Third Avenue Bus Lane Improvements

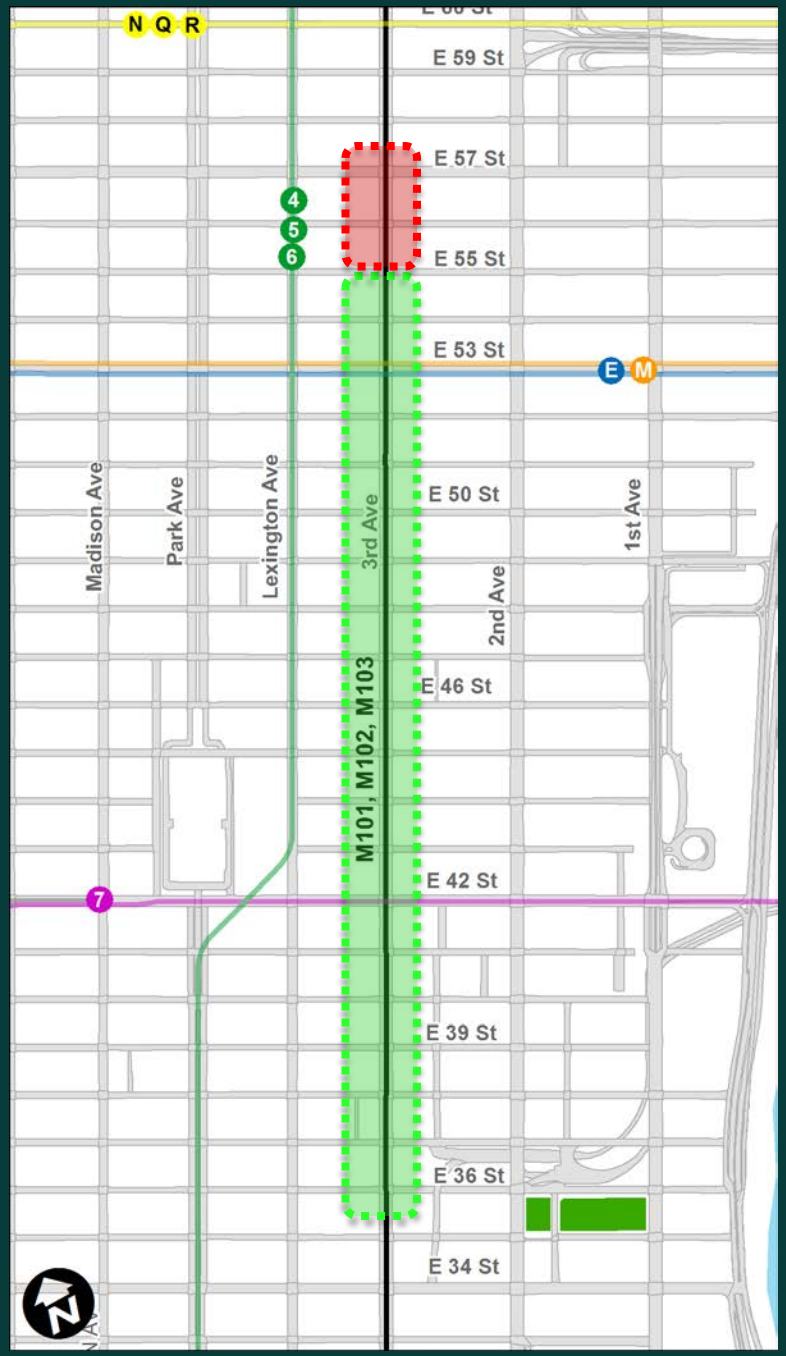
May 5, 2014
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner

Presentation to Manhattan Community Board 6
Transportation Committee

NEW YORK CITY DOT

Background

- Curbside bus lane implemented in 1982 from 36th St to 56th St
- In effect 7am-7pm
- 59,000 daily riders on M101, M102, M103
- 12 express routes



Section 1:
36th Street to 55th Street

Section 2:
55th Street to 57th Street

Section 1
36th Street to 55th Street

Issues

- No loading space on east side of Third Avenue
- Trucks frequently block bus lane
- Buses cannot effectively use bus lane
- Street much wider than needed for traffic volume

