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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

### Bus-Mounted Cameras Coming to M14 Select Bus Service Route

*New MTA Bus Lane Enforcement Initiative Builds on Success of New Truck & Transit Priority Lanes*

*M14 Ridership Continues to Soar after Select Bus Service, Transit Priority Implementation; More than 32,000 Customers in November, up from 26,000 at SBS Launch*

*NYCDOT's Fixed-Position Street Cameras Begin Issuing Violations on Dec. 2; M14 Bus-Mounted Cameras Begin 60-Day Grace Period on Nov. 21*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced that starting at 6 a.m. on November 21, buses serving the M14 Select Bus Service route will use a new bus-mounted camera system to enforce bus lanes to further enhance traffic enforcement on the new 14<sup>th</sup> Street Truck & Transit Priority lanes that have contributed to a 38 percent decrease in travel times and a ridership jump to more than 32,000 daily customers. The bus-mounted cameras complement existing NYC DOT's fixed-location cameras, which will begin issuing violations with fines on December 2.

"The bus-mounted camera system on 14<sup>th</sup> Street will be a game-changer for our service," said **MTA Managing Director Veronique Hakim**. "Taken together with customer-focused upgrades such as new bus boarding platforms, we expect to see continued, sustained improvements in bus speeds, M14 ridership and travel times."

"Our bus-mounted cameras will heighten enforcement of new NYC DOT's Transit Priority lanes that have completely transformed 14<sup>th</sup> Street from being one of the most congested corridors just a few months ago," said **Craig Cipriano, Acting MTA Bus Company President and Senior Vice President for Buses of NYC Transit**. "The added layer of enforcement reinforces the importance of bus lanes to improving our service: when bus lanes are clear, everyone moves faster."

"In six weeks of the busway, 14<sup>th</sup> Street has already seen a dramatic transformation with faster buses and higher ridership on the M14 SBS," said **NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg**. "The new enforcement cameras on the buses themselves will supplement DOT fixed cameras already along the route -- further helping us keep bus lanes clear and allowing tens of thousands of commuters to keep moving. DOT thanks MTA Managing Director Ronnie Hakim, NYCT President Andy Byford, and the entire team at the MTA for their partnership as we strengthen this essential enforcement program."

The forward-facing camera systems are installed on M14A/D SBS buses, which travel on 2.5 miles of bus lanes on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, only buses, trucks, paratransit vehicles and emergency services may make through trips on 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Third and Eighth avenues, while all other vehicles must turn at the next available right. To further enhance transit priority, the MTA's bus-mounted cameras will enforce traffic laws prohibiting vehicles from parking, loading or standing in the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bus lanes while bus lane hours are in effect. Motorists who remain in a bus lane without exiting at the first possible right turn, or they are captured as blocking the bus lane in the same location by two successive buses, are considered violating traffic laws and will be ticketed.

The cameras capture evidence such as license plate information, photos and videos, and location and timestamp information of vehicles obstructing bus lanes to document bus lane violations. The system collects multiple pieces of evidence to ensure that vehicles making permitted turns from bus lanes are not ticketed. The package of evidence is transmitted to NYCDOT for review and processing, and the program is administered in partnership with NYCDOT and the NYC Department of Finance. The cameras, which already are enforcing bus lanes on the M15 SBS and B44 SBS routes in Manhattan and Brooklyn, have observed more than 20,000 violators since enforcement began October 7 on the M15 SBS route.

During the M14 bus camera's initial 60-day grace period, motorists who block bus lanes are issued a warning that does not carry a fine. At the end of this grace period, motorists who continue to block bus lanes will be subject to a fine of \$50 for the first violation, and for additional violations within a 12-month period: \$100 for a second offense, \$150 for a third offense, \$200 for a fourth offense; and \$250 for a fifth violation and each subsequent offense thereafter within a 12-month period.

The graduated fine structure applies to the type of violation and is not specific to the bus route, therefore a motorist that is ticketed for blocking a bus lane on 14<sup>th</sup> Street and subsequently is caught blocking a bus lane on the M15 or B44 SBS route will be subject to a fine of \$100 for the additional offenses within a 12-month period. The MTA's bus-mounted cameras enhance NYC DOT's use of fixed-location cameras on streets to enforce bus lanes, as well as NYPD's initiatives to deter parking in bus lanes that began earlier this year. NYC DOT's stationary camera enforcement program on 14<sup>th</sup> Street will begin issuing violations with fines beginning Dec. 2.

The bus-mounted cameras are installed on 123 MTA buses across the three routes for bus lane enforcement. The proposed 2020-2024 Capital Plan includes \$85 million for further expansion of the program.

NYC Transit is working with NYCDOT and NYPD to increase bus lane enforcement in highly congested areas as part of NYC Transit's Fast Forward plan to improve bus service, increase bus speeds and attract new ridership. Results so far have yielded faster bus speeds by as much as 19 percent on a portion of Fifth Avenue, 50 percent on a portion of Fresh Pond Road and as much as 30 percent near the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel's Manhattan approach. Other strategies include redesigning every borough's bus network to better meet customer needs, installing traffic signal priority technology, implementing more transit priority street designs, and deploying new modern buses with better reliability and customer amenities.

#### ABOUT M14 SELECT BUS SERVICE:

- Select Bus Service launched on the M14A/D route on July 1, 2019, benefitting more than 32,000 customers daily between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the Lower East Side. SBS features on the route include all-door boarding, off-board fare collection, bus boarding platforms, balanced bus stop spacing and transit priority.
- NYC DOT implemented its 14<sup>th</sup> Street Truck & Transit Priority Lanes on October 3, 2019.
- Since SBS launched in July, M14 ridership has increased on weekdays by 32 percent, 28 percent on Saturdays and 22 percent on Sundays. M14 ridership was also affected by the L Project, during which many L customers are using the route as an alternative for Manhattan crosstown service, particularly on weekends when L trains operate on an extended headway.
- M14 travel times have decreased 38 percent, from early 17 minutes to 10.3 minutes, comparing November 2018 to November 2019.
- MTA's new articulated zero-emissions electric buses will be in service on the M14 route later this year, further helping to alleviate pollution in a densely populated area of the city.
- An update on average M14 running times (in minutes) in the Transit Priority zone is available below:

2018	September	October	November 1-19
6 a.m. – 7 p.m., both directions	15.1	16.3	16.7
2019	September	October	November 1-18
6 a.m. – 7 p.m., both directions	11.4	10.5	10.3

- An update on M14 ridership is below:

2019	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
July (SBS launch)	26,692	21,278	17,837
October (TPL launch)	31,615	25,749	19,333
November 1-17	32,536	27,293	21,756