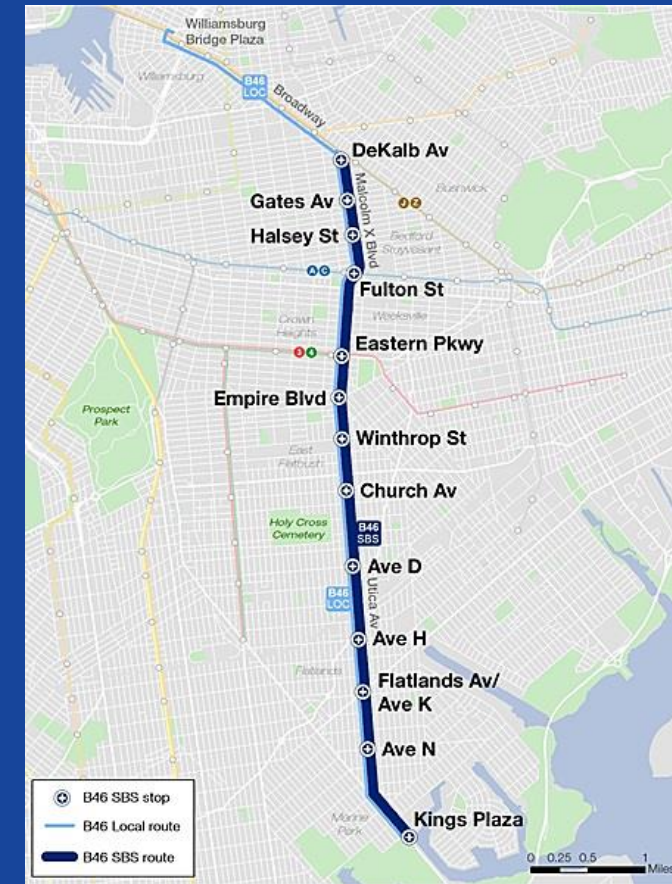


Utica Avenue Transit Improvements Study

Study Update

Winter 2020



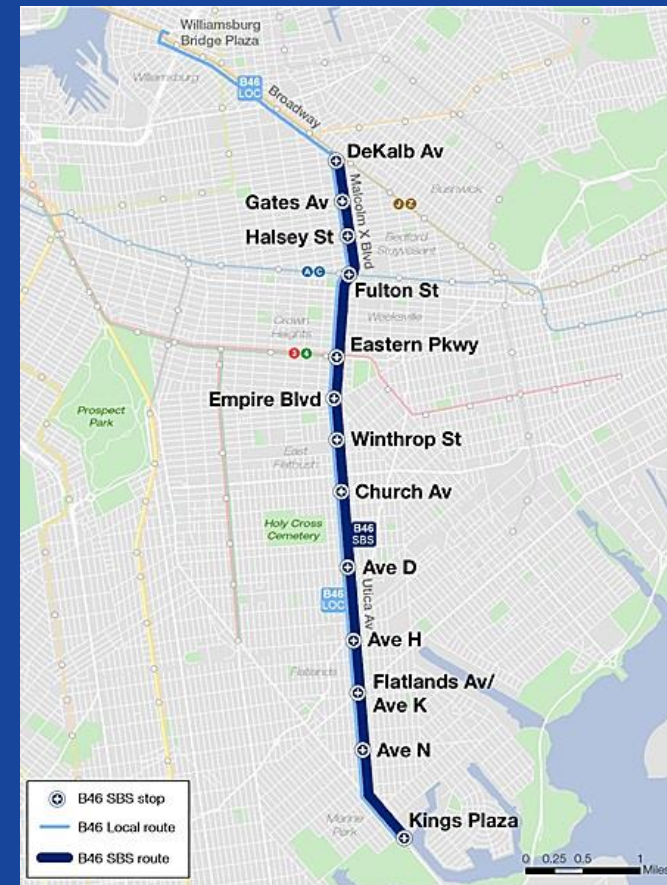
Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Background & Problem Statement
- Purpose & Need / Study Goals
- Scope of Work
- Stakeholder & Public Outreach
- Other Relevant Projects
- Next Steps / Questions & Comments

