5th Avenue Busway and Complete Street
Update to Community Advisory Board, July 29, 2021
Project Review

Busway and Complete Street Proposal

• In June 2021, DOT presented to the CAB and CB5 a final plan to install a protected bike lane and expanded pedestrian space along 5th Avenue between 59th Street and 34th Street.
• DOT also agreed to return and present an update Busway plan.

Initial Proposal:
• Only buses, bikes, and emergency vehicles would be able to travel through on 5th Avenue between 57th Street and 34th Street.
• 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

Complete Street Design

• DOT plans to move forward with installation of protected bike lane and expanded pedestrian space this summer
  • CB5, elected officials, and advocates have called for protected bike lane on 5th Ave
  • Biking increased during the pandemic and remains high
  • Anticipated return of high pedestrian volumes by fall
• Expected implementation to begin in August 2021 and take 1-2 months
Updated Busway Proposal

DOT has evaluated the initial Busway proposal and is proposing an updated plan with traffic restrictions at a limited number of locations.

- The updated Busway plan reduces vehicle traffic along the corridor to:
  - Ensure bus speeds are maintained
  - Reduce conflicts between buses and right turning vehicles
  - Allow for added bike lane and pedestrian space
- For vehicles, the updated Busway proposal:
  - Allows vehicles to travel through the corridor in two segments
  - Maintains vehicle access to all blocks
- Busway implementation planned for September with anticipated increased traffic congestion and slower speeds due to return to office, full in-person learning and the holiday season
Where are vehicles traveling to on 5th Ave from 57th St?

- A high number of vehicles traveling down 5th Ave either turn right at 55th St or go through to 34th St.

- Other destinations are well distributed along 5th Ave, minimizing effects on any one side street.

Busway Restrictions

Vehicles must turn off 5th Ave by:
55th St
  • 56th St (to east) – last left turn
  • 55th St (to west) – last right turn
45th St
  • 46th St (to east) – last left turn
  • 45th St (to west) – last right turn

Southbound right turns restricted at:
  • 51st St
  • 49th St
  • 47th St

Access to 5th Ave unchanged:
  • From side streets
  • South of 45th St

New restricted turns:
Existing restricted turns:
No Through Traffic

New forced turns:
Alternate routes:
Busway Restrictions

55th St Required Turn:
- Large percentage of vehicles already turn right at this location
- Modified from 57th St to allow better southbound access on 7th Ave

45th St Required Turn:
- Allows through travel for ten blocks
- 46th St is a through street for better eastbound circulation around Grand Central

Right-turn Restrictions (51st, 49th, 47th):
- Consistent with holiday season restrictions
- Keeps bus lanes clear of vehicle conflicts
- Improves pedestrian safety at busiest intersections
Benefits of Updated Busway Plan

- Keeps bus lanes clear and reduces pedestrian conflicts at critical intersections
- Reduces through volumes to keep traffic moving while creating space for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Maintains more vehicular access along 5th Avenue
# Next Steps

## Project Timeline

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

Questions & Discussion