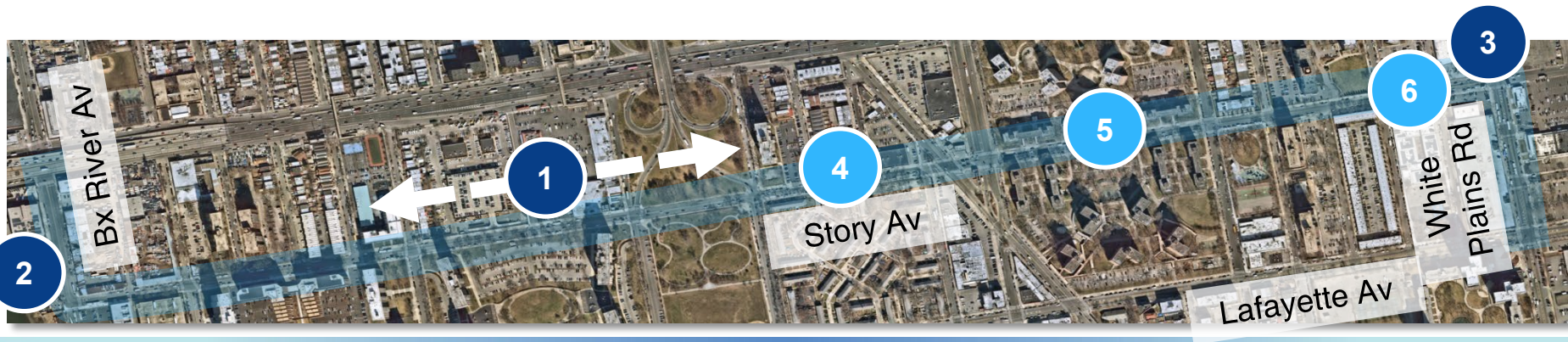
# Proposal Summary

## Bus lanes:

1. Story Av, from Bronx River Av to White Plains Rd
2. Bronx River Av, from Story Av to Bruckner Blvd (northbound only)
3. White Plains Rd, from Lafayette Av to Bruckner Blvd

## Other improvements:

4. Story Av, between Fteley Av and Croes Av
5. Mid-block pedestrian crossing (*currently being studied*)
6. Story Av, between Underhill Av and Bolton Av
7. Consolidate Bus Stops between Bronx River Av and White Plains Rd (*multiple locations*)

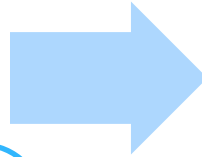


# Project Schedule

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June 2021

- Present draft plan to CB 9
- Finalize design based on stakeholder feedback
- Share final plan with CB and other stakeholders



Summer 2021

- Install markings and signage
- Adjust parking regulations & bus stops
- Coordinate with NYSDOT on Bruckner reconstruction

# Thank You!

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## Questions?



NYC DOT



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