5th Avenue Busway and Complete Street
Update to Community Advisory Board, June 18, 2021
Project Review

Busway and Complete Street Proposal

• In 2020, DOT presented a proposal to install a Busway and Complete Street on 5th Ave in Midtown

Initial Proposal:

• Only buses, bikes, and emergency vehicles would be able to travel through on 5th Ave between 57th St and 34th St
• All other vehicles could access individual blocks from side streets, but would have to make next available turn off the Busway
• New painted sidewalk extension, protected bike lane, and pickup/drop-off space would be added on east side of street
Project Update

Busway Restrictions

• DOT has monitored traffic volumes and bus speeds during pandemic
  • Buses have been moving faster than pre-COVID
• DOT plans to implement the Busway in September
  • Anticipate increased congestion and slower speeds due to return to work, full in-person learning, and holiday season
• Due to changing traffic patterns and community feedback, DOT is evaluating potential modifications to the initial proposal, including:
  • Turn restrictions
  • Modified turn-off locations
  • Time of day or seasonal restrictions
  • Changes to curb access
• DOT will conduct additional outreach over the summer
Bus Speeds

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

- Bus speeds along 5th Ave have been higher than pre-Covid
- Last fall, PM bus speeds dropped significantly during holiday period
- Bus speeds may be starting to decrease, expected to decline with continued recovery and return to work/school
Project Update

Complete Street Design

- DOT has also refined design for pedestrian and bike improvements from 59th St to 34th St
- DOT plans to move forward with installation of protected bike lane and expanded pedestrian space this summer
  - Community has called for protected bike lane on 5th Ave
  - Biking increased during the pandemic and remains high
  - Anticipated return of high pedestrian volumes by fall
- Implementation will take 1-2 months
Bicycle Ridership

Growth During the Pandemic

• Prior to the pandemic, 5th Ave had the highest ridership on a Manhattan corridor without a bike lane

• During the pandemic, biking has grown in NYC
  – 30% increase in weekday East River bike crossings from 2019 to 2020 (May through December)
  – Weekend bike crossings are up 66% for same period
Complete Street Design

Typical Midblock Cross-section

Existing

Proposed
Complete Street Design

Typical Plan View

Existing

Proposed
Pedestrian Improvements

Painted Sidewalk Extensions

• Create more space for social distancing and return of crowds
• Shorten pedestrian crossings on 5th Ave and side streets
• Separated from bike lane by planters and other vertical elements
Bicycle Improvements

Protected Bike Lane

- Bike lane protected by parked cars and other vertical elements
- Left turn treatments provide additional capacity at intersections to maintain flow
Curb Access Improvements

Pickup/Drop-off Lane

• Maintain No Standing Anytime regulation adjacent to bike lane
• Formalizes space for passenger pickup and drop-offs that otherwise block moving lane
• Provides space to pull over without pulling into bike lane
• Reduces friction along corridor
## Next Steps

### Project Timeline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bike and Pedestrian Improvements (New Markings)</th>
<th>Busway Restrictions (New Regulatory Signs)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 2021</strong></td>
<td>Present final proposal to CAB Present final proposal to CB 5</td>
<td>Continue evaluating potential changes to initial proposal</td>
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<td><strong>July 2021</strong></td>
<td>Finalize design Mobilize for implementation</td>
<td>Develop proposal Present draft proposal to CAB</td>
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<td><strong>August 2021</strong></td>
<td>Begin Implementation</td>
<td>Incorporate feedback Finalize proposal Present final proposal to CAB Present final proposal to CB 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 2021</strong></td>
<td>Complete implementation</td>
<td>Implement restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2021 To Fall 2022</strong></td>
<td>Monitor (Traffic, Bus Speeds, Access) Continue to Engage CAB</td>
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Thank You!

Questions & Discussion