Third Avenue at East 37th Street

36th Street to 55th Street

Proposal

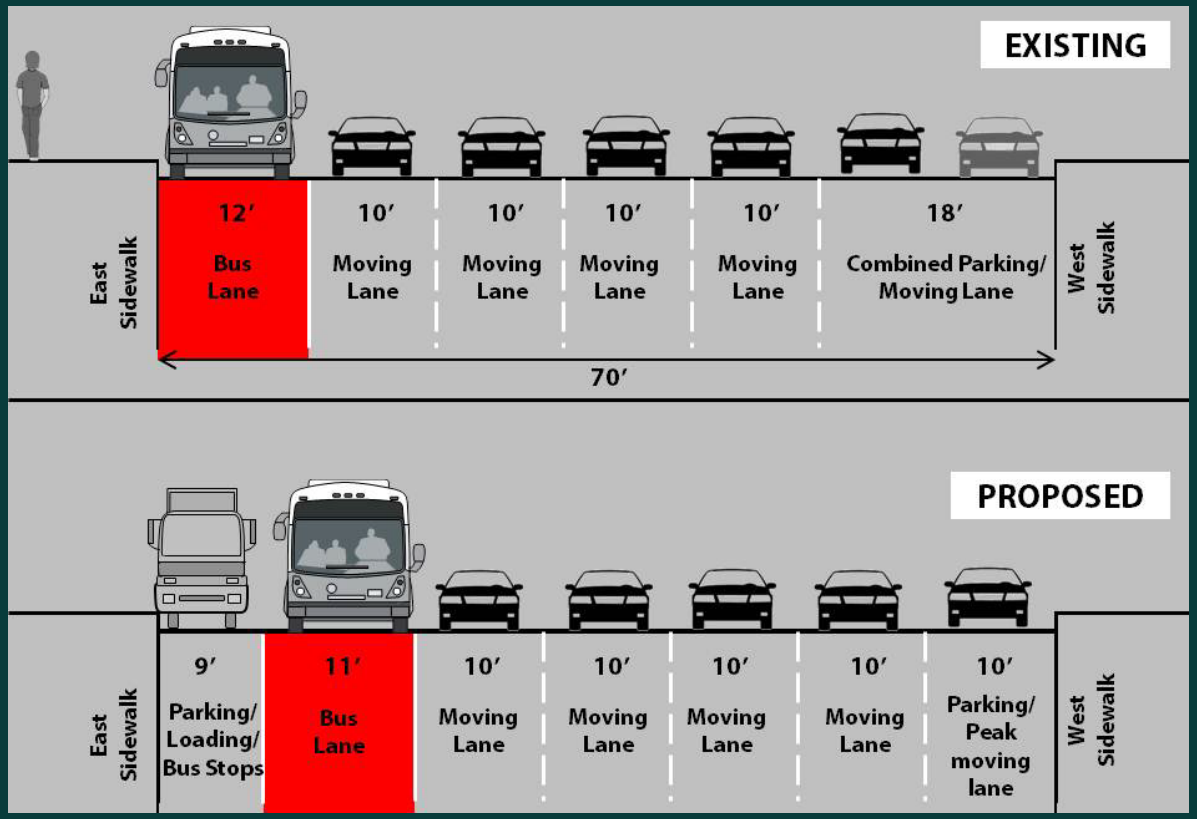
- Move bus lane to “offset” design
- Add parking and loading space to curb

