

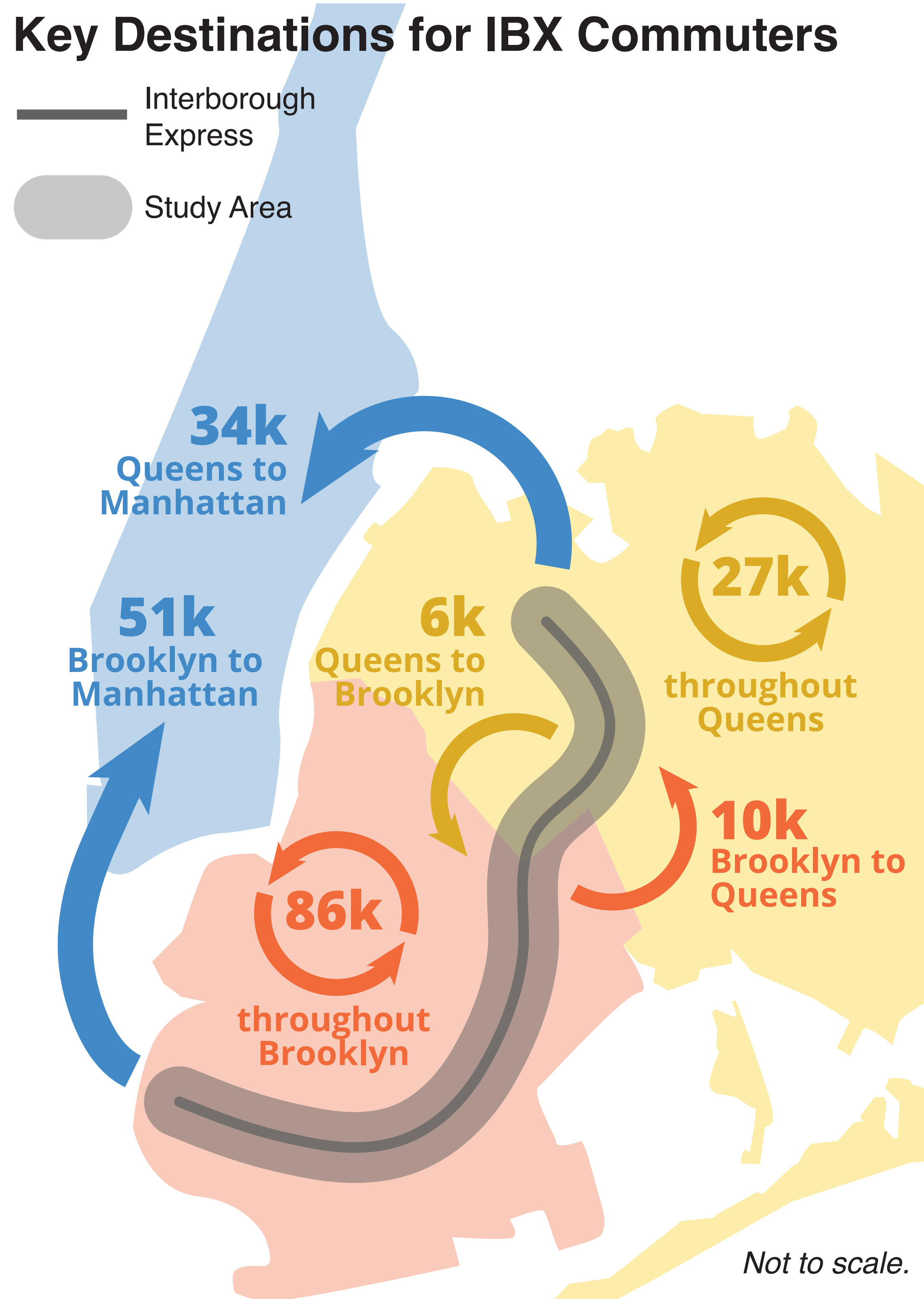
# A Proposed Transit Project To Connect Brooklyn And Queens

- The Interborough Express (IBX) would use an existing 14-mile-long freight rail corridor that runs from Jackson Heights to Sunset Park
- It would add 19 new stations, with connections to up to 17 subway lines, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), and 51 current bus routes



*Conceptual rendering of an LRT terminal at Roosevelt Avenue*

# Neighborhood Context



## IBX would support communities who need it most

- **Vibrant:** The area surrounding the corridor is home to 900,000 people and 260,000 jobs in Brooklyn and Queens
- **Diverse:** Almost 75% of the population served by the IBX are people of color and 25% speak a language other than English at home
- **Transit-Dependent:** One-third of these households are below 150% of the poverty line and half do not own a car

# Rail Corridor History



*Kouwenhoven Station  
(now East New York Station), c. 1905.*



*East New York Station today.*

- The Bay Ridge Branch opened in 1876 as part of the New York, Bay Ridge, and Jamaica Railroad
- The northern portion in Queens is owned by CSX and the southern portion in Brooklyn is owned by LIRR and operated by New York & Atlantic Railway
- The LIRR leases a portion of the Bay Ridge Branch right-of-way for an aviation fuel pipeline serving LaGuardia and JFK Airports. These tracks last provided passenger rail service in 1924; in 1927, freight service began
- Servicing several freight customers, Brooklyn port facilities, and a car float to New Jersey. The corridor serves up to three freight trains per day currently, and freight service would continue to be preserved in plans for the IBX

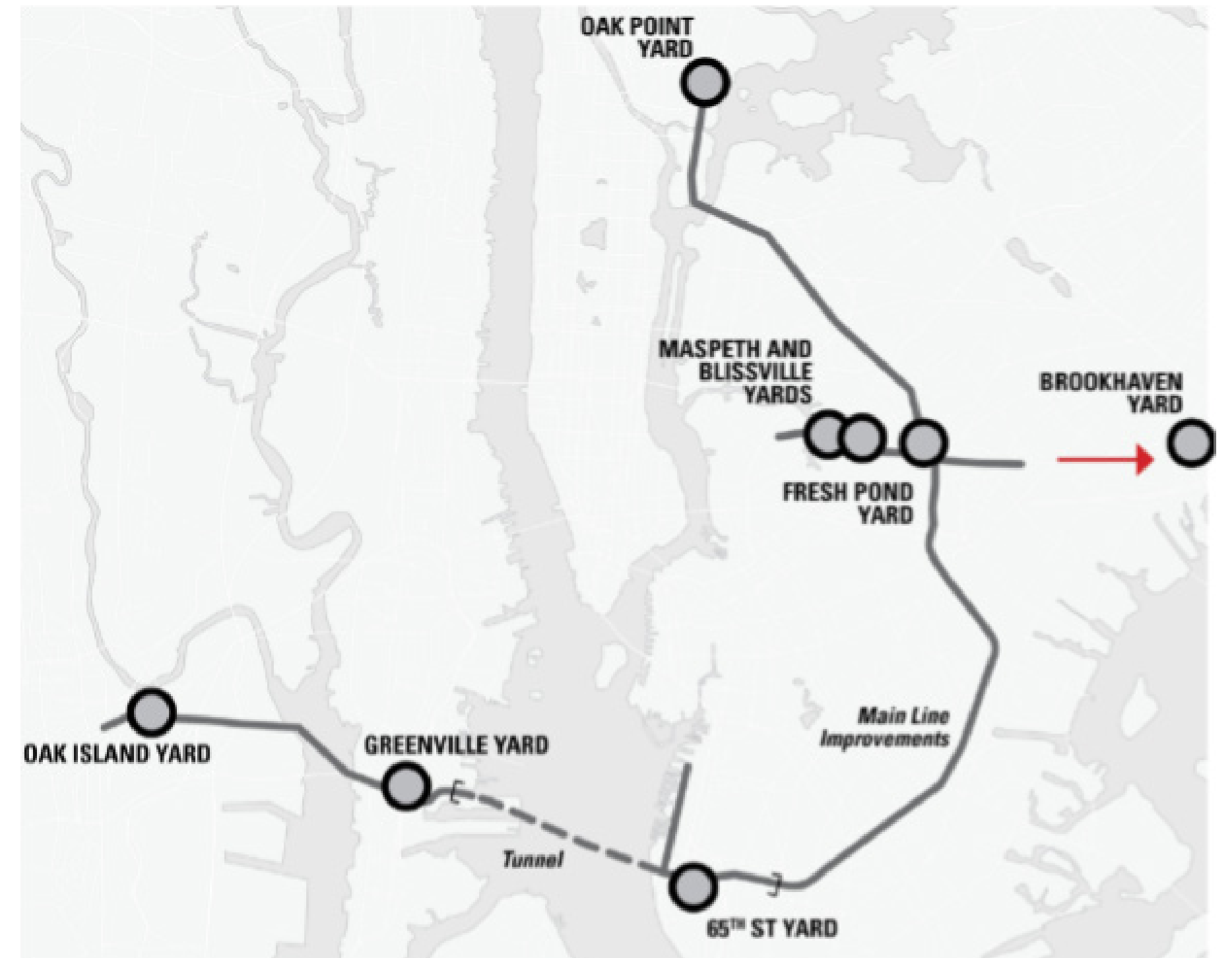


*New York & Atlantic Railway train  
at Atlantic Avenue crossing, 2000.*



# Cross Harbor Freight Program

- The Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ) is preparing a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Cross Harbor Freight Program (CHFP). A Tier I EIS was completed in 2016.
- As part of the review, the EIS will measure for cumulative impacts, including the Interborough Express (IBX) project.
- The type of rail freight will affect the design:



**Carload** - pictured at right: includes typical bulk material (such as construction materials, fuel, cooking oil, beer, and rice), and a typical carload = four tractor trailers



**Intermodal (IMX)** - pictured at left: includes more sensitive goods, and a typical double stack IMX well car = two tractor trailers



**While the CHFP is not an MTA project, we are working with the Port Authority to ensure our projects are compatible with each other.**

Learn more: <https://www.panynj.gov/port/en/our-port/port-development/cross-harbor-freight-program.html>

# Purpose and Need



The **purpose** of the IBX is to provide fast, direct, and reliable transit service connecting Brooklyn and Queens between the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights (with stations/stops in between)

This is to address public **needs**, including:

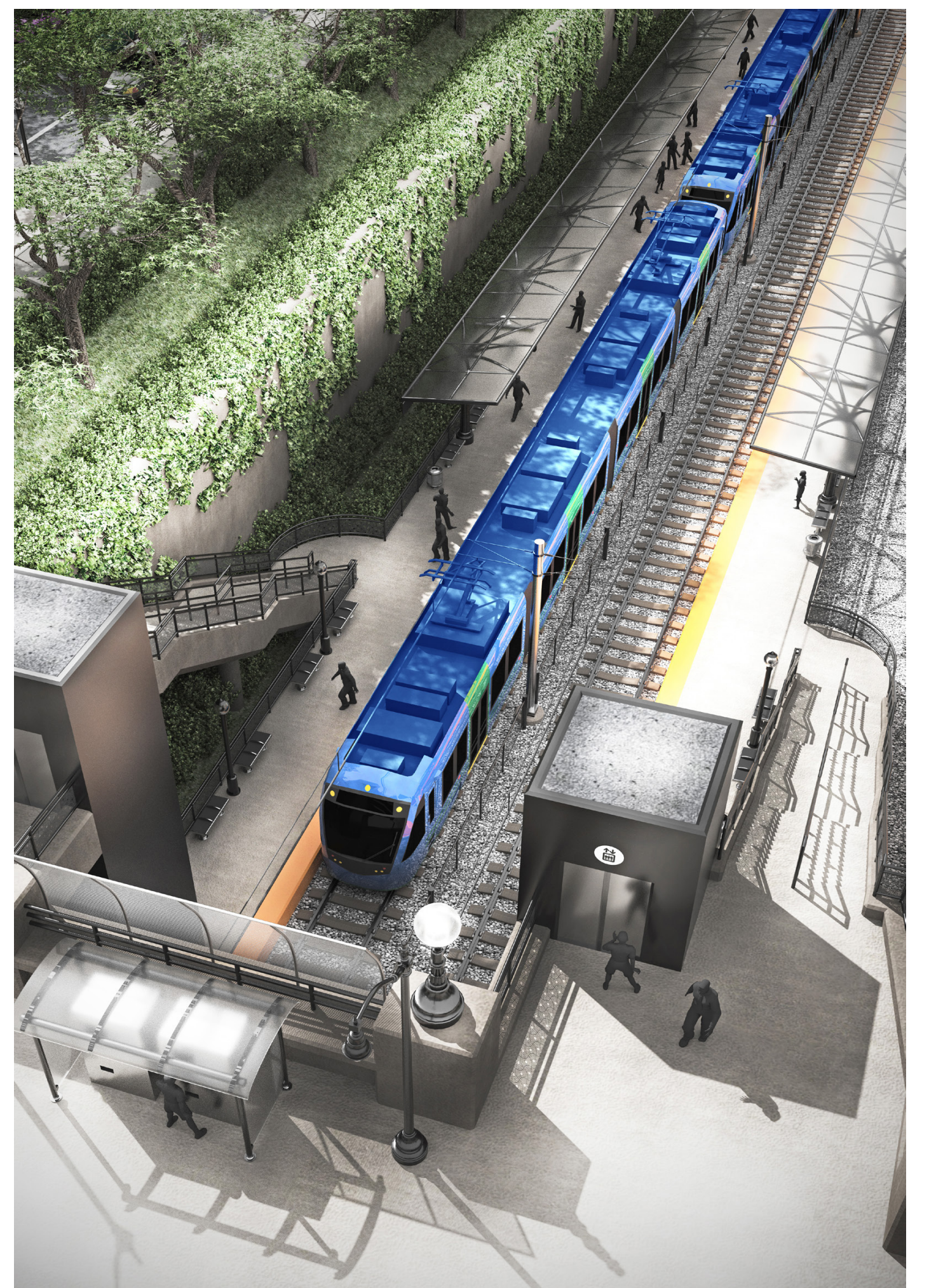
- Need for efficient, direct, and reliable transit service connecting Brooklyn and Queens (without running through Manhattan)
- Need for connections to existing subway and LIRR lines that serve Brooklyn and Queens
- Need for easier access and connections to and among communities and job centers in the corridor that are currently underserved by subway or transit services