Background & Problem Statement

Background: History of Transit on Utica Avenue

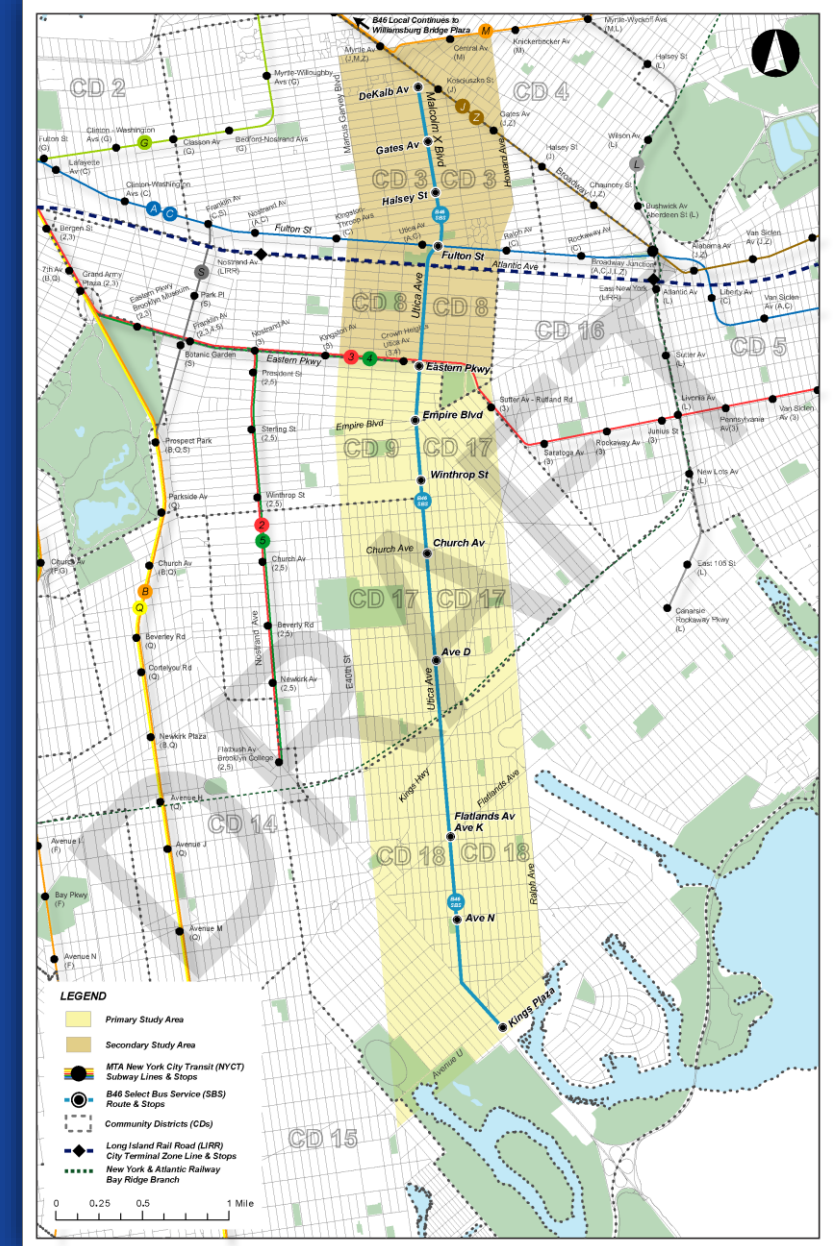
- Existing subway lines were constructed with provisions to accommodate a possible future extension along Utica Avenue:
 - The Eastern Parkway Line (2 3 4 5) at the Crown Heights-Utica Ave Station;
 - The Fulton Street Line (A C) at the existing Utica Ave Station
- A possible subway extension from the Eastern Parkway Line was designed in the 1960s but not built.
- Select Bus Service (SBS) was introduced along Utica Avenue in 2015, featuring off-board fare collection, dedicated bus lanes, and other capital investments to reduce travel time.
- Under Mayor de Blasio, the City of New York provided funding in the MTA Capital Program to further study transit improvements on Utica Avenue.



