34th Street Bus Priority Initiatives
Manhattan Community Board 5
April 21, 2008
BRT Feasibility Study

- Initial BRT study focused on improving existing bus routes in each borough

BRT corridors as of Spring 2007
Today’s BRT Program

**Bus Priority**
- Fifth & Madison Avenues
- 34th Street

**Bus Hot Spots**
- Downtown Brooklyn
- Jamaica Center

**BRT**
- Fordham Road & Pelham Parkway
- First & Second Avenues
- Nostrand Avenue
- 34th Street
- Hylan Boulevard
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue
Bus Priority
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue

Key Features:

• 5th Avenue converted to double bus lane, extended to 23rd street this fall
• Madison Avenue double bus lane extended to 23rd street
• Bus lanes painted red
• Additional overhead signage
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue
Existing Conditions

- 5th Avenue has a single bus lane from 86th street to 34th street
- Madison Avenue has a double bus lane from 42nd street to 59th street
• 5th Avenue converted to double bus lane, extended to 23rd street
• Madison Avenue double bus lane extended to 23rd street
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue
Bus Priority

Before

Madison Avenue

After
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue Bus Priority

Before

After
Fifth Avenue/Madison Avenue

Overall Benefits:

- Corridor serves 6 local bus routes with over 100,000 combined daily riders
- Also serves express bus routes from all outer boroughs
- Will improve travel times by up to 20% through the corridor
- Limited and express buses will be able to pass stopped locals without entering general traffic
- Reliability will be substantially improved
34th Street Bus Priority

Key Features:

• 34th Street will be repaved and restriped for 5 travel lanes from 3rd avenue to 9th avenue this spring
  – Safety improvement
  – Overall operational improvement

• River-to-river curb bus lanes will be improved
  – Red lanes
  – New overhead signage
  – Extended hours

• Will be implemented by end of 2008
34\textsuperscript{th} Street Existing
34\textsuperscript{th} Street Bus Priority
34th Street Bus Priority

Overall Benefits:

• Crosstown bus service will move faster, benefiting over 15,000 local riders per day
• Plan also benefits express buses on 23 routes
• Regular travel lanes will be brought to appropriate design standard
• Normal lane widths will improve traffic safety
34th Street Transitway
34th Street Long Term Concept

Potential Transitway Features:

• River-to-river fully separated two way transitway will be built on one side of 34th street

• Options for the rest of the right of way include:
  – One-way traffic outbound from midtown
  – One-way traffic westbound
  – New plaza and pedestrian spaces
  – Reserved commercial loading space

• Transitway will decrease travel time by up to 45% for crosstown bus service
34th Street Transitway Concept

- Javits Center
- 6th Avenue
- 5th Avenue
- East River Ferries
34th Street Transitway Concept

34th Street at 8th Avenue
34th Street Transitway Concept

34th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues
34th Street Transitway Concept

Overall Benefits:

• Significant increase in crosstown transit capacity and speed and reliability
• Additional pedestrian space at high traffic bus stops
• New plazas on 34th street
• Improved access and distribution for express buses from outer boroughs – helping reduce auto trips