# Project Goals

## MTA refined five project goals to help evaluate and narrow alternatives

1. Support the economic health and needs of local communities
2. Maximize the use of the existing right-of-way for new transit services
3. Accommodate transit and freight systems within the existing freight railroad corridors
4. Avoid or minimize environmental issues – efficiently utilizing the existing infrastructure and maximizing our assets
5. Provide cost-effective transit service improvements



# Mode Selection

## What planning has been done so far?






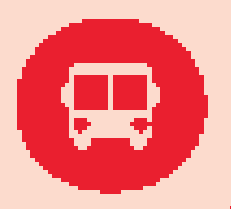


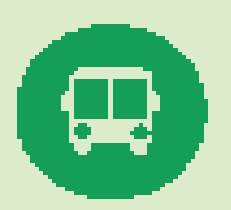

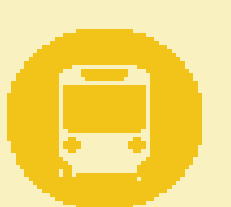
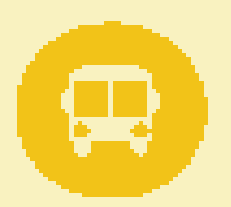


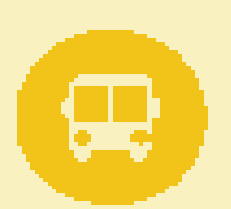
- Previous studies and review looked at six different transit modes, narrowing down to three options: Conventional Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, and Light Rail
- These reviews culminated in a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study released in January 2023
- The Planning Study highlighted Light Rail as the mode that will provide the best service for riders at the best value



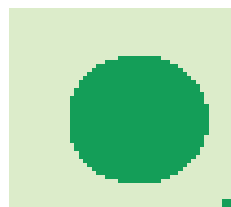
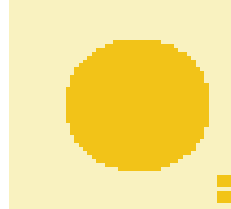
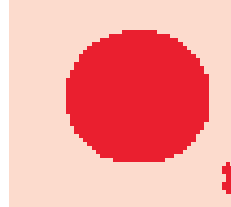
*Governor Hochul Announces Completion of Study for the Interborough Express Connecting Brooklyn and Queens, January 20, 2022.*



# Mode Selection

Comparison of IBX Alternatives			
	LRT	CR	BRT
Capacity	 +	 +	 -
Reliability	 +	 +	 -
Constructability	 +	 -	 +
Vehicle Specialization	 +	 =	 =
Cost Per Rider	 +	 -	 =

**Evaluation Scores:**

-  Positive
-  Moderate
-  Negative

Mode	Summary of Considerations
<b>Light Rail</b>	The best service for riders and is most cost-effective
<b>Conventional Rail</b>	Not cost-effective and would have required adding significant construction risk <i>Key Constraint: Need for a new tunnel under All Faiths Cemetery</i>
<b>Bus Rapid Transit</b>	Could not meet projected demand or provide reliable service <i>Key Constraint: Bus capacity is less than one-fourth that of a Light Rail train</i>

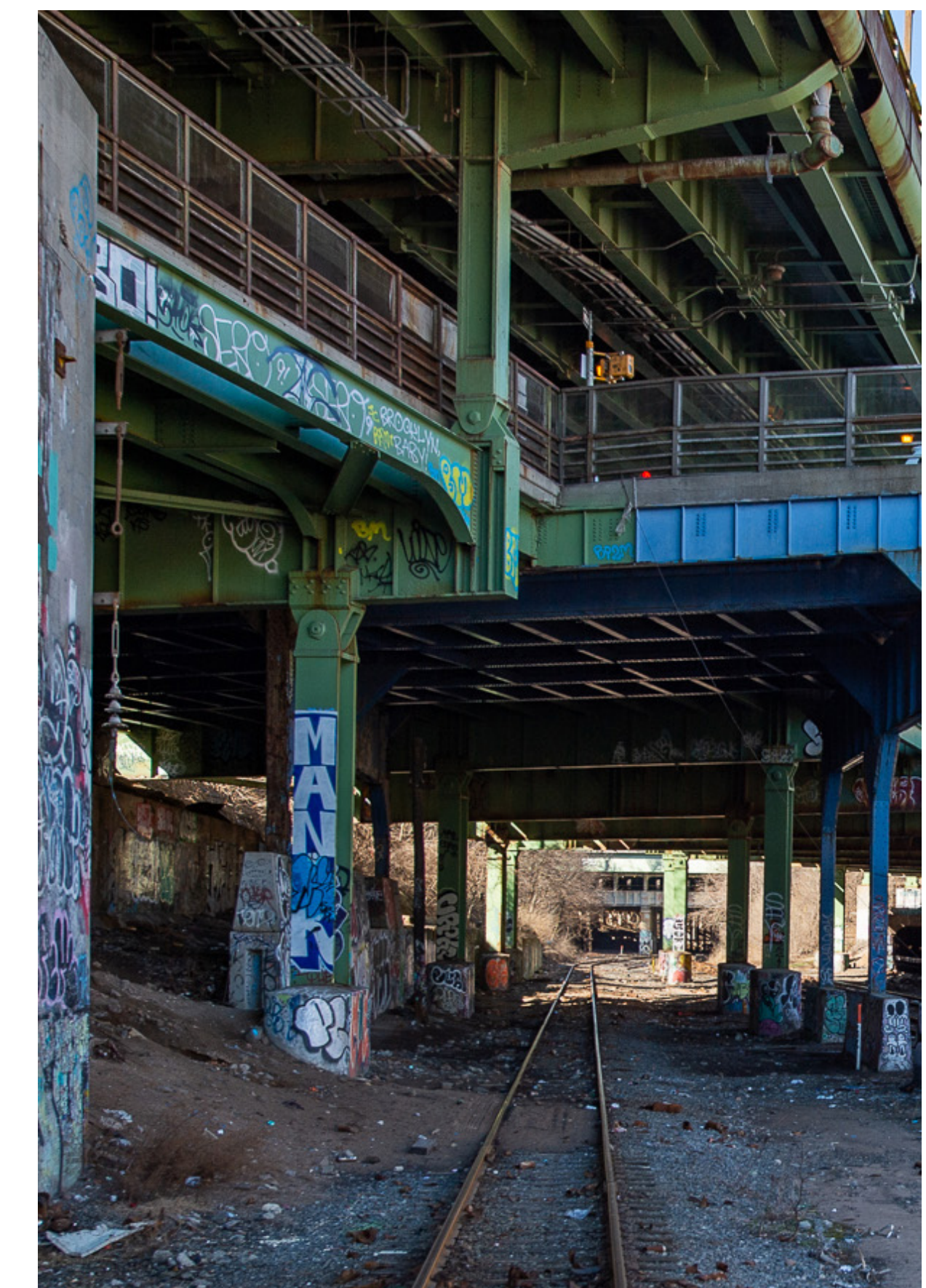


# Interborough Express Next Steps

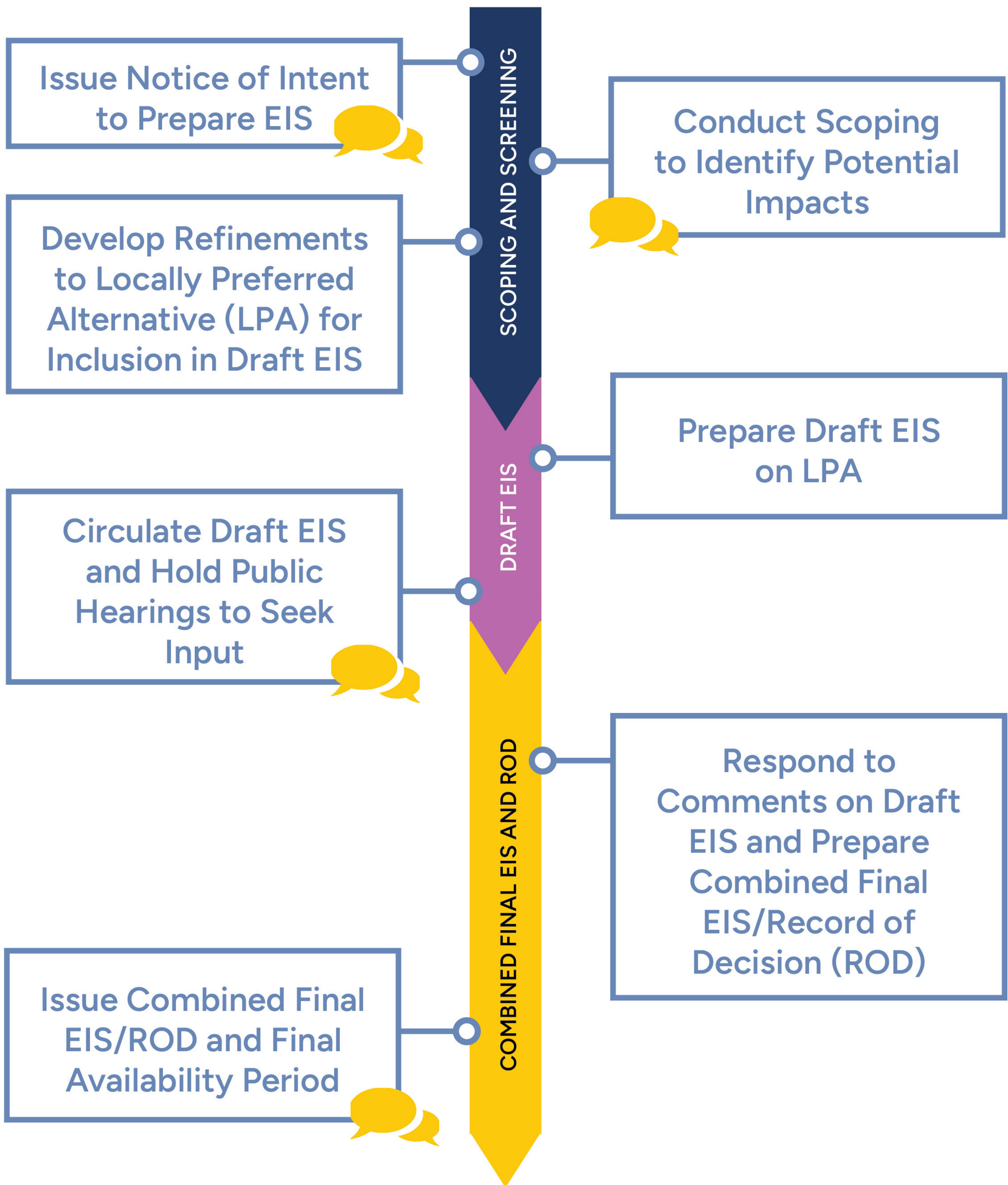
We are here



Public and stakeholder outreach to be conducted throughout process



# Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process



indicates official public opportunity for comment during EIS process

# Your IBX Story

## *How would the IBX impact your daily life?*

Think about a specific situation where the IBX could make your commute better or change how you use public transportation. Share your thoughts by writing or drawing on a notecard and pinning it on the board.

