Better Buses Restart: Jamaica and Archer Busways
Community Advisory Board | July 21, 2021
Agenda

1. Better Buses Restart and Background
2. 2020-2021 Outreach
3. Potential Design Concepts
4. Diversions and Traffic
5. Next Steps and Implementation
Better Buses Restart and Background
Better Buses Restart

Recovery Plan

In June 2020, Mayor de Blasio announced a plan for fast, reliable transit service during reopening

• Buses played a vital role during the shutdown and continue to during recovery
• Good bus service needed for essential workers and attract people back to transit
Better Buses Restart

Recovery Plan

9 busway & bus lane projects announced, focused on:

- Vulnerable populations, essential workers
- Number of bus passengers served
- Potential to implement quickly
- Geographic equity
Transit in Downtown Jamaica

- Jamaica Ave and Archer Ave are some of the busiest bus corridors in the city
- Archer Ave
  - Serves 189,000 daily riders
  - 19 bus routes
  - Existing speeds of 5.7 to 6.1 MPH (PM)
- Jamaica Ave
  - Serves 139,000 daily riders
  - 14 bus routes
  - Existing speeds of 4.7 to 4.9 MPH (PM)
- Several bus routes operate on both Archer Ave and Jamaica Ave
- Congestion is a major issue for buses, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians
Transit in Downtown Jamaica

- Routes on Jamaica and Archer Aves serve both northern and southeastern Queens as well as parts of Brooklyn and The Bronx.
- Many of these bus routes travel through neighborhoods that rank high on the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).
- Communities with high vulnerability often have limited transportation options, making fast and reliable transit critical.

*Routes running between Sutphin Blvd & 168 St only*
2020-2021 Outreach
Merchant Survey

- Most businesses reported difficulty loading and unloading goods
- Majority of businesses reported seeing frequent double parking throughout the corridor
- 60% of respondents currently load/unload in a no standing zone or bus stop
Shopper Survey

• 42% of respondents typically ride the bus to get to Jamaica Ave
• Transit riders reported the longest trip times among various reported modes
• 48% of respondents reported they were on Jamaica Ave to shop
• 31% of respondents work on Jamaica Ave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Today's trip to Jamaica: Average travel time (min)</th>
<th>(Captured on day of survey)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>26 min (119) 48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>15 min (76) 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>55 min (26) 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Car</td>
<td>18 min (17) 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>11 min (4) 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access-A-Ride</td>
<td>23 min (2) 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropped Off (Family/Friend)</td>
<td>35 min (2) 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi/FHV</td>
<td>10 min (1) 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuter Van</td>
<td>15 min (1) 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIRR</td>
<td>NA (1) 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do you typically get to Jamaica Ave?</th>
<th>(Including mode you used on day of survey)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>(196) 42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>(114) 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>(86) 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Car</td>
<td>(27) 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>(12) 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access-A-Ride</td>
<td>(4) 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropped Off (Family/Friend)</td>
<td>(5) 1%</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIRR</td>
<td>(2) 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AirTrain</td>
<td>(2) 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outreach

- **June 16, 2020**: Initial CM Briefings
- **June 25, 2020**: CB 12 TC Meeting
- **July 9, 2020**: CAB #1
- **July 16, 2020**: JNLC Meeting
- **August 6, 2020**: Jamaica BID Meeting
- **September 14 & 16, 2020**: Merchant Survey with Jamaica Center BID
- **October 14, 17, 19, & 21, 2020**: Shopper Survey
- **April 30, 2021**: Walkthrough with Commissioner Gutman and CM Miller
- **June 2, 2021**: Walkthrough with CM Miller
- **June 11, 2021**: Walkthrough with CM Miller and the offices of CM Gennaro, AM Hyndman, and SS Comrie
- **June 30, 2021**: Walkthrough with CB 12 TC
- **July 21, 2021**: CAB #2
Potential Design Concepts
Extent of Jamaica Ave and Archer Ave Busway Pilots
Archer Ave Busway Pilot

• Eastbound busway will begin at 150 St and extend to 160 St
• Commercial and passenger vehicles will not have curbside access between 150 St and 160 St
• Busway is proposed to be in effect 24 hours a day
Proposed Eastbound Busway Configuration on Archer Ave

- Protected busway begins at 150 St; vehicular access maintained to 153 St
- Eastbound traffic restrictions begin; buses only from 153 St-160 St
- Southbound left for buses only
- Un-restrict right turn from westbound Archer Ave to northbound Parsons Blvd
- Quick Curb
- Jersey Barriers
Jamaica Ave Busway Pilot

- Busway will begin at Sutphin Blvd and extend to 168 St in both directions
- Buses and commercial trucks will have local and thru access
- Passenger vehicles will be able to access most blocks, but would have to make the next right turn
- New parking, loading, and pedestrian space where bus lanes are removed
- Busway is proposed to be in effect 24 hours a day
Jamaica Ave Busway Pilot

Sample of Proposed Busway Configuration on Jamaica Ave

- Added curb access for truck loading and drop-offs
- Expanded pedestrian space to facilitate outdoor seating and reduce sidewalk congestion.
- Quick curb to reduce unsafe and illegal U-turns
Curb Regulation Proposal

- New No Stopping Anytime
- New Truck Loading / Off-peak parking
- Relocated Bus Stop
- New Pedestrian Space
- No Standing Anytime / Bus Stops
- Authorized Parking
Diversions and Traffic
Busway Passenger Vehicle Diversions

Westbound Alternatives

Extent and Direction of Busway Westbound Alternatives
Busway Passenger Vehicle Diversions

Eastbound Alternatives
Next Steps and Implementation
Next Steps

August 2021: Complete Community Outreach
• Early August: outdoor public Open House
• Late August: CAB #3 – present final plan and schedule

Late Summer / Early Fall: Project implementation

Fall 2021:
• Project launch
• Monitoring begins of traffic and bus speeds

Winter 2022:
• Monitoring continues
• CAB #4 update
Thank You!

Questions?