Merrick Blvd Bus Lanes
NYC DOT | Better Buses Restart | November 18, 2020
Merrick Blvd, Queens
Better Buses Restart

Recovery Plan

In June, 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
Corridor Description

- Merrick Blvd and 168 St between Hillside Ave and Springfield Blvd
- 3.2 mile, mostly commercial corridor
- Served by Q4, Q5, Q84, Q85, X63, N4 and N4X routes south of Archer Ave
- Many more routes circulate on Merrick/168 St north of Archer Ave
- Serves 94,000 daily riders
Community/Business Outreach

- Conducted 3 meetings with Community Advisory Board on 8/4, 8/27, 9/24
- Direct in-person outreach to businesses on 8/13, 8/17, 9/3, 9/17
- Walking tour conducted with CB12 on September 17th
- Walking tour conducted with CM Miller, NYPD, MTA, and Allen Cathedral Residence on November 5th
- Scheduling additional outreach effort with Small Business Services
Community Concerns

- Double parking and parking on sidewalk by auto body shop businesses
- Illegal U-turns across the median at Hendrickson Pl
- Need for commercial loading space
- Bus service and bus speeds
Merrick Blvd Bus Lanes Overview

DOT Bus Lanes

- Offset bus lanes (one lane out from the curb)
- 6.4 miles in total
- Only markings, no red paint in 2020
- Enforcement cameras after implementation
- Pedestrian safety elements at dangerous intersections; closing median cut at Hendrickson Pl

MTA Bus Stop Spacing

- Proposed revisions to bus stop spacing to improve speed and reliability
Merrick Blvd Bus Lanes Plan

Merrick Blvd at 108th Ave: Original Proposal

Offset bus lanes (not painted red initially)

Painted extension shortens pedestrian crossing and allows for safer turn on to Merrick side road

Curb regulations largely unchanged
Implementation Progress

• Bus lane markings are mostly finished on corridor
• Bus lane signs will begin next week
• Commercial loading zones to be implemented this winter
• Red paint and bus lane cameras are planned for implementation in 2021
• Curb cut at Hendrickson PI closed off
Implementation Progress

- After consultation with CAB, DOT will be reevaluating the design of the northbound lane between 109th Ave and Liberty Ave.
- This is a particularly difficult stretch where DOT must work with businesses and the community to address parking concerns.
- Implementation on this section will commence in Spring 2021.
Improved Bus Stop Spacing

• Better, more consistent stop spacing can improve speed and reliability

• Adjusting stop locations at critical intersections can improve bus reliability and bus speed
Improved Bus Stop Spacing - Overview
Enforcement

Following walkthrough of Merrick Blvd with NYPD, DOT is committed to working with our enforcement partners on:

• Keeping bus lanes clear
• Monitoring bus lane compliance
• Regular enforcement on illegal parking and double parking
• Ongoing educational outreach to local businesses
• DOT also looking to place bus lane cameras on this corridor in 2021
Next Steps

• DOT will finish outstanding markings
• DOT will add bus lane signs
• Curb regulations changes to take place over fall and winter
• Following bus lane implementation DOT will monitor the corridor for:
  – Vehicle speeds and travel times
  – Bus speeds
  – Bus reliability
  – Parking and enforcement issues
• Additional CAB meetings will be scheduled after implementation is complete
• DOT to continue outreach with local businesses
• DOT will return next year to add red paint and bus lane cameras
Thank You!

Questions?
Improved Bus Stop Spacing - Overview
Improved Bus Stop Spacing – Liberty Av
Improved Bus Stop Spacing – Sayres Av
Improved Bus Stop Spacing – Victoria & Zoller Rds