Access an interactive version of this board at: <https://arcg.is/114eiS0>



# Teach Us

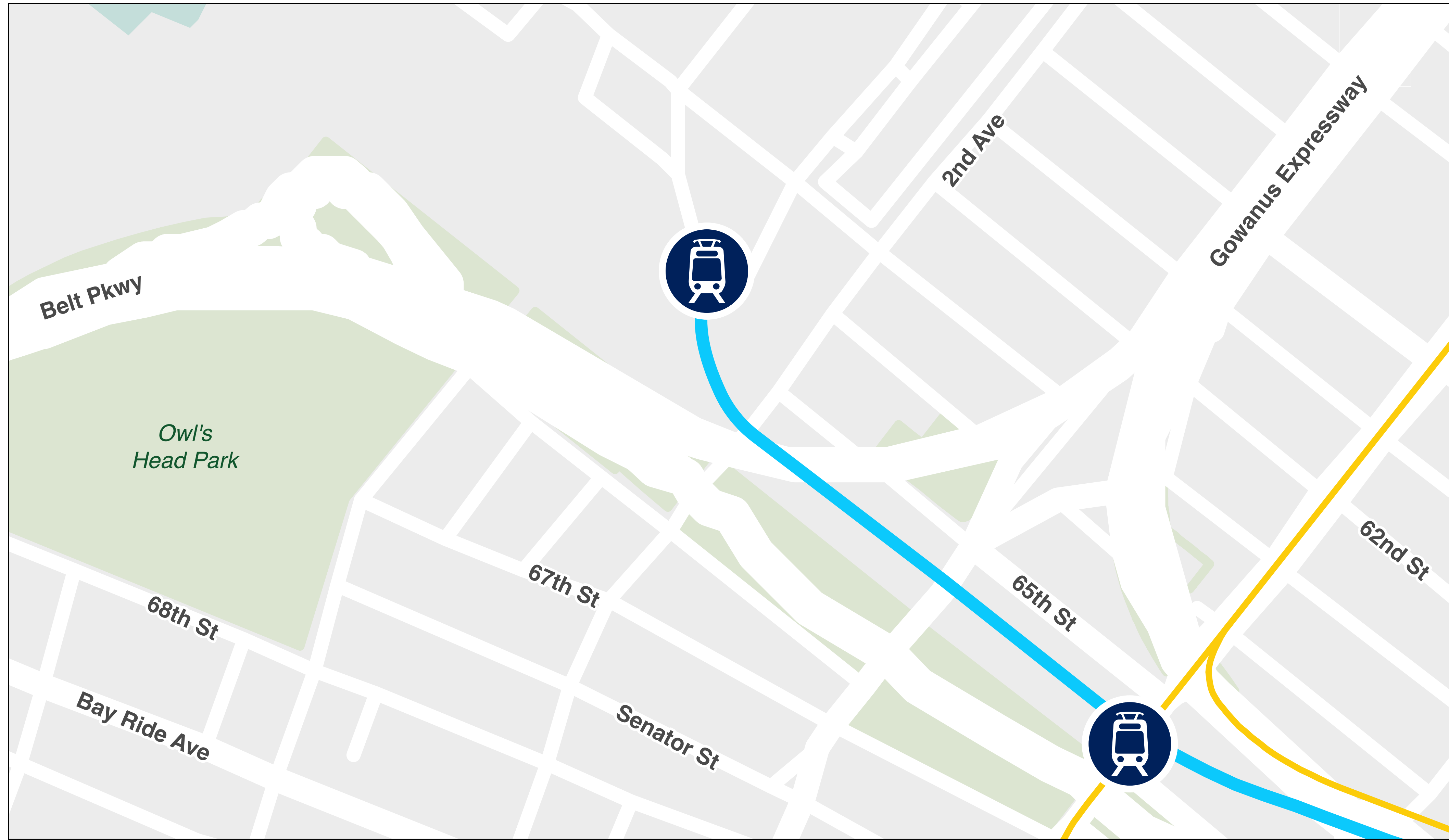
As we plan potential IBX stations, what important factors should we consider in this area? Share your ideas on complicated intersections, important places, or community hubs close to your potential IBX station that we should be aware of by writing or drawing on a notecard and pinning it on the board.