Offset bus lane example: First Avenue, Manhattan

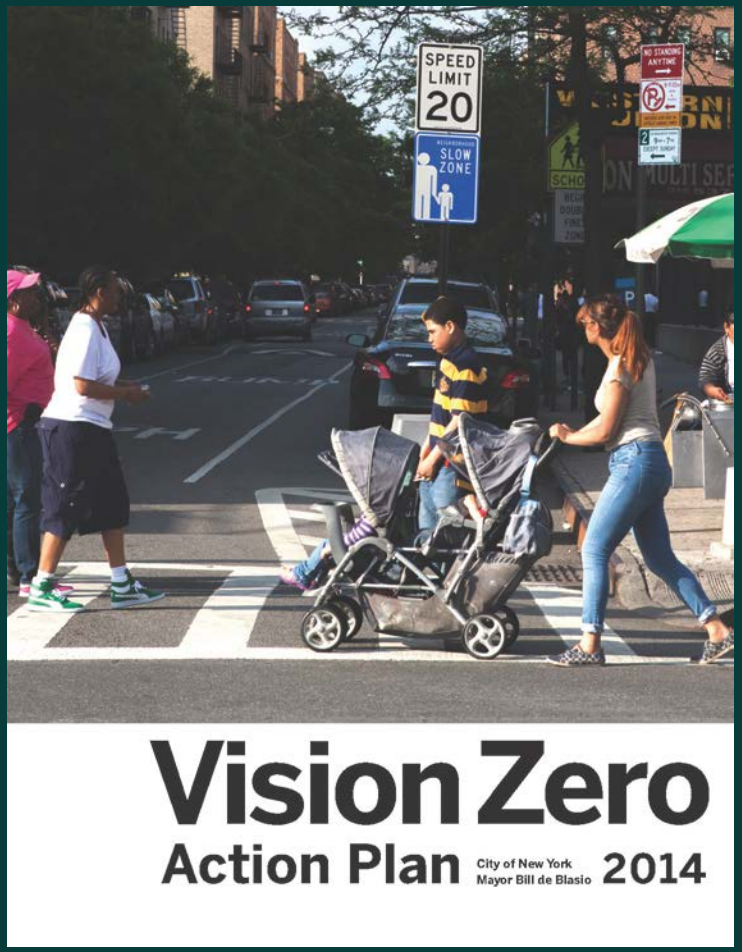
36th Street to 55th Street

Benefits

- Improved bus operations
- Added commercial vehicle loading/parking
- Updated curb regulations



Vision Zero



- New York City's commitment to improve street safety in every neighborhood and in every borough
- NYCDOT Action: develop street designs and configurations that improve safety

VISION ZERO
nyc.gov/visionzero

NEW YORK CITY DOT

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK

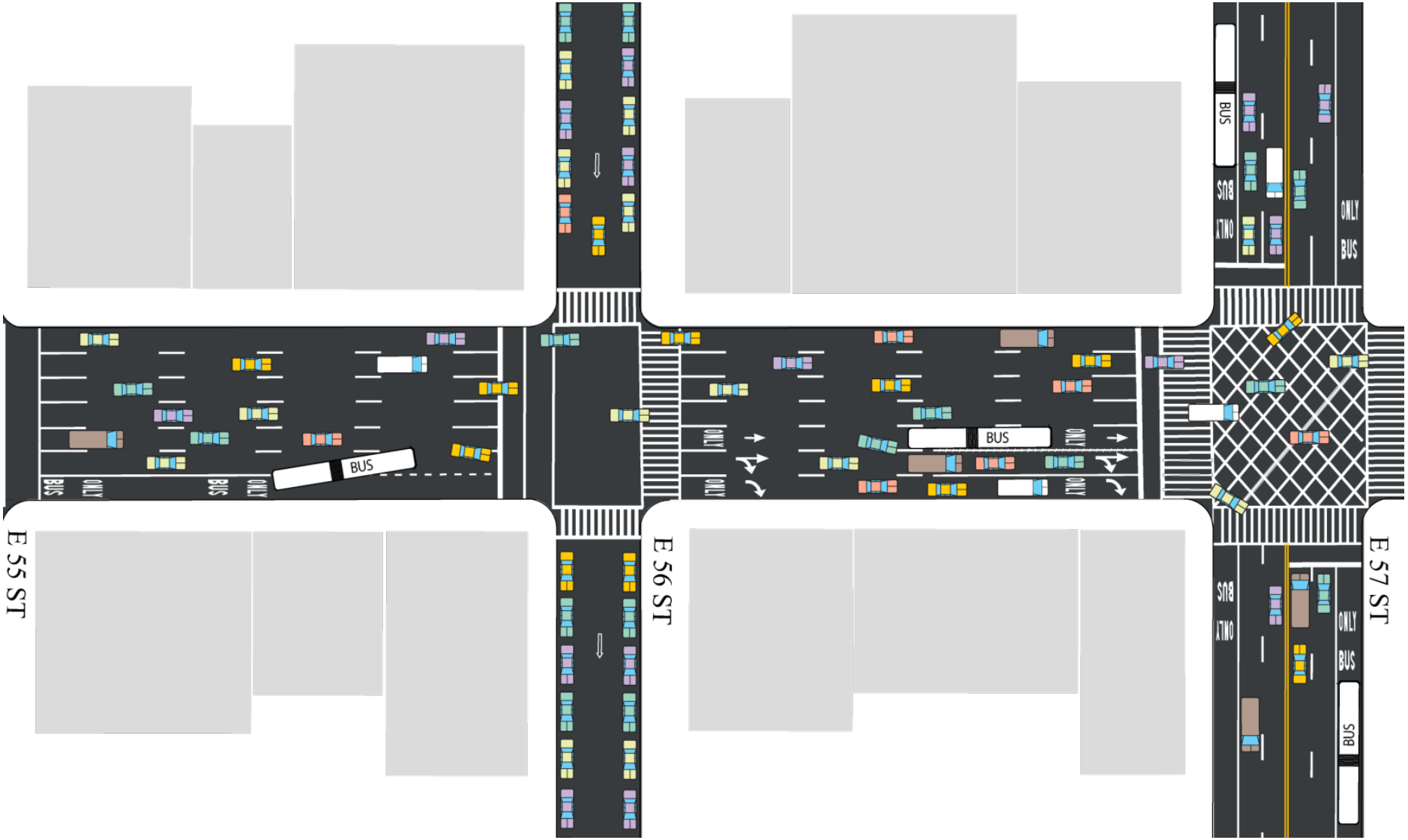
NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission

