M79 Select Bus Service
Manhattan Community Board 8 | March 1, 2017
Overview

• Select Bus Service in New York City
• M79 Select Bus Service Background
• M79 SBS Draft Street Designs
• Next Steps
• Questions
Select Bus Service (SBS) is New York City’s brand name for Bus Rapid Transit: an improved bus service that offers fast, frequent, and reliable service on high-ridership bus routes.

SBS has brought:

- 10-30% faster bus speeds
- About 10% increase in ridership
- More reliable service
- Customer satisfaction of 95%
- Safer streets / reduction in crashes

There are 12 Select Bus Service routes in operation serving all 5 boroughs.
Select Bus Service Features

- Faster bus rides
- Reduced traffic conflicts between buses and traffic
- More reliable bus service
- Buses spend less time stopped at red lights

- Quicker bus boarding
- Buses spend less time waiting at bus stops
Select Bus Service Features

- **Improved Station Amenities**
  - Better visibility for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
  - Clearer, shorter pedestrian crossings
  - More attractive, appealing bus stops
  - More comfortable wait for the bus

- **Real-Time Passenger Information**
  - Better trip information for riders to know when the bus is coming

- **Pedestrian Safety Improvements**
  - Better visibility for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
  - Clearer, shorter pedestrian crossings
M79 Project Background

The M79 bus corridor was identified as a potential candidate for Select Bus Service in the “Bus Rapid Transit: Phase II Study” (2009).

- Request for M79 SBS from local elected officials and community
- Heavily used route with slow trips
- Carries over 18,000 passengers per day over about 2 miles
- Crucial connection to 16BC trains
- Serves areas far from the subway
- Connection to 16 bus routes including M15 SBS
M79 SBS Project Goals

• Increase bus speeds and reliability

• Improve pedestrian and traffic safety

• Enhance customer experience with better station amenities, reduced wait times, and travel times
M79 Bus Operations
Transit Issues

- Over 50% of trip spent delayed, crawling, or at bus stop
- Bus is moving well only 43% of the trip
- Customers wait in long lines to pay on board
M79 Street Operations
Safety Issues

- Multiagency effort to reduce traffic fatalities
- 5 intersections:
  - 79th St and Broadway
  - 79th St and Lexington Ave
  - 79th St and 3rd Ave
  - 79th St and 2nd Ave
  - 79th St and 1st Ave
Traffic Issues

- Lack of curb space for deliveries
- Left turn queues
- Red = Double Parking
- Narrow lanes, especially for trucks and buses
East Side Treatments

Summary: Reorganize E 79 St to meet transit, traffic, and safety needs, especially for daytime demands along the corridor

79th St/5th Ave
Sidewalk widening

Park Ave to York Ave
• Wider, consistent travel lanes
• Curbside bus queue jump lanes
• Add left & right turn bays
• Wide parking lanes
• More east/west signal time for 79 St

Throughout
Add midday loading zones along corridor
79th and 5th Ave

Westbound bus queue jump signal

Bus stop

Bus stop with widened sidewalk/bus bulb

Transition to parking lane

No Standing 7AM-7PM Parking All Other Times
79th and Madison Ave

- Dedicated left turn bay
- Bus stop
- Wide parking lane
79th and Park Ave

- Dedicated left turn bay
- Dedicated right turn bay (Length: 4 spaces)
- Dedicated left turn bay
- Wide parking lane
79th and Lexington Ave

Daytime Truck Loading

Curbside bus & right turn lane
7AM-7PM
Parking All Other Times

Bus stop

Curbside bus lane
7AM-7PM
Parking All Other Times

Dedicated left turn bay

Bus stop

Wide parking lane
79th and 3rd Ave

- Wide parking lane
- Bus stop
- Dedicated left turn bay
- Curbside bus lane 7AM-7PM Parking All Other Times
- Curbside bus & right turn lane 7AM-7PM Parking All Other Times
- Wide parking lane
- Daytime Truck Loading
- Bus stop

E 79 ST 3 AVE
79th and 2nd Ave

- Curbside bus lane
  - 7AM-7PM
  - Parking All Other Times

- Dedicated left turn bay

- Daytime Truck Loading

- Bus stop

- Curbside bus & right turn lane
  - 7AM-7PM
  - Parking All Other Times

- Wide parking lane

- Bus stop
79th and 1st Ave

- Wide parking lane
- Bus stop
- Dedicated left turn bay
- Daytime Truck Loading
- Curbside bus lane
  - 7AM-7PM
  - Parking All Other Times
- Wide parking lane
79th and York Ave

- Dedicated left turn bay
- Curbside bus & right turn lane 7AM-7PM Parking All Other Times
- Bus stop
- Dedicated right turn bay Length: 7 spaces
- Wide parking lane
- Dedicated left turn bay
M79 SBS Project Benefits

• Improve bus speeds, reliability, and access to subway transfers

• Improve traffic & pedestrian safety along corridor

• Increase daytime access to curb for deliveries

• Better organize traffic and transit to meet daytime demands
Next Steps

March 2017
• Present draft plan to CB 7
• Finalize designs based on community feedback
• Continue SBS bus stop construction
  – Fare machines, wayfinding, real time passenger info

April 2017
• Begin roadway and signage work

Late Spring 2017
• Complete project implementation
• Launch M79 SBS service
Appendix
Proposed bus lanes

[Map showing proposed bus lanes in a city area]