Proposed IBX Alignment

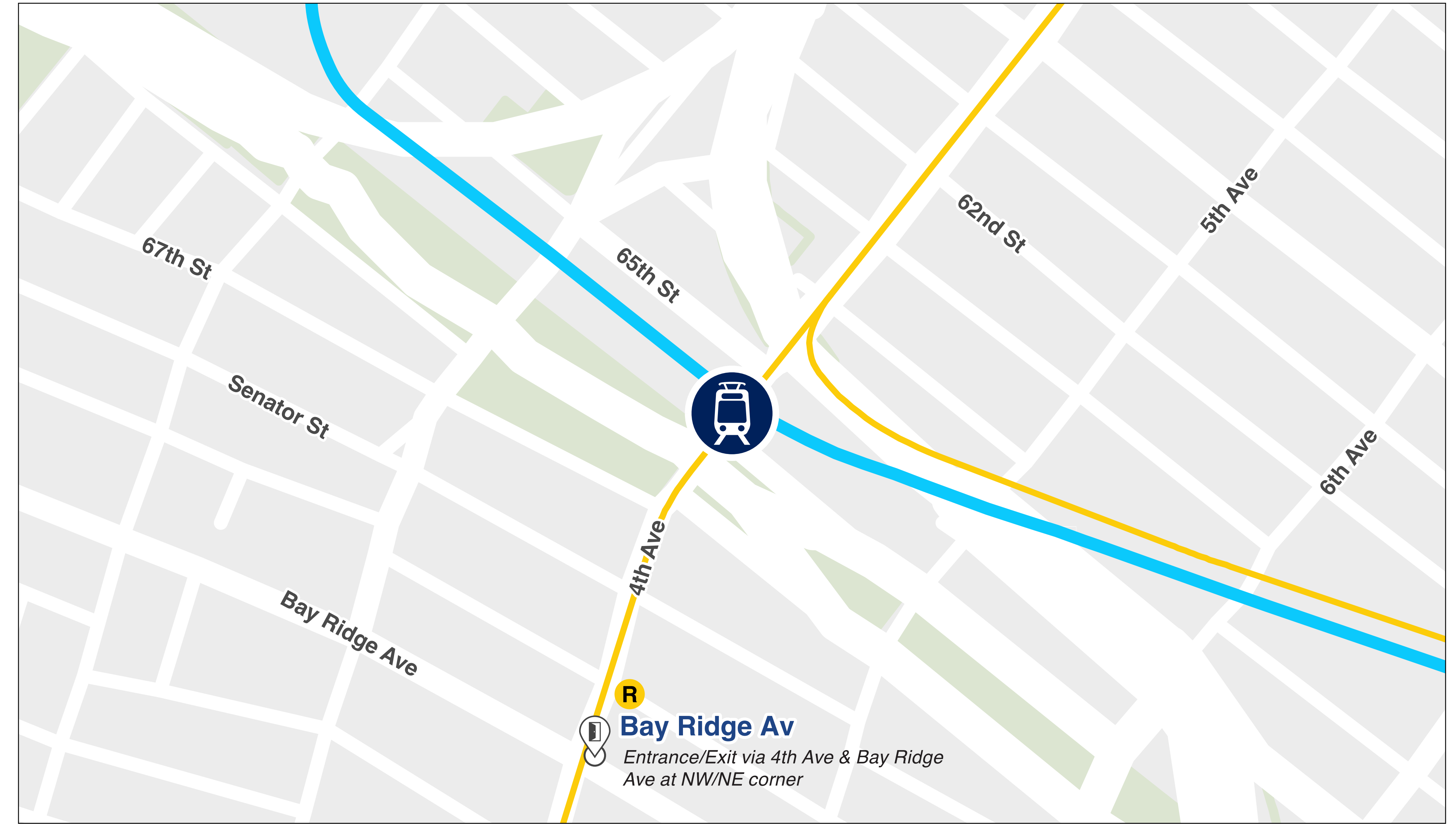
Potential Light Rail Station

Subway Entrance/Exit

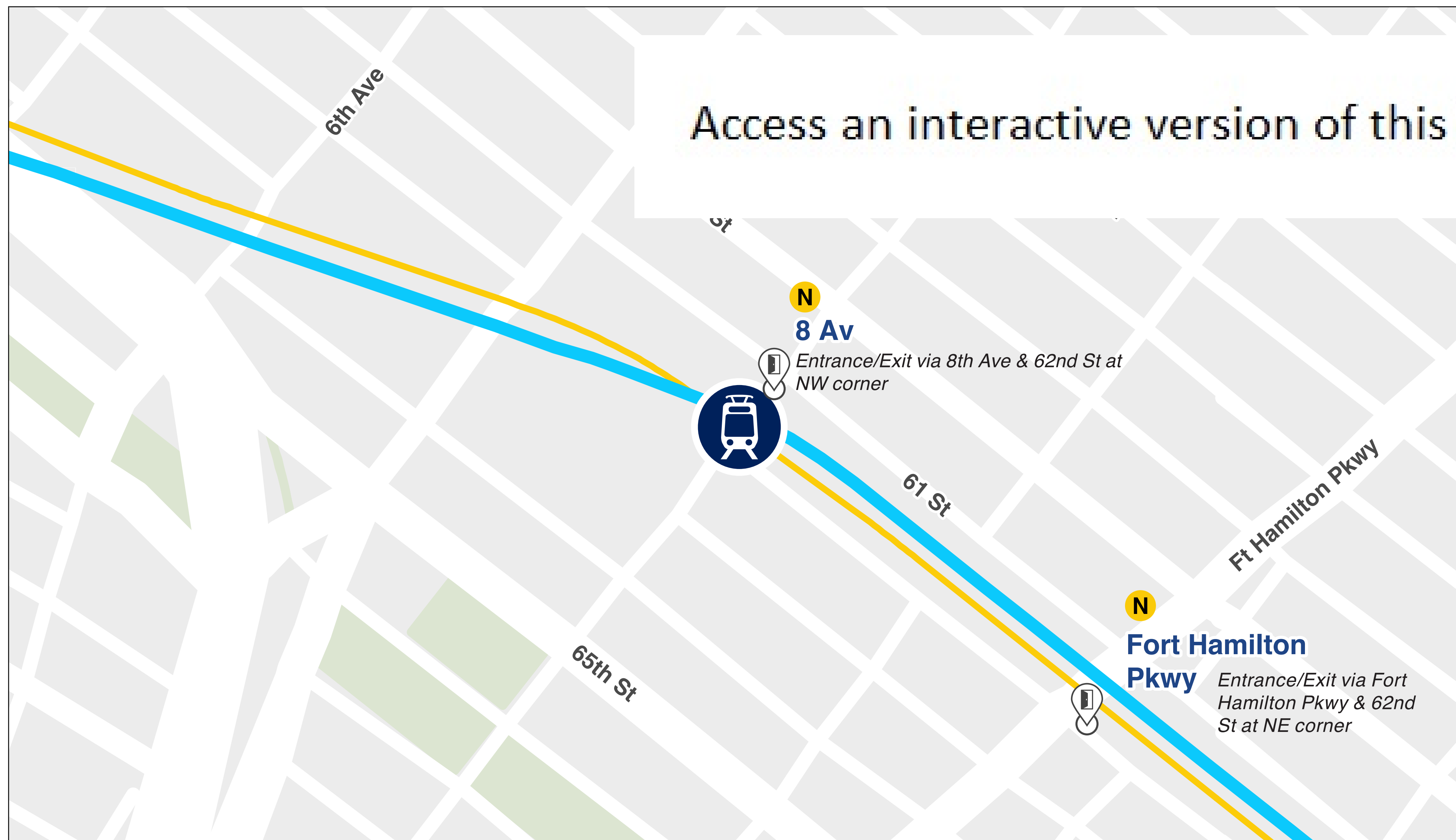
## 1 Brooklyn Army Terminal



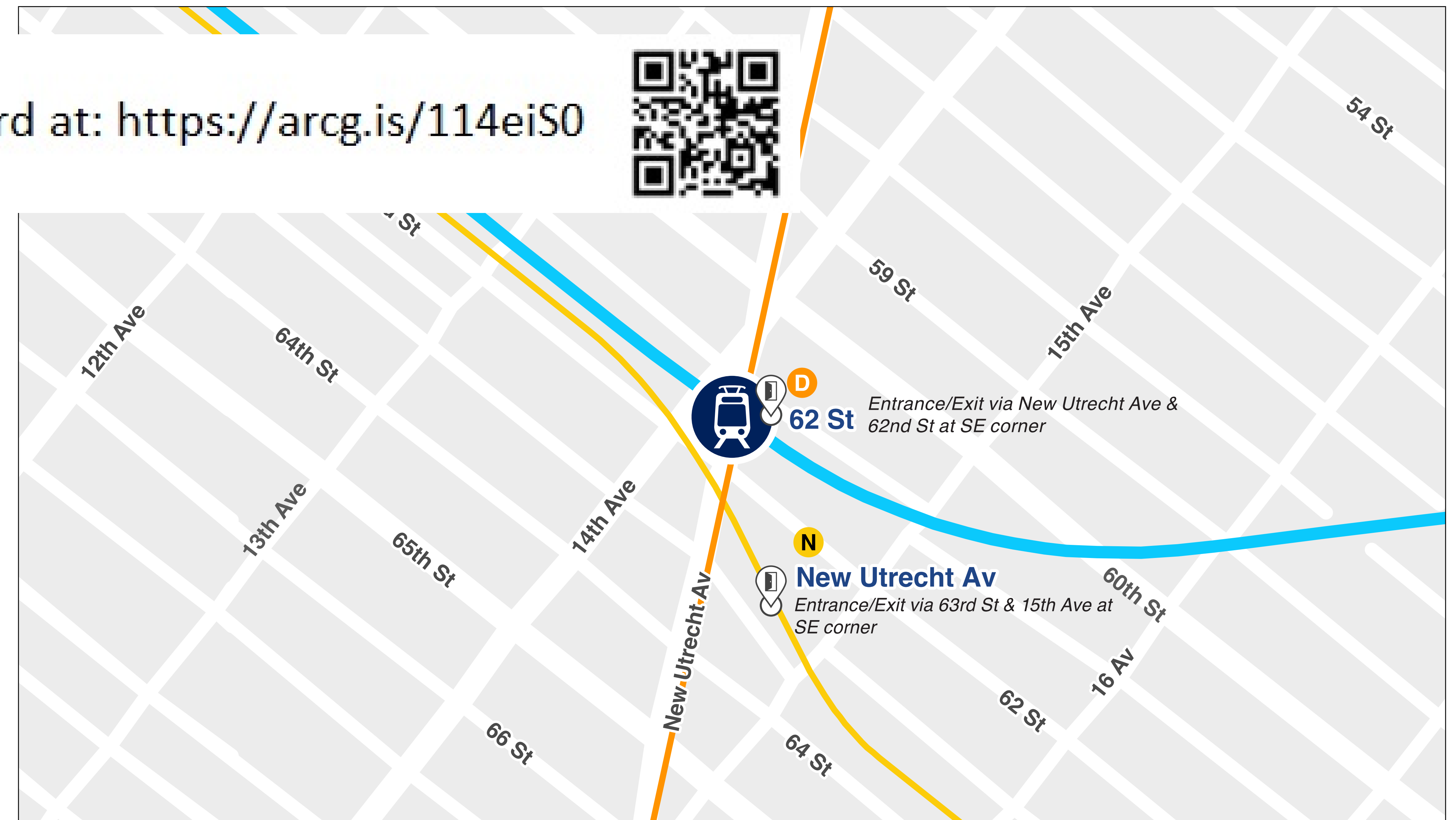
## 2 4th Ave



## 3 8th Ave



## 4 New Utrecht Ave



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# Teach Us

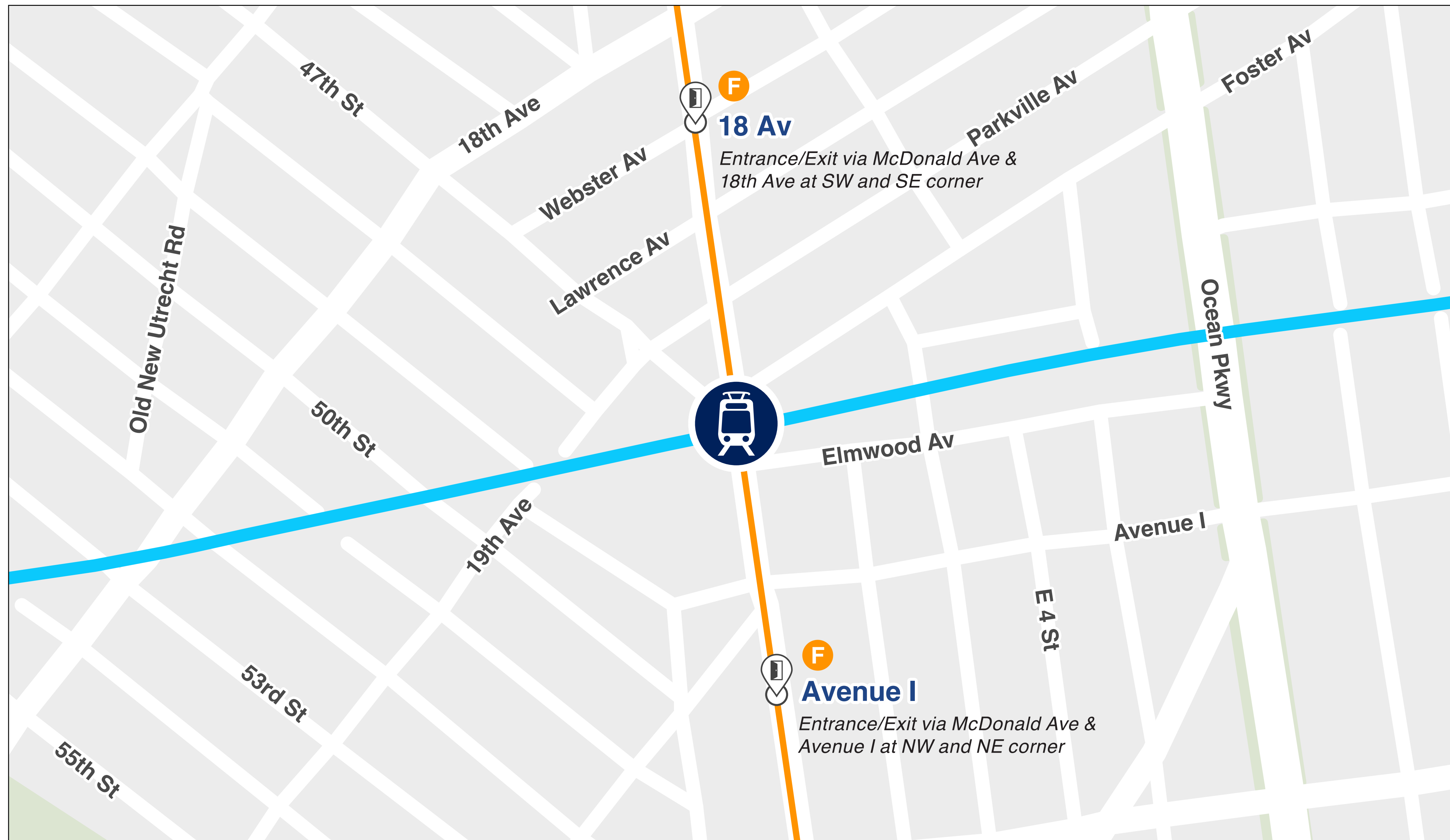
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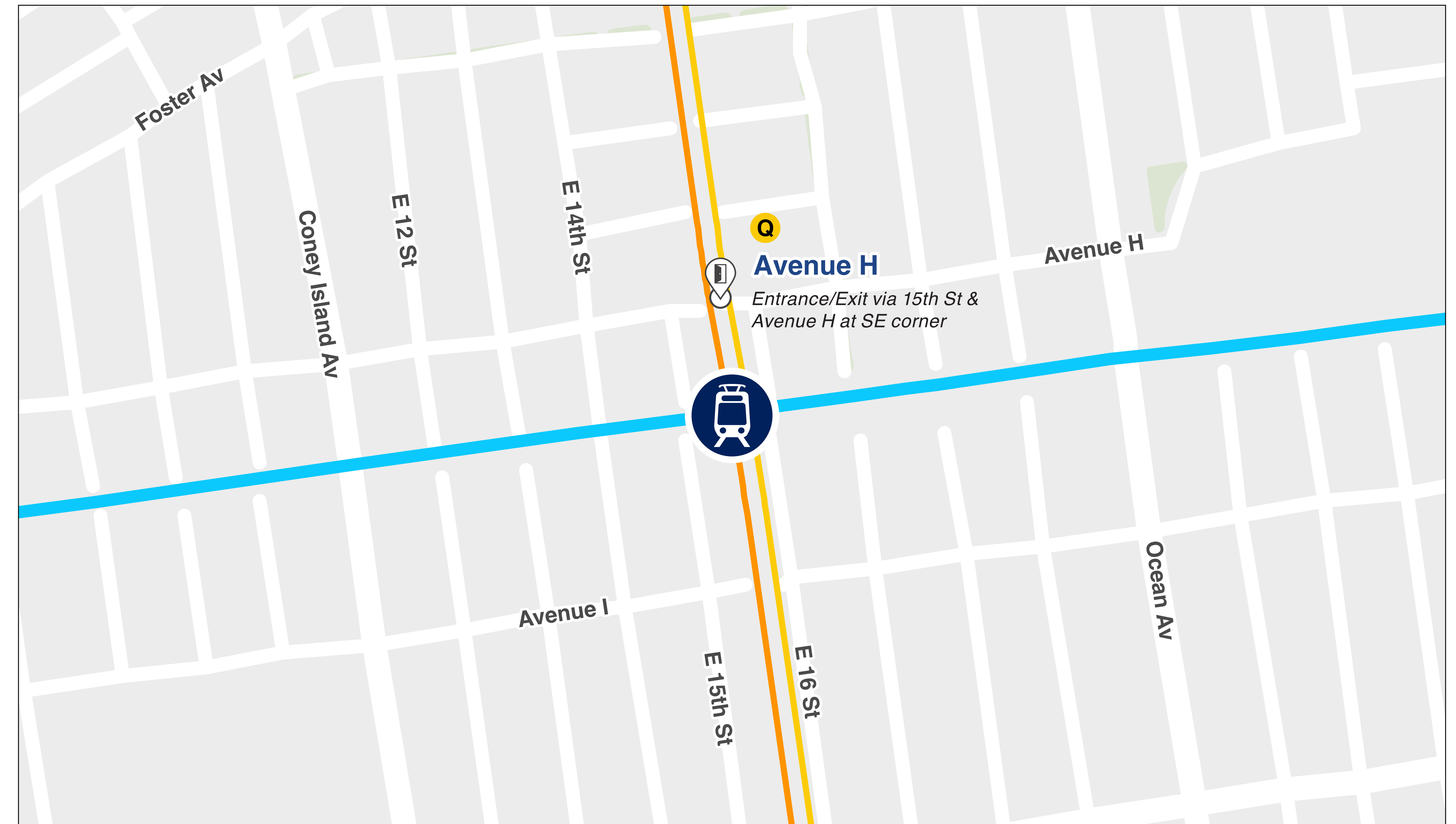
Potential Light Rail Station