The Utica Avenue corridor is home to the **busiest bus routes in Brooklyn**

B46 and B46 SBS:

- Accommodate approximately 44,000 daily riders
- Provide a vital north-south transit link
- Connect to subway lines on Eastern Parkway, Fulton Street, and Broadway, and 30 bus routes



Problem Statement: Utica Avenue Transit Issues

Challenges regarding travel to, from, and within the Utica Avenue corridor include:

- **Reliability:** Double parking, loading/unloading, and bus bunching result in added wait times for customers.
- **Connectivity:** Many trips require a transfer between bus and subway.
- **Overall Travel Time:** Issues with reliability and connectivity contribute to long trips and slow speeds.
- **Accommodation of Future Growth:** Increased transit capacity and accessibility are necessary to support future growth of a mix of uses along the corridor.



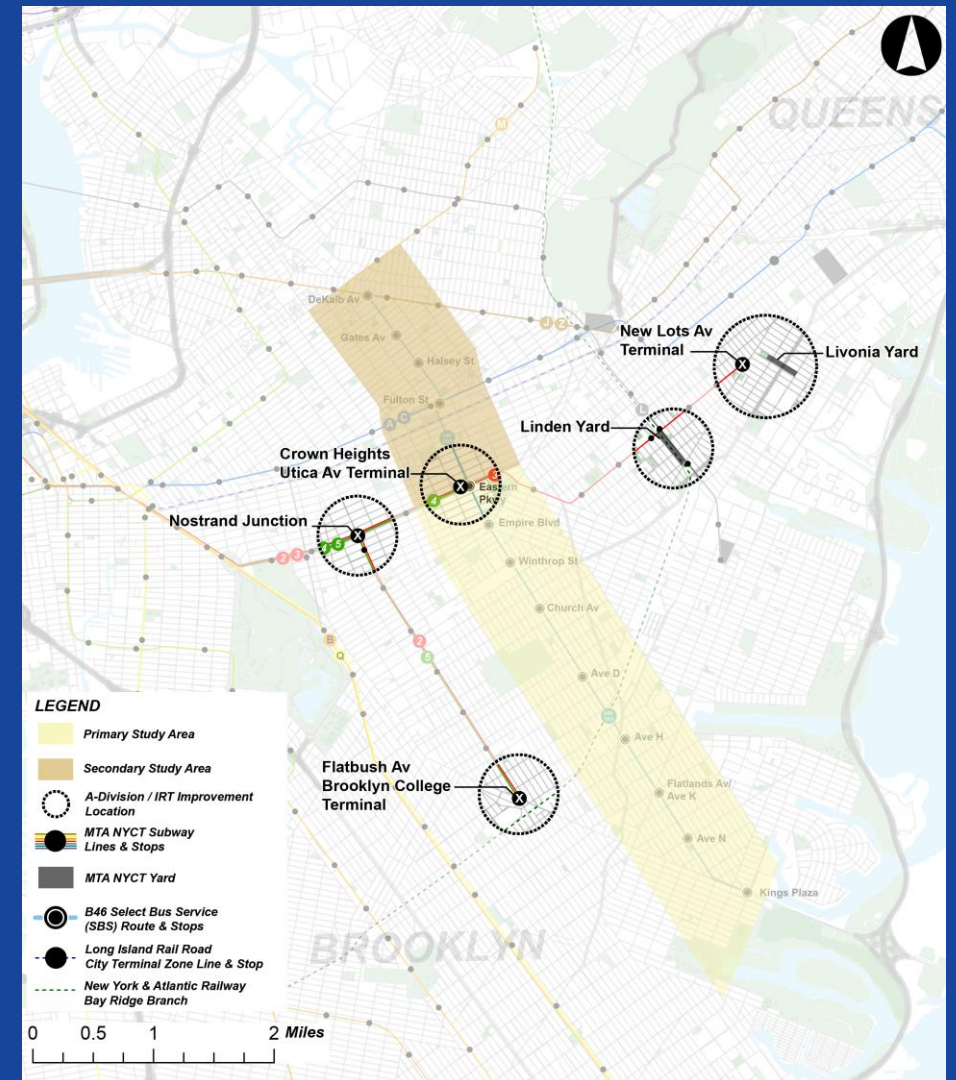
Purpose & Need / Study Goals

Project Purpose and Need: Utica Avenue Transit Issues

The project **purpose** is to **define a set of options**, in the form of investment packages, that could improve mobility to, from, and within the Utica Avenue corridor in the year 2035.

- Evaluate different **modes and alignments** for transit improvements **on Utica Avenue**
- Package with complementary off-corridor **subway investments along the Eastern Parkway, New Lots Avenue, and/or Nostrand Avenue Lines (2 3 4 5)**

There is a **need** for **transit improvements** to increase reliability, reduce travel times, enhance connectivity, and accommodate future growth along the corridor.



Study Goals

- Goal 1: Improve **mobility and connectivity** through the provision of new or enhanced transit options
- Goal 2: Maximize consistency with **local and regional plans**
