DOWNTOWN JAMAICA
TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Future Conditions & Recommendations
2018 Street Improvement Projects

Community Board 12 – Full Board
May 16, 2018
AGENDA

1. STUDY BACKGROUND
2. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS
3. RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPROVEMENT MEASURES
4. NEXT STEPS
Study Background
WHY JAMAICA?

GJDC
(Studies & Initiatives)

NYCDCP
(Jamaica Plan Rezoning)

NYMTC - RTP
(Desired Growth Areas)

NYCEDC
(Development Projects)

City Council
(Study Request)

Mayor/BP
(Jamaica Now Action Plan)
GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STUDY AREA

Goal:
- To improve travel and traffic conditions, enhance mobility, safety, quality of life, and economic activity

Objectives:
- Analyze existing traffic conditions
- Assess future travel demand/needs
- Develop recommendations to:
  - Reduce congestion and improve travel speeds
  - Enhance safety
  - Improve transit service
  - Improve pedestrian mobility/accessibility

Study Areas:
- Primary – Hillside Ave, 183 St, Liberty Ave, Van Wyck Expwy
- Secondary – Union Tpke, 193 St/Farmers Blvd, Linden Blvd, 130 St/Austin St
STUDY PLAN – DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

• Demographics
• Zoning and Land Use
• Traffic
  • Existing Condition
  • Future Travel Demand
  • Network Simulation
• Transit
• Pedestrian and Bicycles
• Parking
• Trucks/Goods Movement
• Crashes/Safety
COMMUNITY INPUT
CONCERNS, ISSUES & IDEAS

TAC/PUBLIC MEETING
- Too much congestion; need TEA to direct traffic
- Too many buses – better manage buses circulating in the core
- Need to manage commuter van operations
- Insufficient parking
- Provide better lighting to make the place more inviting and safe
- Use art to beautify LIRR retaining wall

STREET AMBASSADORS/WORKSHOP
- Too much congestion
- Speeding is prevalent; speed and red light cameras are needed
- Traffic Enforcement Agents needed at busy intersections
- Poor roadway condition - potholes, etc.
- Not enough parking spaces

WEB PORTAL
- Create pickup/dropoff area near Sutphin/Archer station
- Bus only lanes on Jamaica Ave do not function as planned
- Gridlock at Archer Ave/Sutphin Bl is terrible esp. in PM peak
- Parsons Bl/Jamaica Ave – most dangerous intersection in Downtown Jamaica

IBZ SURVEY
- Douglas Ave is substandard east of 170th St
- Too much congestion on Sutphin Bl bet/ Liberty Ave & Hillside Ave
- Merrick Bl & Liberty Ave are problematic due to the number of commuter vans and buses
- Liberty Ave needs to be repaved
- Curb space for truck loading/unloading is needed
Detailed Analysis
TRAFFIC
PM PEAK HOUR APPROACH VOLUME - FUTURE

Highest traffic volumes observed on:
- Van Wyck Expy SR
- Hillside Ave
- Liberty Ave
TRAFFIC
PM PEAK HOUR APPROACH LOS - FUTURE

Traffic operating conditions expected to deteriorate between existing and future conditions:
- Increase in intersections experiencing LOS F – 19 to 30
PM PEAK CORRIDOR TRAVEL SPEED

EXISTING

- 4 corridors with average travel speed less than 5mph

FUTURE

- 9 corridors with average travel speed less than 5mph
PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

- HIGH PEDESTRIAN DENSITY
- NARROW SIDEWALKS
- MISSING SIDEWALK

PED LOS D/E
- Narrow/No Sidewalk
- Transit Hub

200 Persons/HR
500 Persons/HR
1,000 Persons/HR
PM BUS VOLUME & PERCENTAGE OF TRAFFIC

Legend
Number of Vehicles
- 0 - 30
- 30 - 60
- 60 - 90
- 90 - 120
- >120

10%
27%
19%

CRASHES (2013-2016)
Issues Identification & Problem Definition
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Queues/Congestion