Subway Entrance/Exit

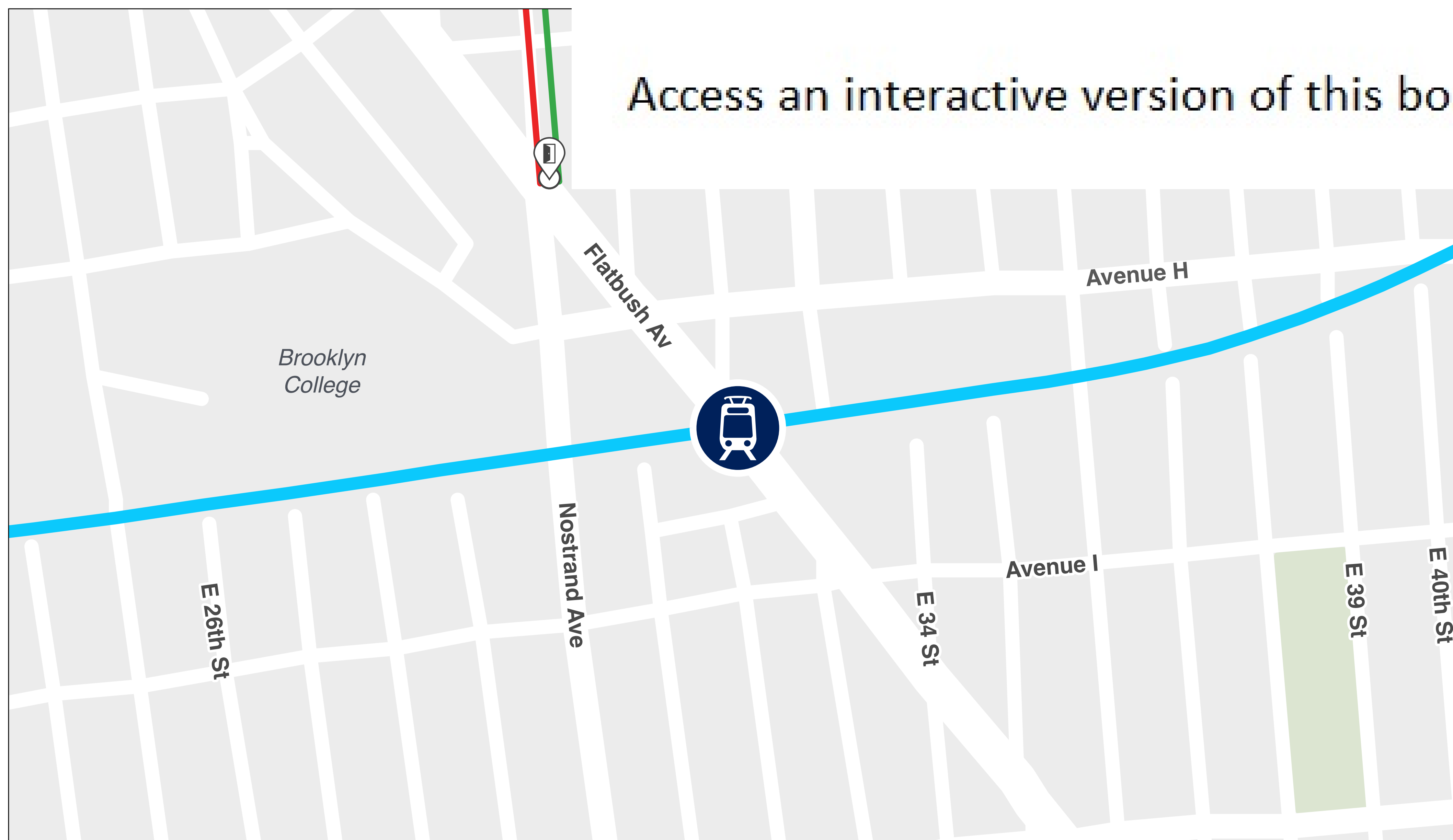
## 5 McDonald Ave



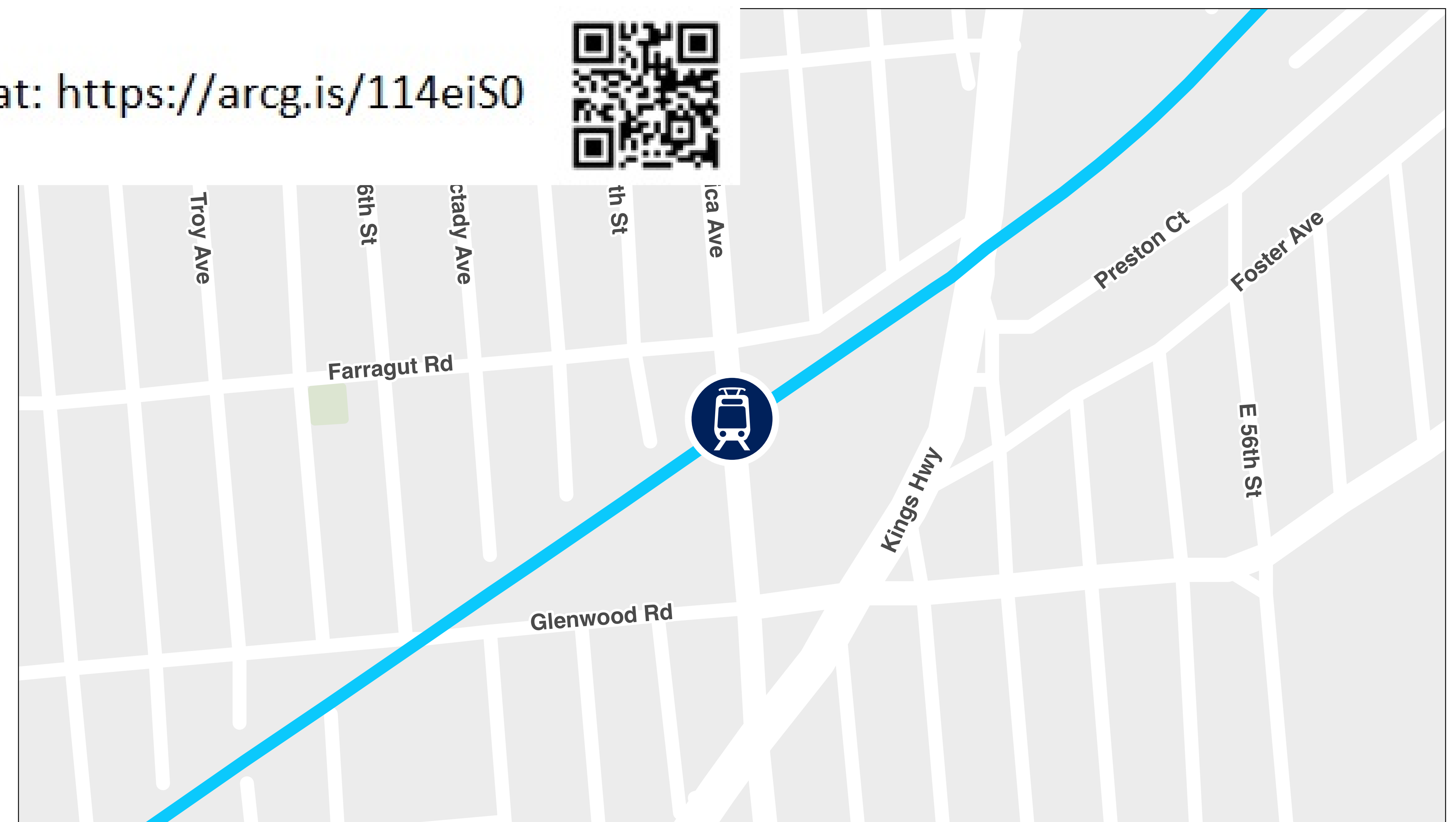
## 6 E 16th St



## 7 Flatbush Ave



## 8 Utica Ave



Access an interactive version of this board at: <https://arcg.is/114eiS0>

# Teach Us

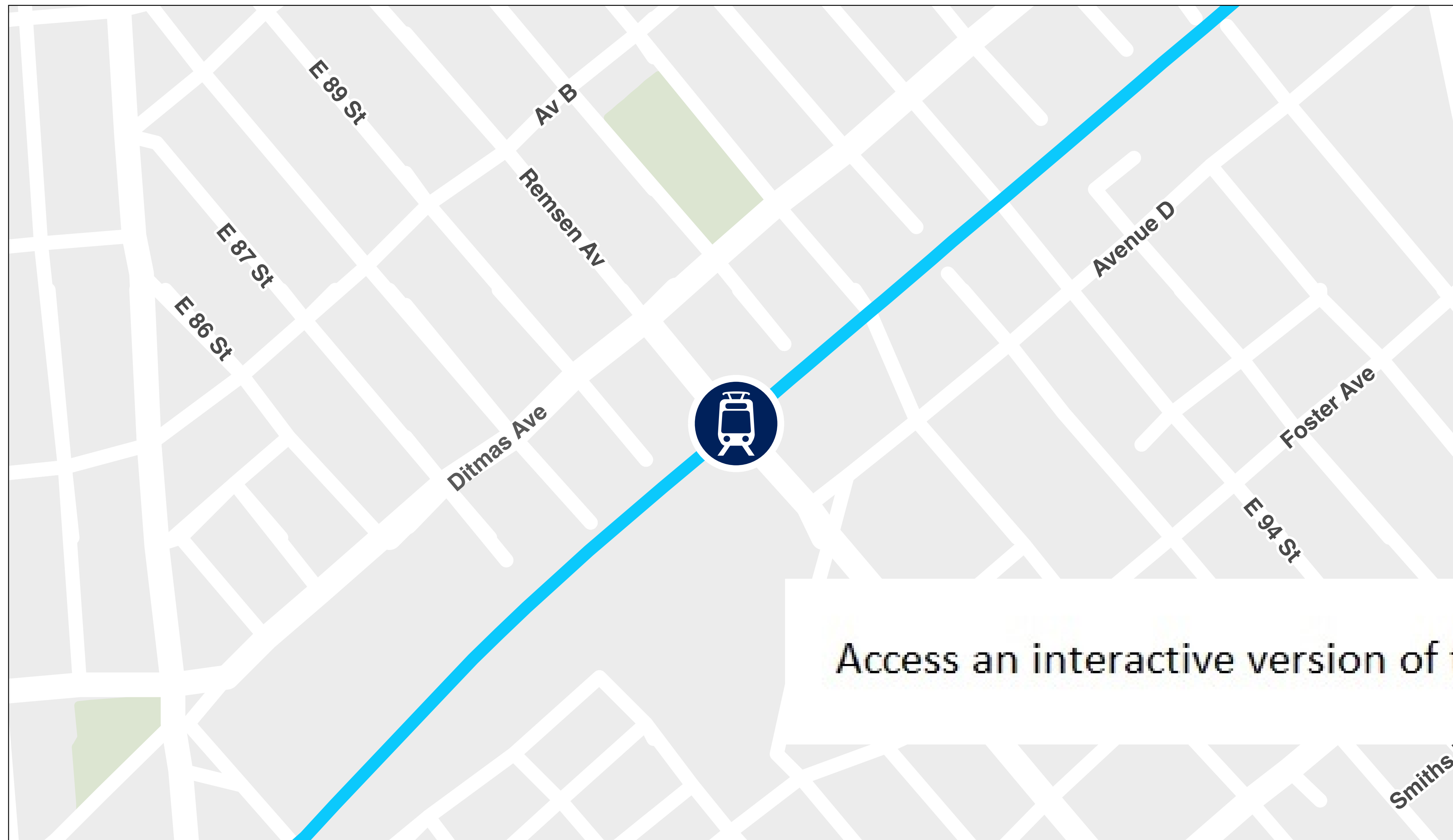
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Proposed IBX Alignment

