M86 and M79 Select Bus Service
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Select Bus Service in New York City

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:

• 10-25% faster bus speeds
• About 10% increase in ridership
• More reliable service
• Customer satisfaction of 95%
• Safer streets / reduction in crashes

There are 11 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**
- **Real-Time Passenger Information**
- **Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

- More attractive, appealing bus stops
- Better trip information for riders to know when the bus is coming
- More comfortable wait for the bus

- Better visibility for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
- Clearer, shorter pedestrian crossings
M86 SBS Project Background

• Carries over 25,000 passengers per day
• Most passengers per mile of any bus route in NYC
• Crucial connection to 1 4 5 6 B C trains and 12 bus routes
M86 SBS Project Features

Street Design:
• Bus queue jump lanes
• Lane realignments
• Upgraded crosswalks

Station Amenities:
• Shelters
• Wayfinding signs
• Bus arrival information
• Off-board fare payment
M86 SBS Update - Travel Times

- Due to SBS improvements, M86 SBS operates 8-11% faster than M86
- Queue jump bus lanes and off-board fare collection have led to decreased travel times
M86 SBS Update - Ridership

- In the 5 years preceding SBS there was an 8% decrease in ridership
- Ridership grew on average 7% in the first 11 months of SBS service
- 96% rider satisfaction for overall service
M86 SBS and M79 SBS

• Parallel crosstown routes with similar street designs and stop patterns

• M79 analysis and design plan will investigate similar treatments used for M86 SBS, with the goals of:
  – Increase bus speeds and reliability
  – Improve pedestrian and traffic safety
  – Enhance customer experience with better station amenities and reduced wait times and travel times
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 Council Member Kallos
- Heavily used route with slow trips
- Carries over 18,000 passengers per day over about 2 miles
- Crucial connection to 16 trains
- Serves areas far from subway
- Connection to 16 bus routes including M15 SBS
M79 Route

[Map of M79 Route with stops and routes indicated]
Traffic Issues

- Congested intersections
- Travel lanes not being put to full use due to:
  - Blocked lanes from double parking, deliveries
  - Turning queues at some intersections
- Difficult turns across traffic
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
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
Potential Stop Changes

• Discontinue stop on 81st St at Amsterdam Ave eastbound due to:
  – Low ridership
  – Sidewalks too narrow for fare machines
  – Close proximity to 79th St at Amsterdam Ave

81st St at Amsterdam Ave
Next Steps

Fall 2016

• Finalize traffic analysis
• Develop street design and service plan
• Begin construction for off-board fare equipment

Winter 2017

• Present draft plan to CBs
• Finalize street design and service plan

Spring 2017

• Launch SBS
Questions?