Section 2
55th Street to 57th Street

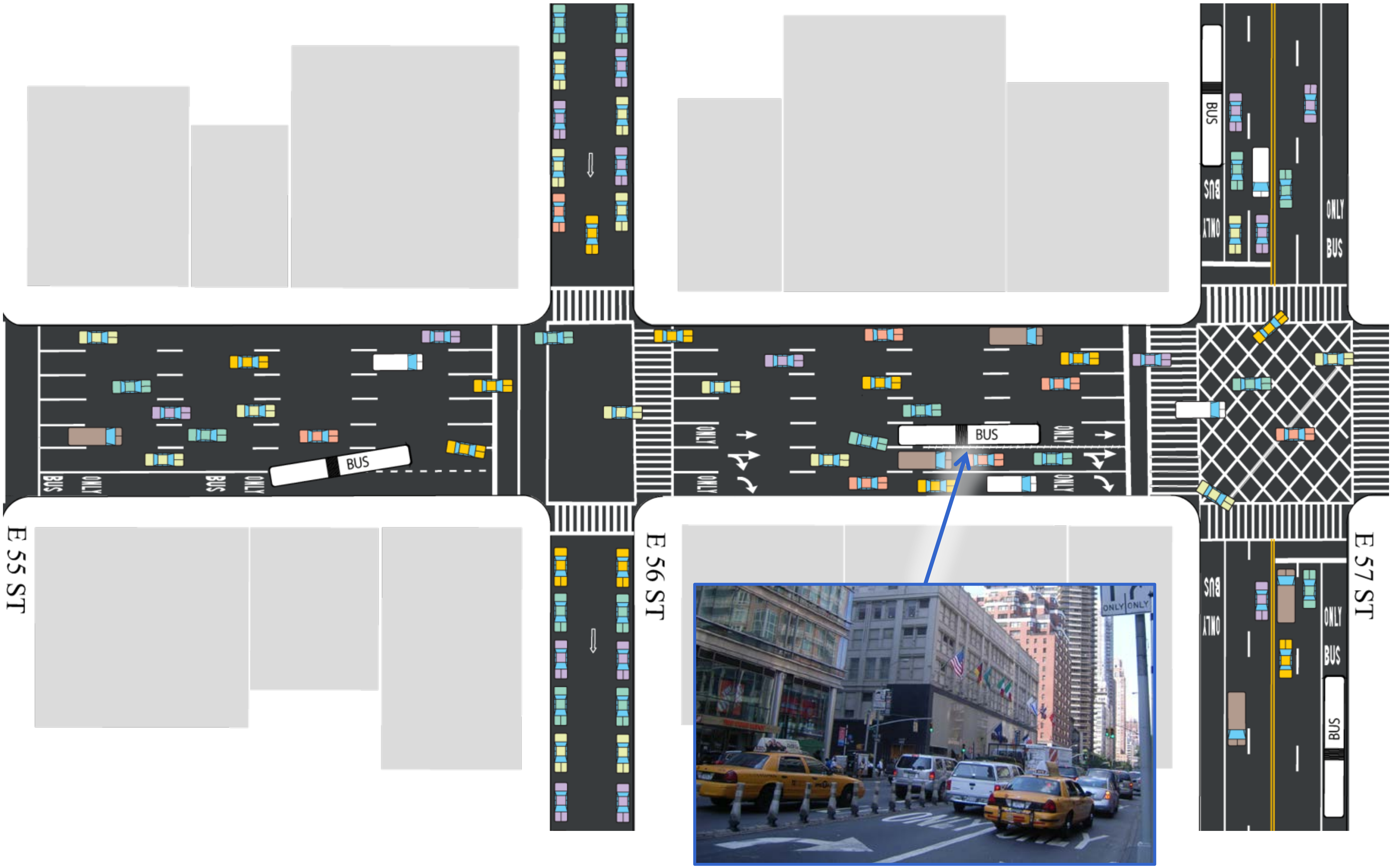
Issues

- No bus stops between 55th Street and 61st Street
- 57th Street is a major destination
- High-crash intersection
  - 39 non-fatal pedestrian injuries (2008-2012)
  - 1 pedestrian fatality (2008-2012)