Potential Light Rail Station

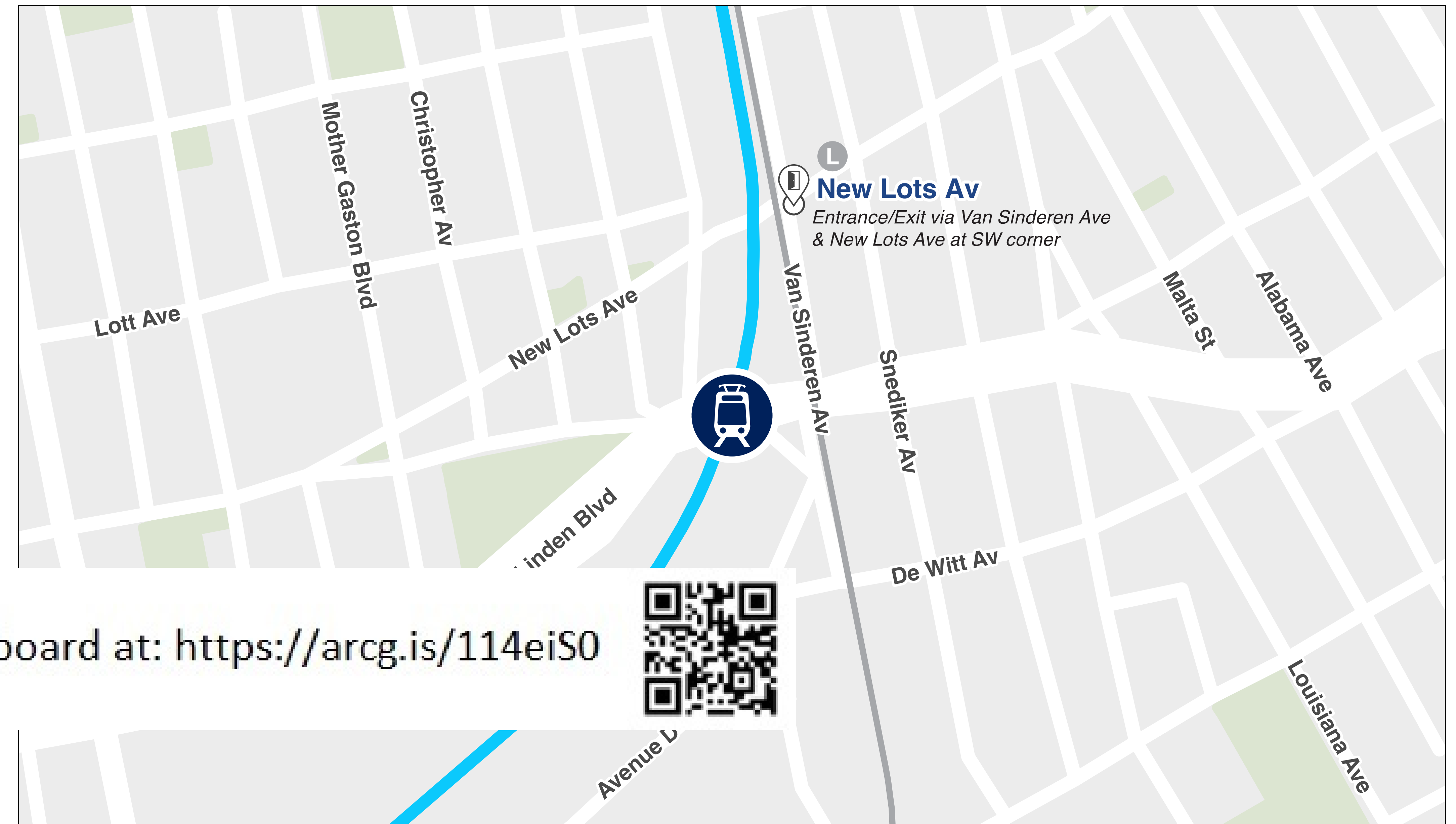
Subway Entrance/Exit

## 9 Remsen Ave

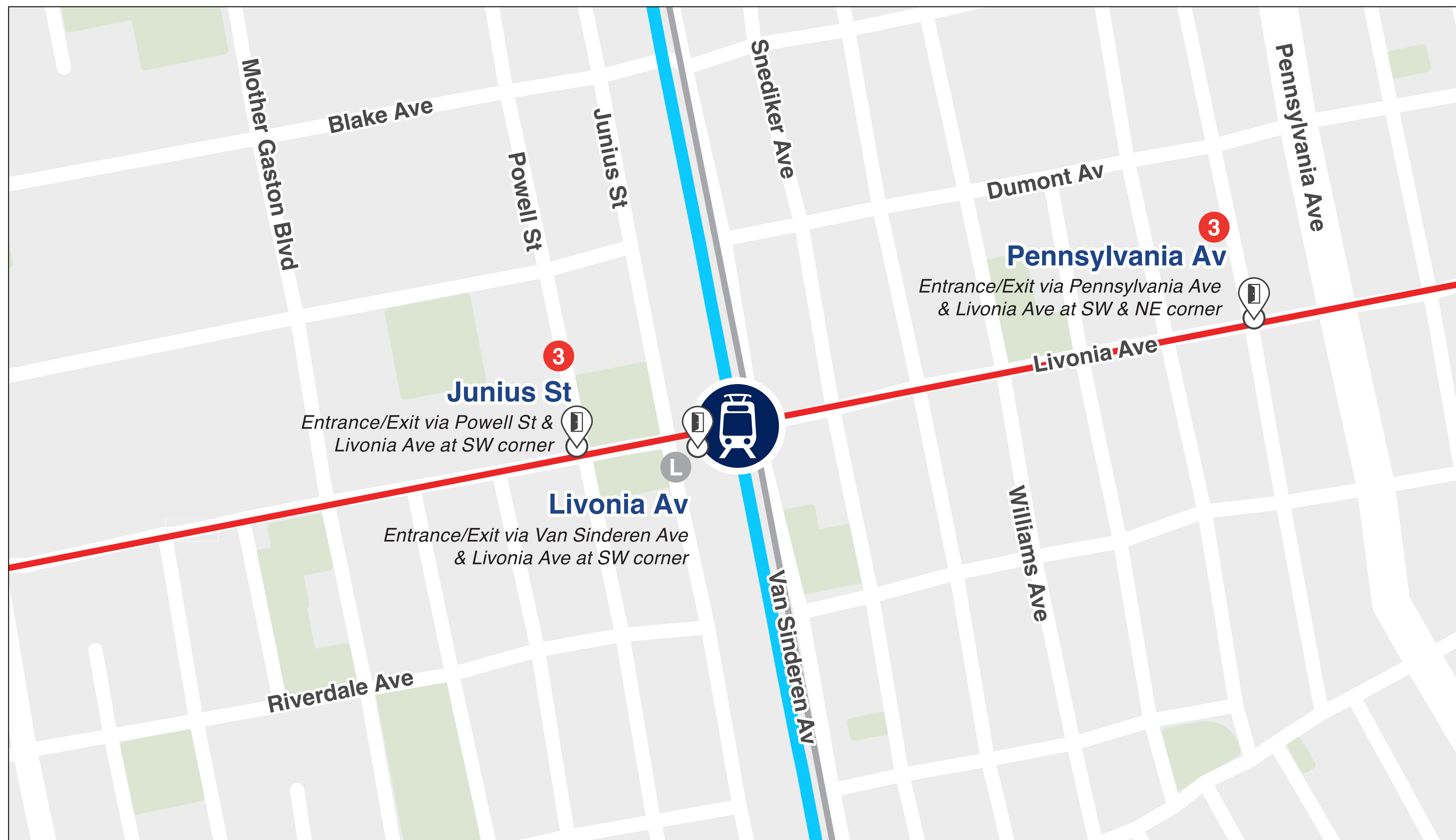


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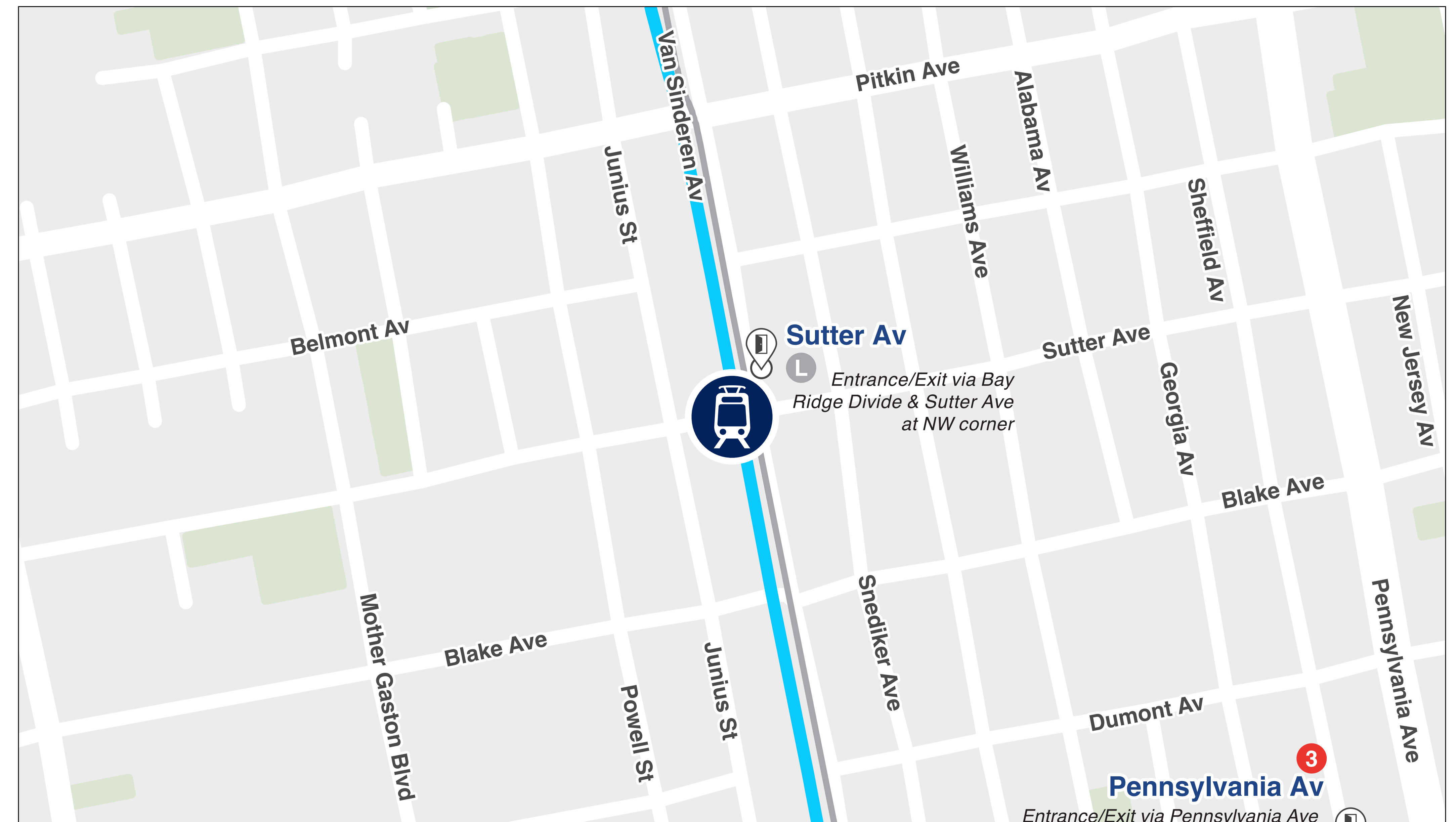
## 10 Linden Blvd



## 11 Livonia Ave



## 12 Sutter Ave



# Teach Us

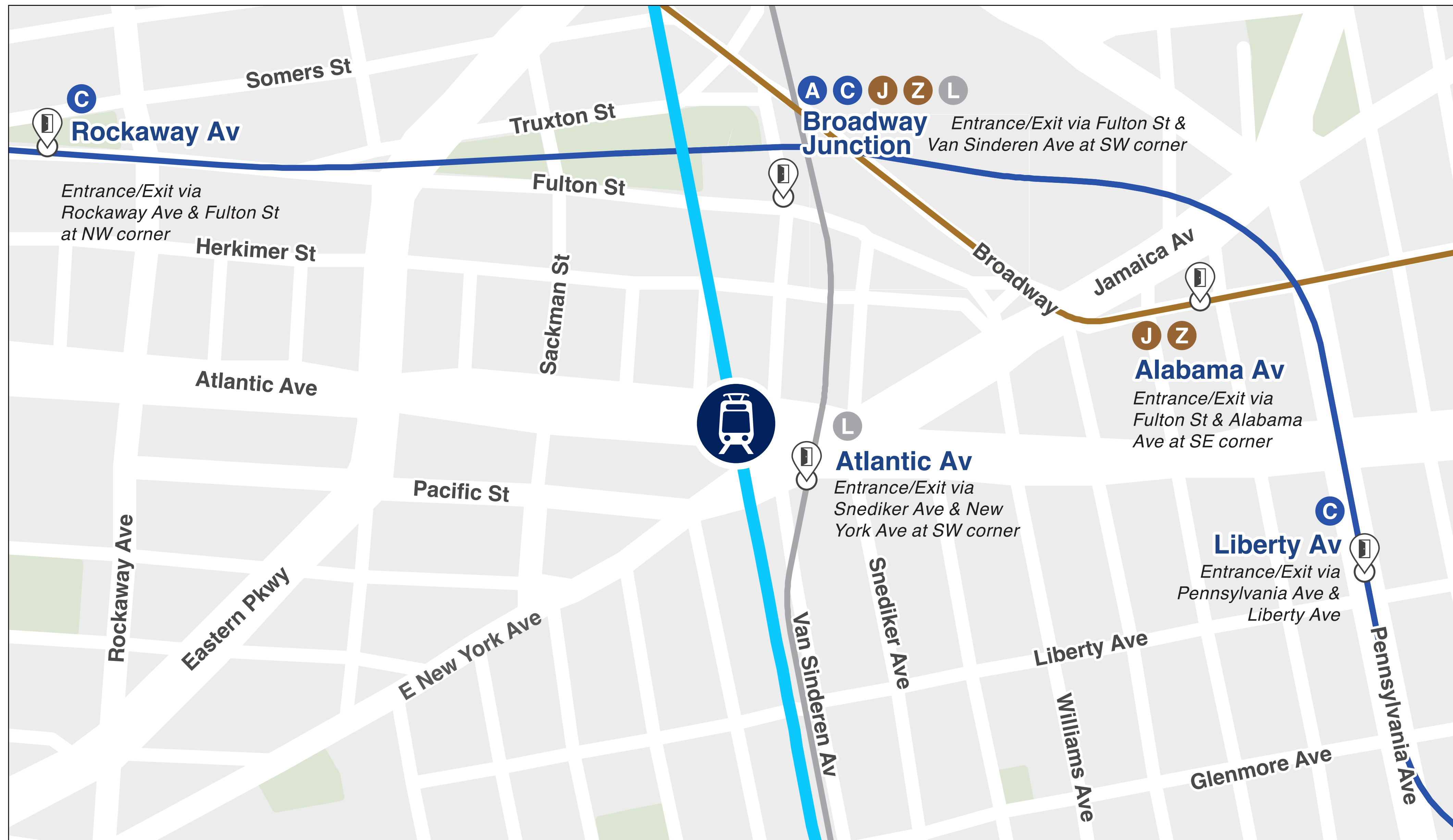
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Proposed IBX Alignment