- Goal 3: Enhance access to employment and activity centers and support **economic growth**
- Goal 4: Maximize **operational and cost effectiveness**
- Goal 5: Minimize adverse **environmental impacts**
- Goal 6: Promote a **resilient and redundant** transit network

Scope of Work



Scope of Work:

Overview

- Define various **modal options as transit solutions** to improve the customer experience
- Evaluate Utica Avenue improvement options using an **Alternatives Analysis process**
- Assume different **land use scenarios and ridership potential**
- Analyze transit improvements along Utica Avenue and within the existing subway system **independently and grouped**
- End product: identify and evaluate a set of five investment packages
 - **Range of investment levels**



Define Various Modal Options as Transit Solutions

Evaluate **different transit modes** on their ability to achieve the Study Goals



Example: Cleveland HealthLine

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- Full physical separation from traffic with corresponding traffic restrictions
- Robust station amenities; signal preemption; etc.
- Avoid problems that degrade SBS service



Example: Hudson-Bergen Light Rail

Light Rail Transit (LRT)

- Similar to BRT with respect to operational characteristics and benefits, with different vehicles, propulsion technology, etc.



Example: NYCT Subway

Subway

- Extension from existing Eastern Parkway or Fulton Street subways
- Options include fully underground or transition to elevated

Alternatives Development and Screening

Transit Alternatives:

For each transit mode under consideration, different alternatives will be evaluated against the Study Goals, including different alignment options, terminal locations, etc.

