Bus Forward
Webster Avenue, E 176 St – E 174 St Improvements
Bronx Community Board 6 Transportation Committee | May 16, 2019
BETTER BUSES ACTION PLAN

• Mayor’s 2019 State of the City
  • Improve bus speeds 25% by 2020

• Better Buses Action Plan released April 2019
  • 24 priority projects announced for 2019 to increase bus speeds across all 5 boroughs
Webster Avenue between E 176 St and E 174 St identified as priority 2019 project due to:

- Declining bus speeds
- Unreliable bus travel times
- Numerous traffic injuries, particularly at the intersection of the Cross Bronx Expressway
Background
SAFETY

• Webster Avenue near the Cross Bronx Expressway is a heavily trafficked corridor, creating numerous conflicts between all roadway users

• Vision Zero Priority Area

• 195 traffic injuries, including 3 pedestrian fatalities (2013-2017)

• April 2018 cyclist fatality

Webster Avenue, E 176 St – E 174 St Injey Summary, 2013-2017 (5 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Injuries</th>
<th>Severe Injuries</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>KSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicyclists</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Occupant</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BUS SPEEDS

- Bx41 Select Bus Service (SBS) launched in June 2013
- After initial speed improvements due to SBS implementation, southbound Bx41 travel times have slowed ~11% along this stretch of Webster Avenue
- Current southbound bus lane stops at E 176 St and does not resume until E 174 St. Buses run in mixed traffic causing slowdowns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Segment Average (MPH)</th>
<th>Route Average (MPH)</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-10am 8.64</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>-9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-7pm  7.32</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>-19.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Webster Av and E 176 St, looking North

Southbound buses run in mixed traffic
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- On/off ramps for the Cross Bronx Expressway create traffic pinchpoint

- Unclear lane designations lead to sideswipes and rear-ends (51.6% of vehicle crashes on this stretch of Webster Av)

- In southbound direction, similar amount of vehicles turning right onto the Cross Bronx Expressway and going straight on Webster Av

- On average 26% of people traveling southbound are on transit vehicles (33% in AM Peak hour)

*Source: Oct 2013 traffic counts balanced with Feb 2019 ATRs. MTA Ridership Data. Occupancy factors: 16.8 persons/non-MTA bus, 1.3 persons/other
PROJECT GOALS

- Improve safety for all roadway users
- Enhance bus priority to improve bus speeds and reliability
- Improve traffic flow
TOOLBOX

Qwik Kurb

Pedestrian Islands

Crotona Park N & Crotona Ave

Painted Curb Extensions with Delineators

E 161 St & Sheridan Av

Signal Timing Changes

Southern Blvd & E 179 St
Proposal
EXISTING ISSUES

Double southbound right turns onto Cross Bronx Expressway

Long pedestrian crossing distances

Unclear travel lane alignment
PROPOSAL

Create single right turn lane lined with qwik kurb

Add pedestrian island

Add painted curb extensions

No right turns for trucks
BUS LANES

- Re-allocate existing lanes to better manage thru traffic and improve transit service
- Heavy southbound right turning traffic will be separated from thru traffic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southbound Vehicle Volumes</th>
<th>7:30-8:30am</th>
<th>1-2pm</th>
<th>4:30-5:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right Turn</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southbound Bx41 / Bx41 SBS Passengers

- Southbound Bx41 / Bx41 SBS Passengers
  - 7:30-8:30am: 530
  - 1-2pm: 330
  - 4:30-5:30pm: 340

Webster Av & E 175 St, looking South
BUS LANES
E 176 ST – E 175 ST

• Fill in southbound bus lane gap between E 176 St and E 174 St

• Re-allocate existing roadway space to allow thru southbound vehicles to get around vehicles turning right at the Cross Bronx Expressway
BUS LANES
E 175 ST – E 174 ST

- Fill in southbound bus lane gap between E 176 St and E 174 St
- New southbound left turn restrictions at Cross Bronx Off Ramp and E 174 St keep traffic moving (impacts <5 vehicles per hour)
TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS

- Add signage to encourage use of Park Ave for Cross Bronx Access

- Investigating signal timing adjustments at Park Ave and Tremont Ave to ease left turn

- Reduces southbound right turn volume at Webster Avenue and Ittner Place and improves traffic
SUMMARY

- Add pedestrian island and two painted curb extensions at Webster Ave / Ittner Pl
- Add southbound bus lane between E 176 St and E 174 St
- Clarify southbound traffic lanes approaching Ittner Pl
- Provide alternate route for southbound traffic accessing the Cross Bronx Expressway
THANK YOU!

Questions?