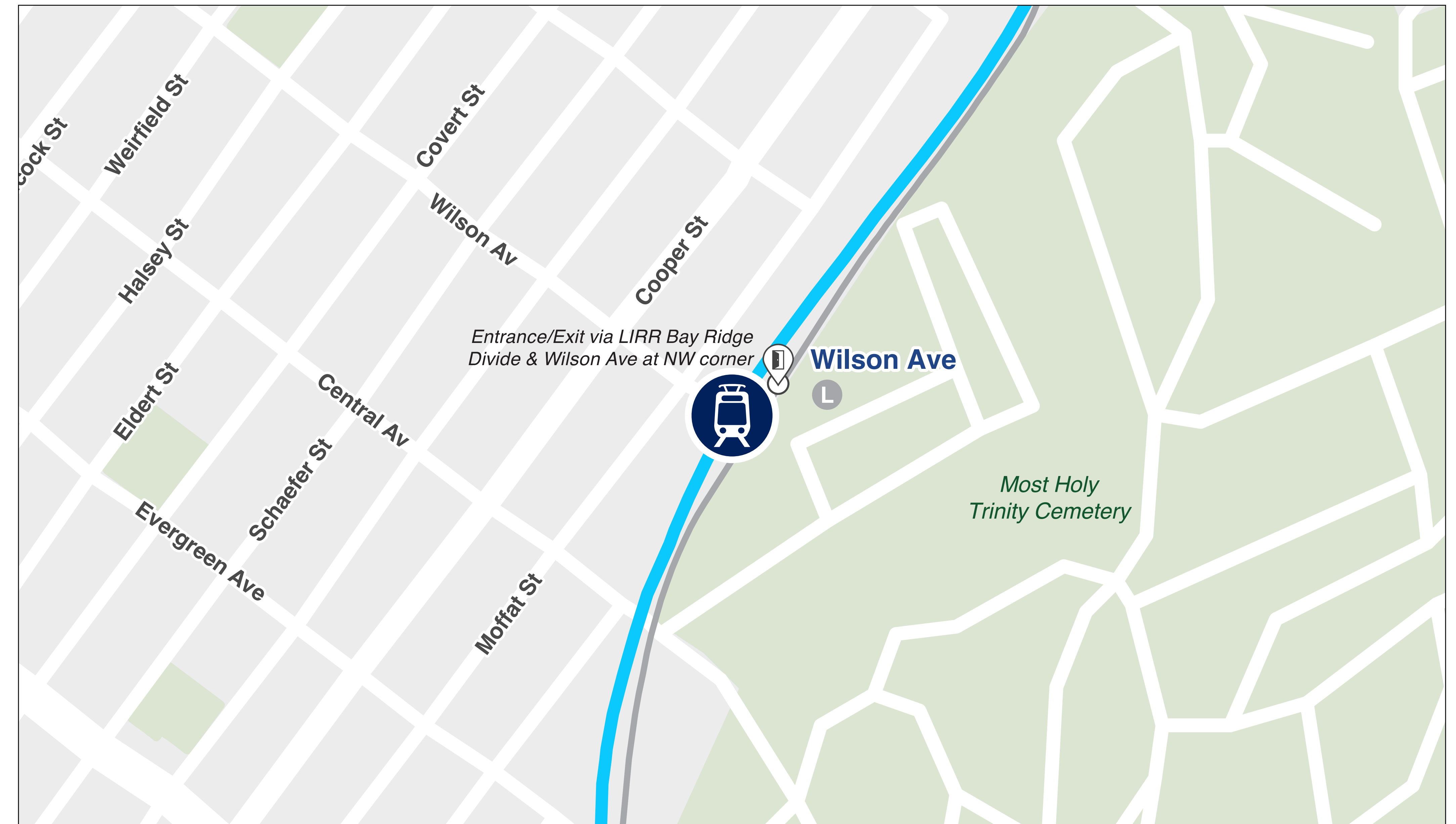
Potential Light Rail Station

Subway Entrance/Exit

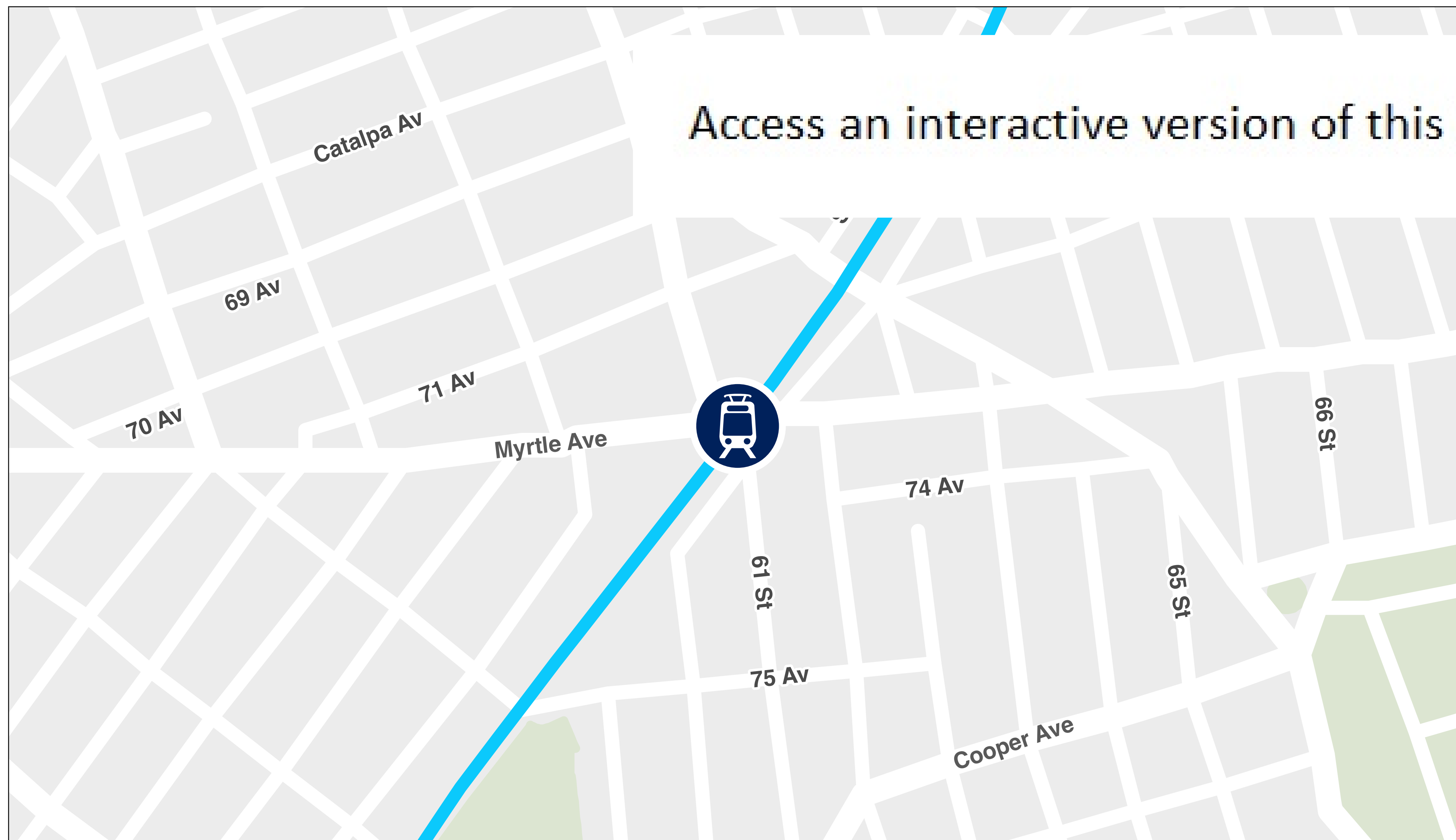
## 13 Atlantic Ave



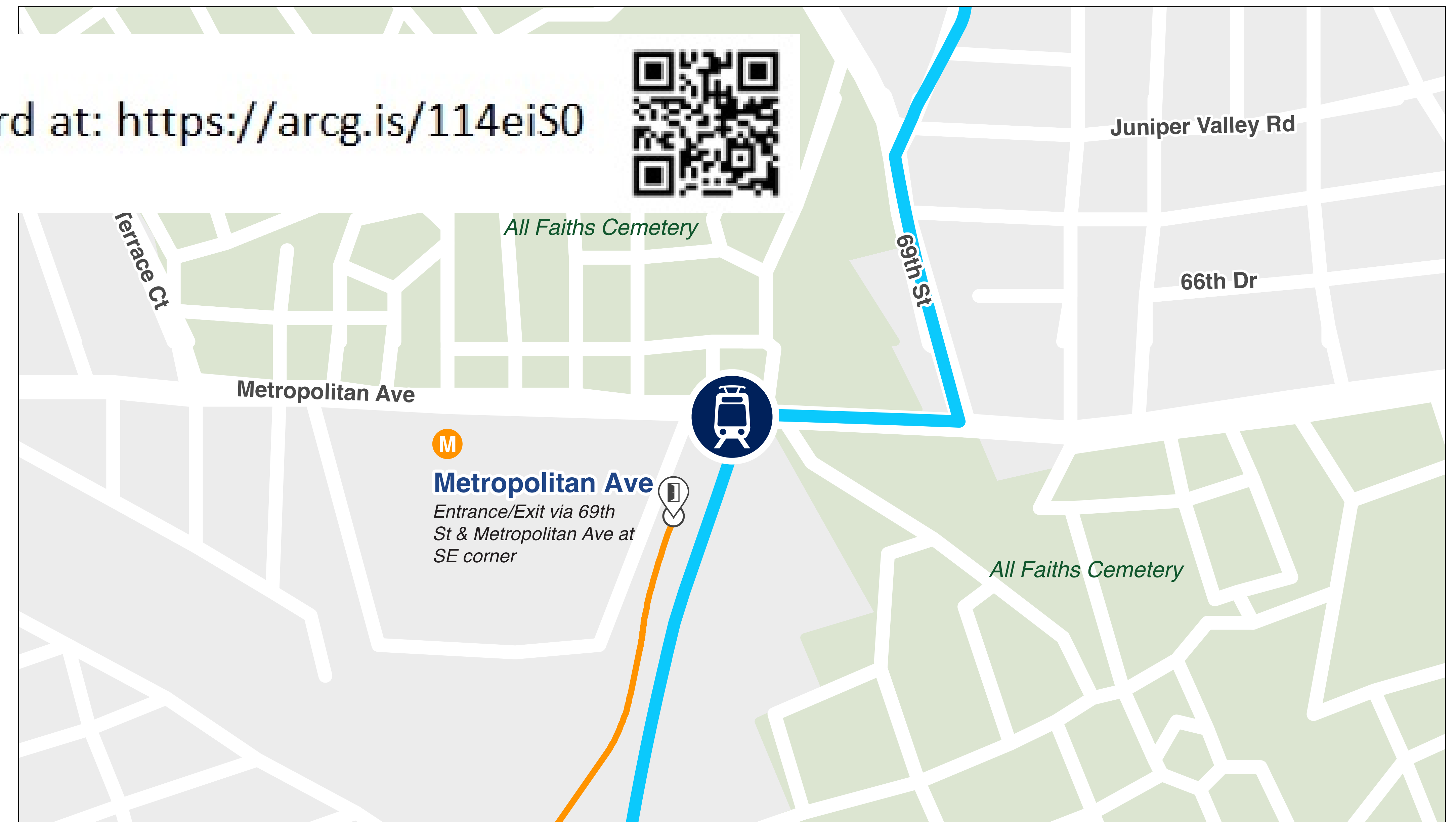
## 14 Wilson Ave



## 15 Myrtle Ave



## 16 Metropolitan Ave



Access an interactive version of this board at: <https://arcg.is/114eiS0>



# Teach Us

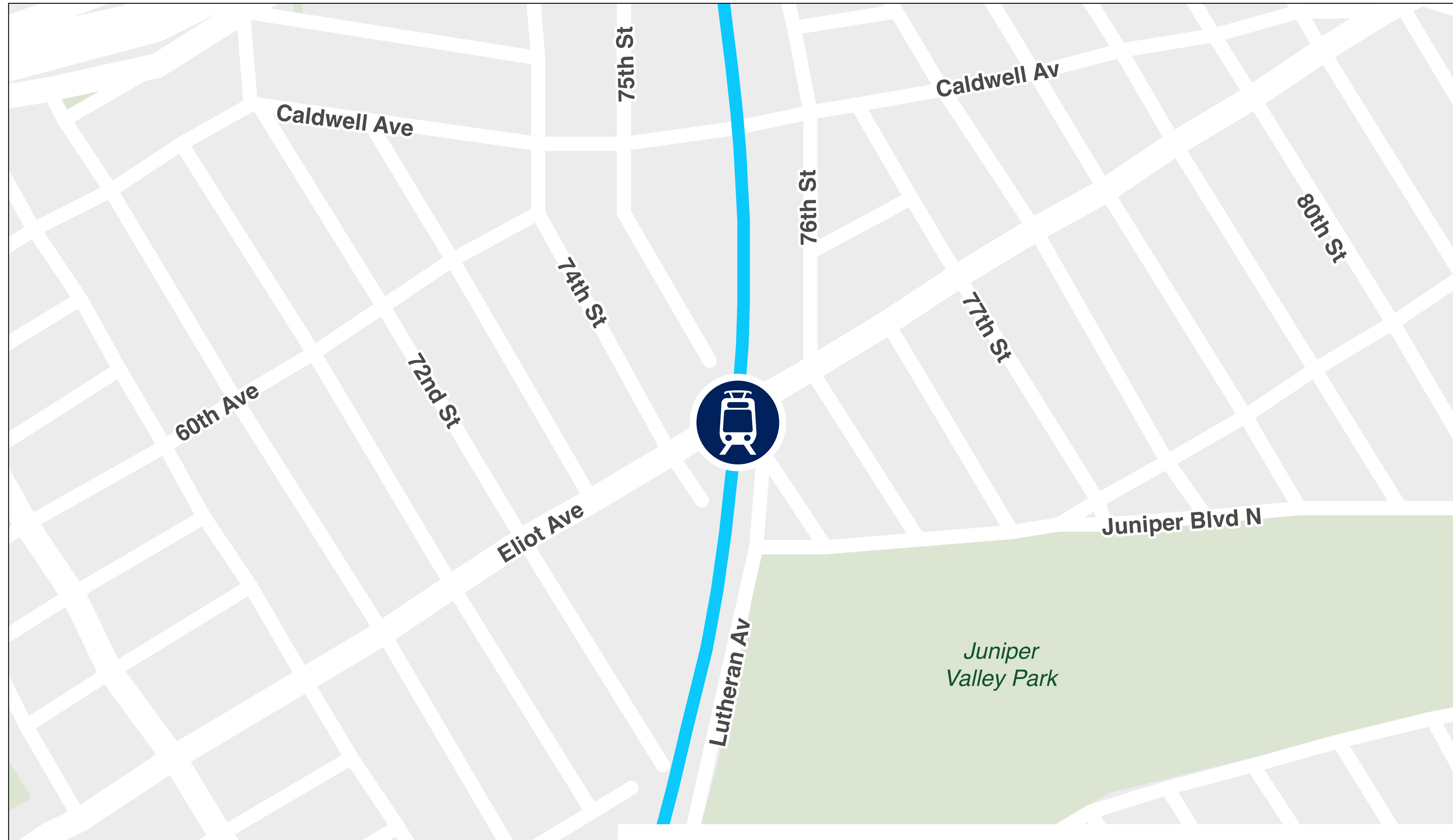
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Proposed IBX Alignment