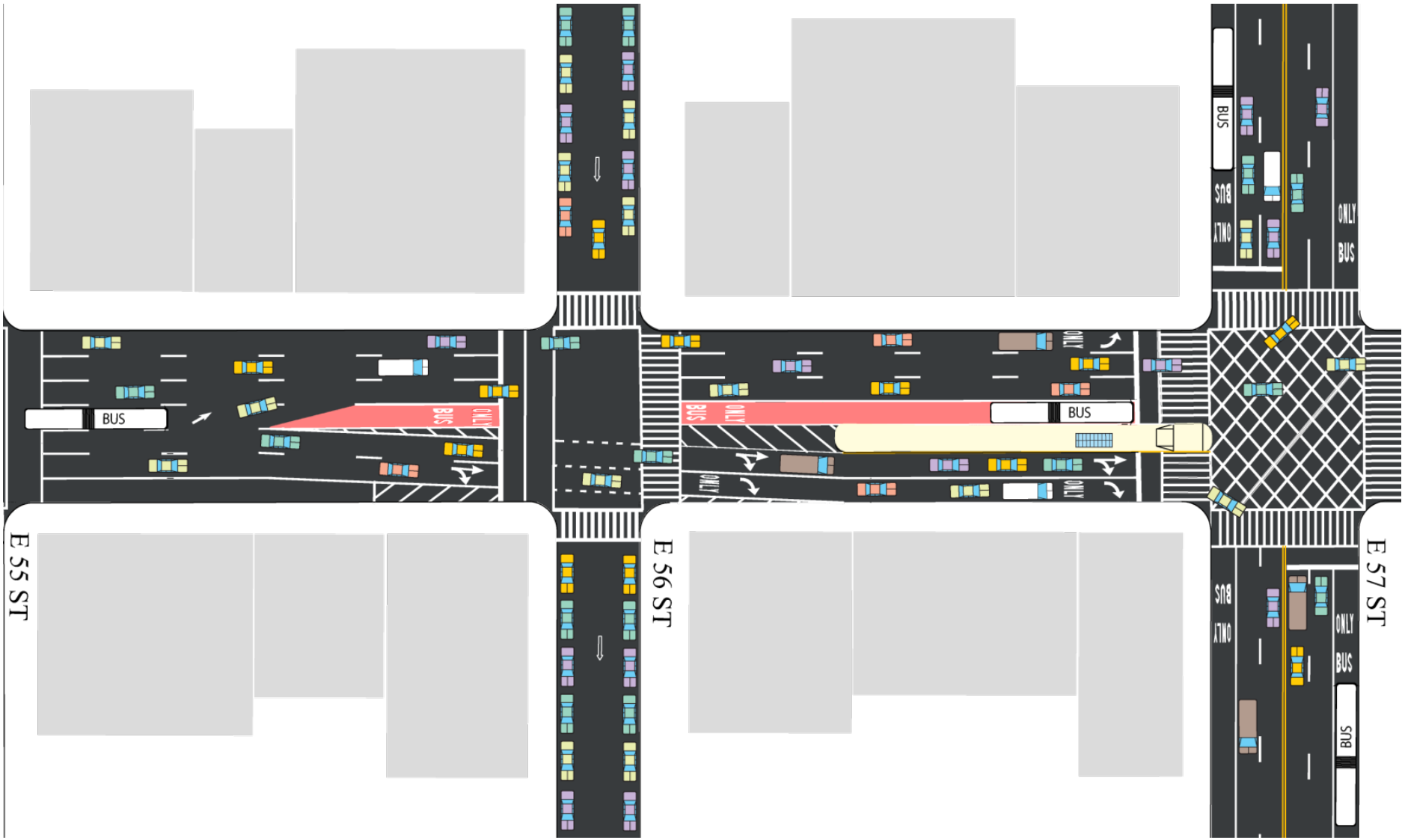
Third Avenue: 55th Street to 57th Street
Existing Design



Third Avenue: 55th Street to 57th Street
Existing Design



Third Avenue: 55th Street to 57th Street Proposed Design



Boarding Island Example: Gun Hill Road, Bronx

Boarding Island Example: Gun Hill Road, Bronx

Boarding Island Example: San Francisco, CA

55th Street to 57th Street

Benefits

- New bus stop at major destination (57th Street)
- Pedestrian refuge for 57th Street southern crosswalk
- Better traffic organization

Next Steps

- Offset bus lane implementation: September 2014
- Traffic Analysis for 57th Street intersection

Offset bus lane: First Avenue, Manhattan

Questions?