Heavy Bus Traffic

Commuter Vans

Narrow Two-way Streets

High Volume of Surface Transit Commuters

High Parking Demand/Placard Abuse
Limited north-south travel options between Liberty and Hillside Aves contribute to congestion in the study area.
NARROW TWO-WAY STREETS

- Narrow two-way streets are common, primarily in the secondary study area, south of Liberty Ave.
Recommendations & Improvement Measures
Conversion of narrow two-way streets will be done systematically over a number of years.
2018 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (SIPS)

Transportation Study
1. Liberty Ave – Allendale St to Waltham St
2. Sutphin Blvd – Jamaica Ave to 95 Ave
3. Jamaica Ave – 148th St to Sutphin Blvd
4. 160 St – South Rd to 110 Ave
5. Union Hall St – Jamaica and Archer Aves
6. Liberty Ave – 183 St to Dunkirk St
7. 175 St – Jamaica Ave to 91 Ave
8. Sayres Ave/111 Ave/177 St

Streetscape Plan
9. Parsons Blvd/153 St

Other
10. Hillside Ave – 179 St – 208 ST

Legend
- Primary Study Area
- Secondary Study Area
Long-term Improvements
(Concepts)
ARCHER AVE – GUY R BREWER TO 165 ST
EXISTING

Issue(s):
- Narrow sidewalks limit pedestrian mobility
ARCHER AVE – GUY R BREWER TO 165 ST PROPOSED

Improvement:
• Widen sidewalk between Guy R. Brewer Blvd & 165 St by 4 feet to 9 feet
• Identified for capital project
SOUTH ROAD – GUY R BREWER BLVD TO 165 ST ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Issue(s):
- Narrow under developed roadway without sidewalk
SOUTH ROAD - GUY R BREWER BLVD TO 165 ST
ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Improvement:
• Reconstruct roadway to appropriate width with sidewalk on north curb
• Identified for capital project
Q40 BUS ROUTE IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT
LAKEWOOD AVE & 142 ST

Issue(s):
- Narrow roadway with two-way bus routes
- Lakewood Ave and 142 St are bus routes (Q40)
- Roadway width is generally less than 30’
- Parking on both sides
150 STREET – TWO-WAY CONCEPT
HILLSIDE TO JAMAICA AVE

Issue(s):
- Limited north-south through streets

LEGEND
- Existing
- Proposed
**150 STREET – TWO-WAY CONCEPT (CONT’D)**

**Improvement:**
- Remove parking (east curb) and convert 150th St to two-way operation from Hillside Ave to Jamaica Ave
CORRIDOR AVERAGE TRAVEL SPEED - PM

Existing Conditions

• The conversion of 150th Street (Hillside Ave to Jamaica Ave) from one-way to two-way would result in improved travel conditions
2018 Street Improvement Projects

1. Jamaica Ave/Sutphin Blvd Transit Operation Improvements
JAMAICA AVE – SUTPHIN BL TO 148 ST

Issue(s):
• Mismatched designated bus lane and usage
JAMAICA AVE – SUTPHIN BL TO 148 ST

Improvement:
- Shift curbside bus lane to the designated left turn lane
- Reassign curb lane as a moving lane at all times
- Provide truck loading/unloading on 148 St/147 Pl (side streets)
Issue(s):
- Congestion and conflicts along the corridor impedes bus operation
SUTPHIN BL – JAMAICA AVE TO 95 AVE

PROPOSED

Improvement:
- Convert 91 Ave to EB
- Install ‘For Hire’ taxi stand on 91 Ave
- Install hardened centerline on Sutphin Blvd from 91 Ave to Archer Ave
- Sutphin Blvd/95 Ave
  - Remove parking to provide add’l moving lane
  - Provide exclusive left turn lane
  - Truck loading/unloading on 95 Ave
NEXT STEPS

- Final Report – June 2018
- Project Feasibility Checks/Implementation
THANK YOU!

Questions?