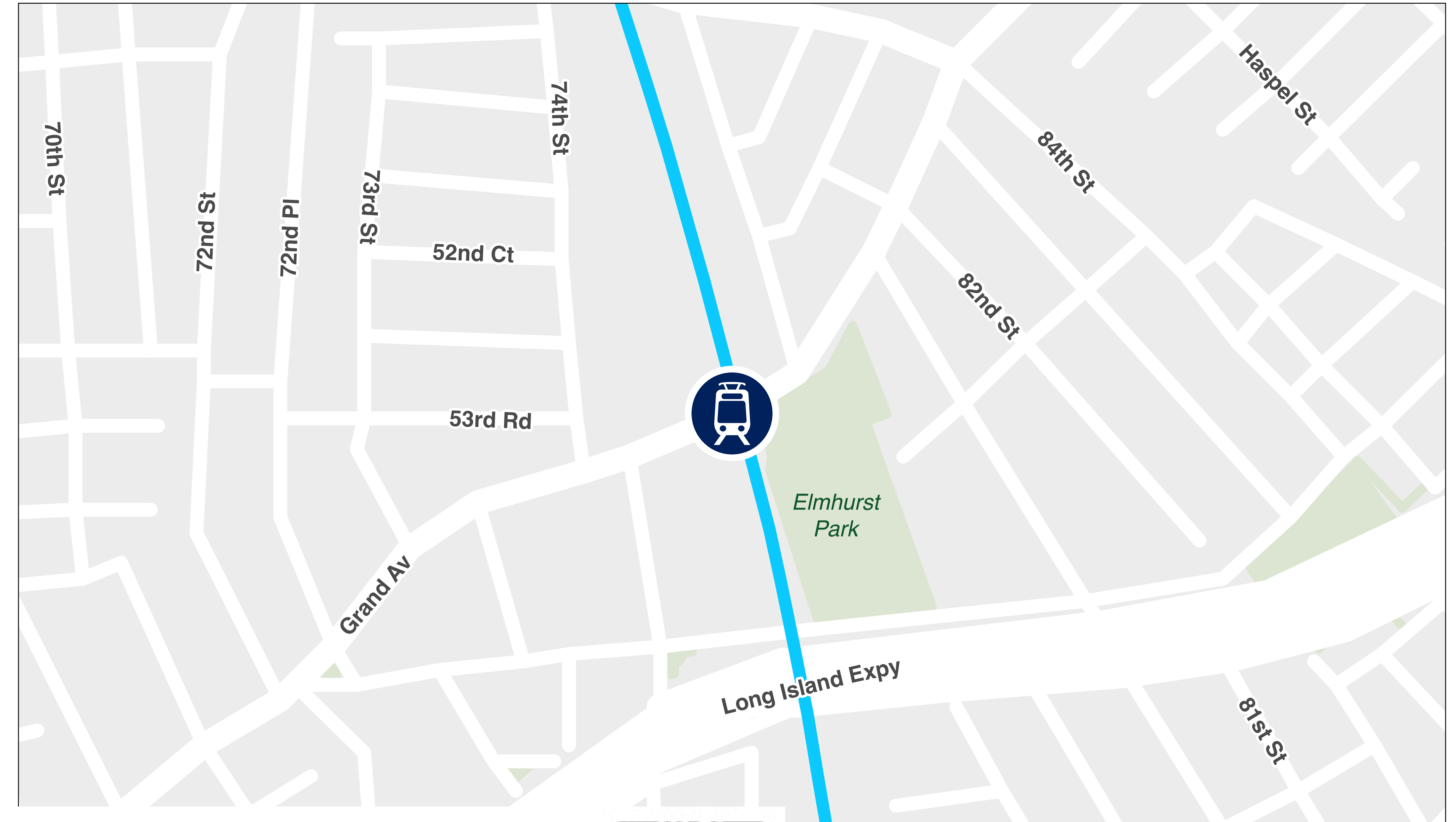
Potential Light Rail Station

Subway Entrance/Exit

## 17 Eliot Ave

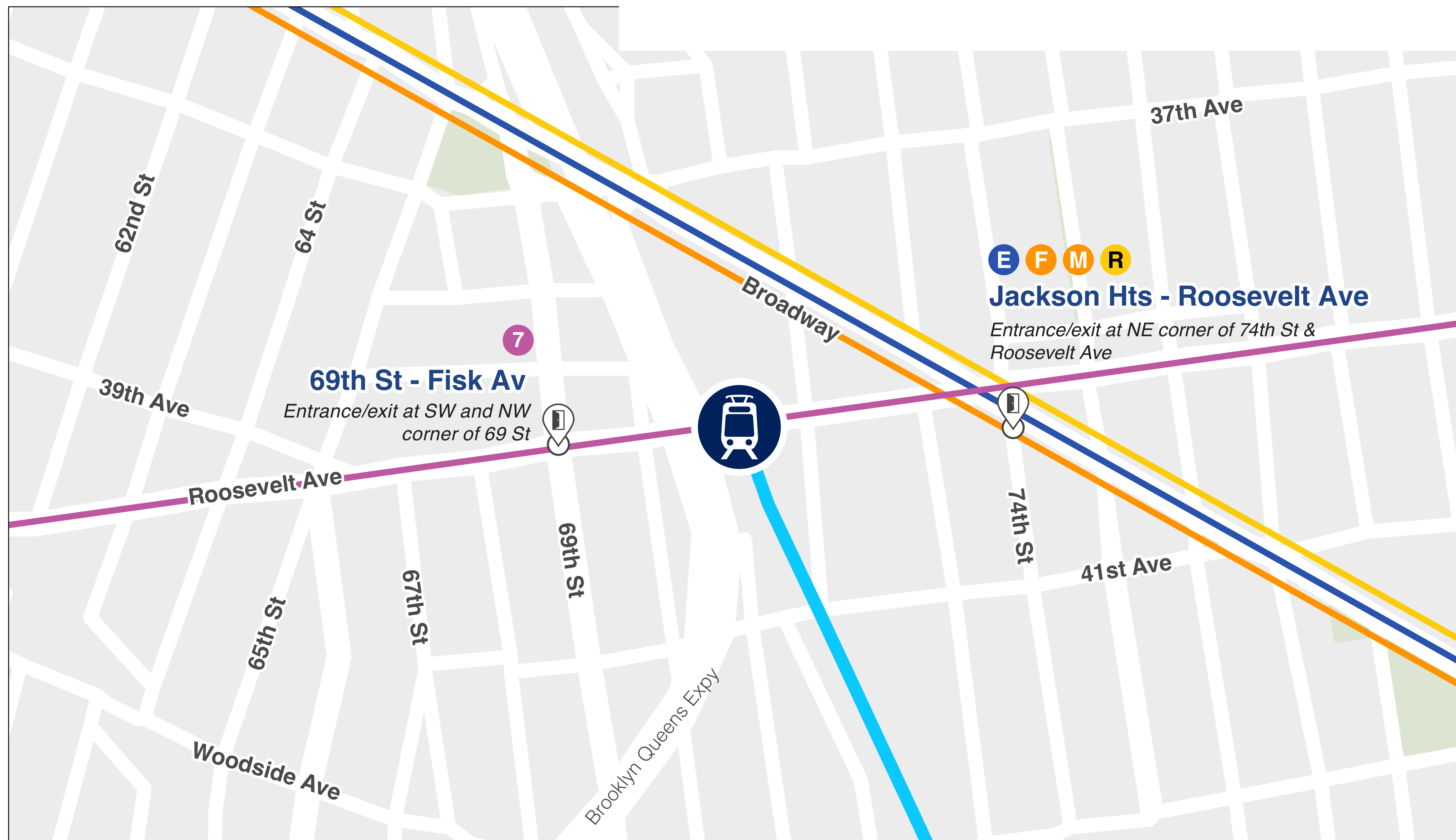


## 18 Grand Ave



## 19 Roosevelt Ave

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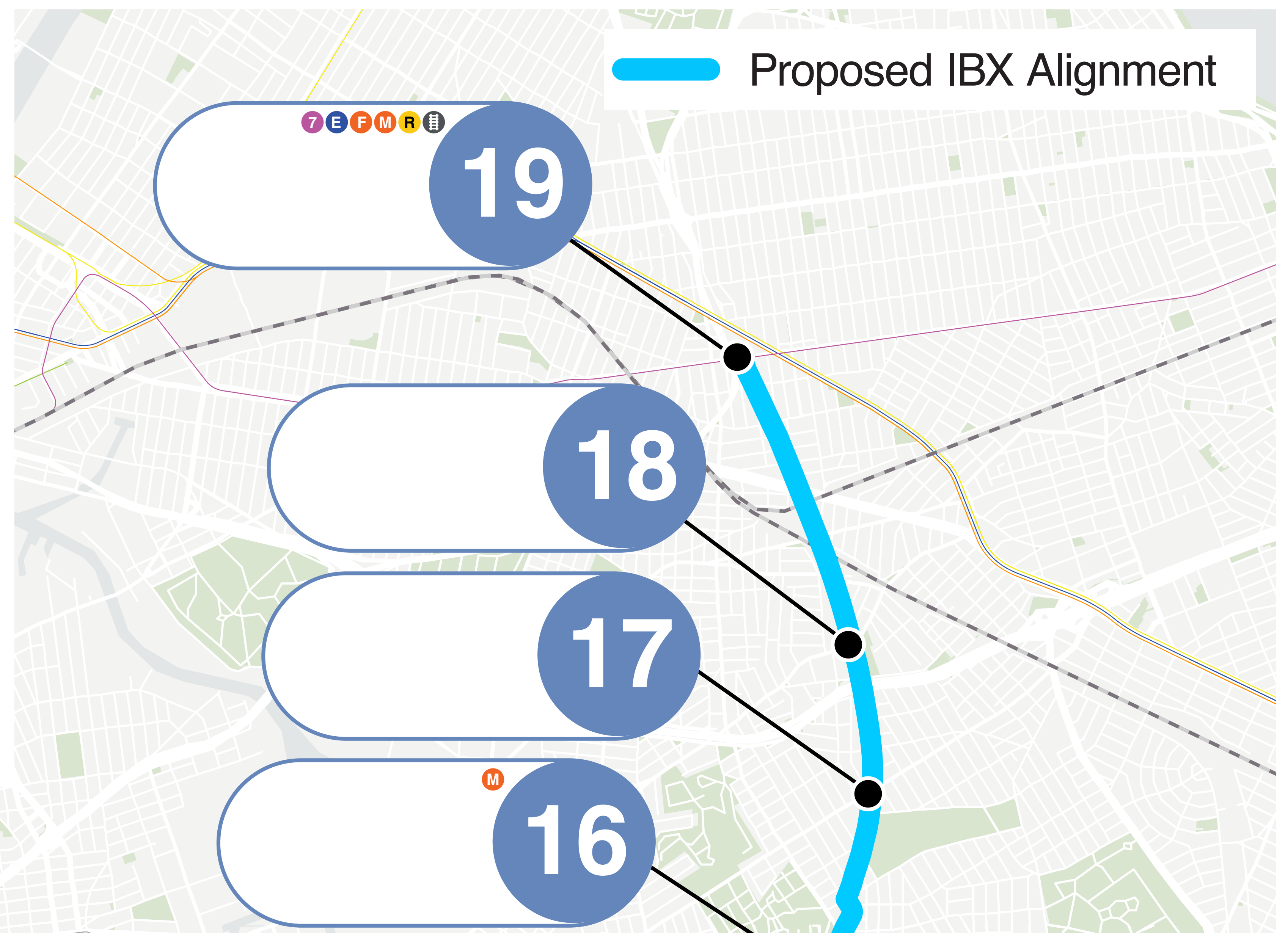




# Your IBX Connection

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Brooklyn Army Terminal | 11 Livonia Ave      |
| 2 4th Ave                | 12 Sutter Ave       |
| 3 8th Ave                | 13 Atlantic Ave     |
| 4 New Utrecht Ave        | 14 Wilson Ave       |
| 5 McDonald Ave           | 15 Myrtle Ave       |
| 6 E 16th St              | 16 Metropolitan Ave |
| 7 Flatbush Ave           | 17 Eliot Ave        |
| 8 Utica Ave              | 18 Grand Ave        |
| 9 Remsen Ave             | 19 Roosevelt Ave    |
| 10 Linden Blvd           |                     |

Please use up to 3 dot stickers to share which commuter rail/subway/bus transfers along the IBX route are most important to you.



Access an interactive version of this board at: <https://arcg.is/114eiS0>

