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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit Announces Redesign of Express Bus Network to Make Trips Faster, More Reliable

Open Houses Will Help Answer Questions & Receive Additional Public Input in Person

MTA New York City Transit today announced details about a redesigned Staten Island express bus network to make commuting faster and more reliable – a plan that incorporates extensive input from the Staten Island community going back several years. Several open house meetings – only the latest in a long series of public meetings about the study – will allow Staten Islanders to learn more about the latest details, ask questions, and provide further feedback before plans are implemented later this year.

“Not only will this redesign make commutes faster, more reliable and more convenient for Staten Islanders, but the approach we’ve taken with Staten Islanders is a model for the entire city,” said NYC Transit President Andy Byford. “When I became president of New York City Transit I pledged that improving bus service for all New Yorkers is a top priority of mine. The Staten Island Bus Study is a model for the kind of community engagement and holistic approach that leads to the best kinds of improvements – those that have a real impact and incorporate the input of our customers.”

Borough President James Oddo said: “I know some are frustrated by how long this process has taken. All of us involved share that; but our frustration does not exceed our desire and commitment to get this right. At the last series of public forums, commuters raised several issues that had to be corrected. I am pleased to report that the process worked exactly as it was supposed to and suggestions from commuters were incorporated into this current plan. In addition, the ATU 726, the bus driver’s union, have been involved in the process, utilizing their expertise and experience to dramatically improve the plan. I’d like to thank Andy Byford for coming to Borough Hall two weeks ago to discuss the particulars of the plan and for his familiarity with its details. I encourage Staten Islanders to come out to one of the three Open Houses and have your voices heard once again. I look forward to your feedback.”

BACKGROUND

Staten Island’s express bus service was originally designed in the 1960s, but population, work trends and the number of cars on the road have changed significantly since then.

Though all bus lines are reviewed on a regular basis to adjust schedule frequencies and running times based on demand and operating environment conditions, a Staten Island Bus Study was launched in summer 2015 to generate recommendations for improving service through a comprehensive, holistic redesign of the network. The study has provided an opportunity to examine how the network functions as a whole using performance data, ridership profiles, and ample amounts of public engagement and input.

In May 2017, [a report entitled “Reimagining Express Buses”](#) was issued that provided an overview of public outreach conducted in support of the study, the major issues identified with the existing express bus network, and details of the proposed redesign and how it addresses the major issues.

Outreach efforts so far have engaged nearly 4,000 riders, community board meetings, meetings with local community groups, meetings with local elected officials, three public workshops, and two customer surveys. New York City Transit, TransitCenter, NYU’s Rudin Center for Transportation and Borough President Oddo also hosted a “Staten Island Bus Hackathon” in which about 150 programmers, planners and transit advocates also provided input into the bus study.

The May 2017 report release was followed by open houses in October 2017 at which further public input was received and considered during the planning process that continued.

ABOUT THE PLAN

Extensive detail about the Staten Island express bus network redesign – including maps – is available on the plan website at <http://mta.info/SIExpressBus>. After this month’s open house meetings, the changes proposed by the plan are expected to be the subject of a presentation to the MTA Board in April, a public hearing in May, and a vote by the MTA Board in June, with further public outreach being conducted throughout the entire process. If approved by the MTA Board, the plan will be put into effect in August 2018.

Under the refined plan announced today, which incorporates changes suggested by the Staten Island community, riders will enjoy:

- Faster commutes to and from Manhattan
- Simpler, more direct routes on Staten Island and Manhattan
- Expanded off-peak and weekend service
- Streamlined routing to either Midtown or Downtown Manhattan

In response to public feedback, the redesigned plan has been revised even further to include direct service to:

- West Street and Battery Park City
- Greenwich Village and SoHo
- Water Street
- 6th Avenue

Existing destinations include:

- 42nd St/34th St
- Madison Av/5th Av
- 23rd St
- Church St/Broadway

Currently, the average express bus makes 27 stops before ever leaving Staten Island. Faster commutes for all Staten Island bus commuters will be enabled largely by simplifying circuitous routes and moving or eliminating a small number of lesser-used stops. The vast majority of customers – nearly 70 percent -- will continue to use the same bus stop that they use today; other customers will need to use an alternate stop, but only 1 percent of those riders will need to walk for more than five minutes from their existing stop. The final result will be a faster commute for all customers.

OPEN HOUSES

New York City Transit is hosting open houses at the following times and locations to give customers a chance to ask officials questions about the plan, and give feedback before it's implemented. Full details about the plan are available at <http://mta.info/SIExpressBus>. The public may also give feedback in writing via the plan site, or by calling 511.

Monday, March 12

Regina McGinn Education Center,
S.I. University Hospital,
475 Seaview Ave (at Mason Ave).
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14

Elks Lodge No. 841,
3250 Richmond Avenue (across the street from Eltingville Transit Center)
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 22

All Saints' Episcopal Church
2329 Victory Boulevard at Woolley Avenue
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.