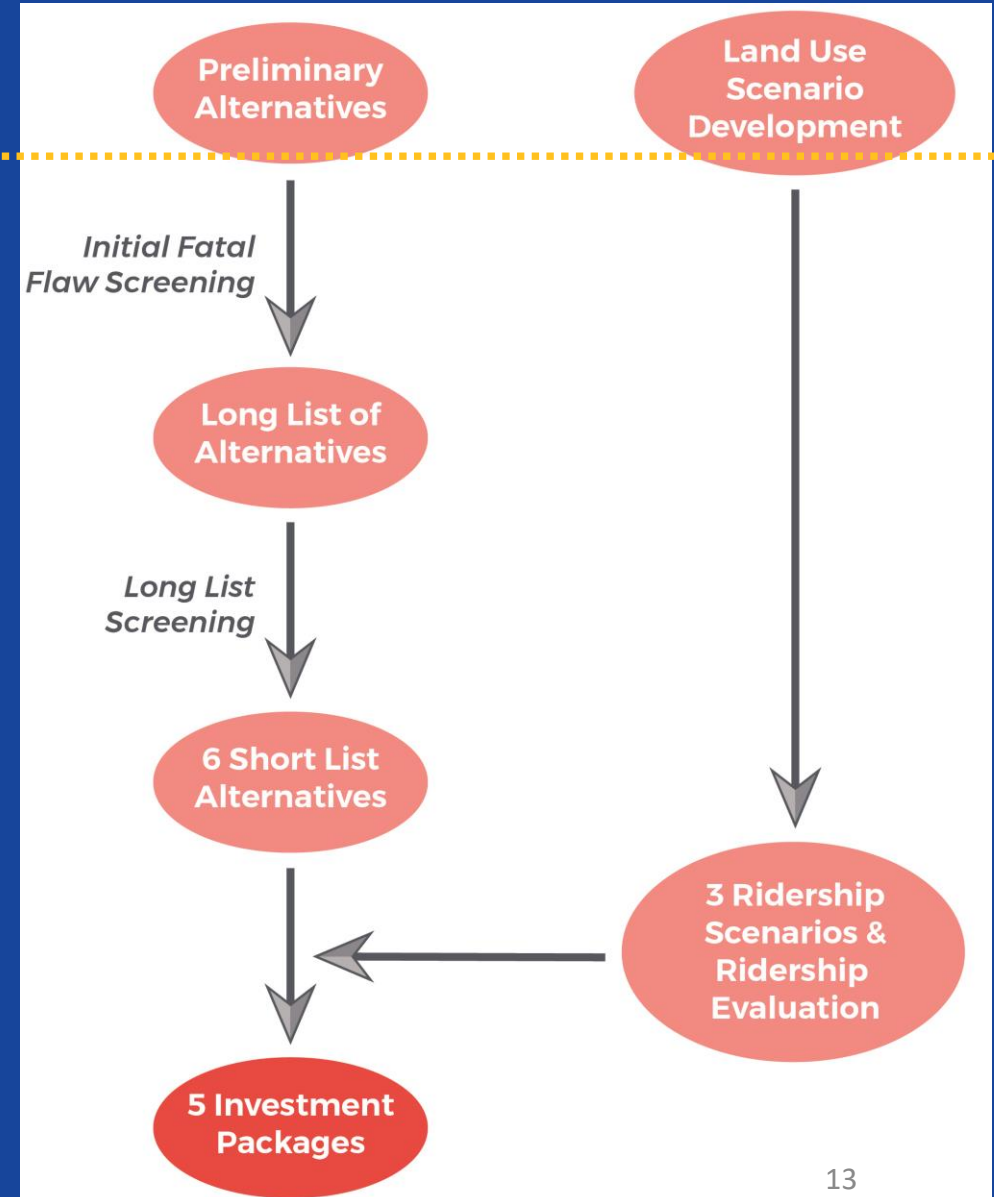
Land Use/Ridership Scenarios:

Different *land* use scenarios—each with different ridership potential—are under development to accompany the different modal options.

End Result:

Five different transit investment packages will be defined and paired with corresponding ridership scenarios.

We are here



Stakeholder & Public Outreach

Overview of Stakeholder & Public Outreach

- The **Study Website** allows for individuals to provide feedback about their travel experiences along the Utica Avenue corridor, as well as submit comments and recommendations for the study.

https://new.mta.info/system_modernization/utica_avenue

- A **Transportation Intercept Survey** was conducted in the first half of 2019, which included a survey of customers within and in the vicinity of the Utica Avenue corridor. The purpose of the survey was to understand current travel patterns by mode—including trip purpose, travel time, origin/destination, etc.—as an input to the development of travel demand forecasts for the study.



Summary of Website Comments Received to Date

- **Support for transit improvements** along Utica Avenue to address current challenges and accommodate future growth
- **Sharing of personal travel experiences**, including opinions that buses are slow and unreliable, buses/subway are overcrowded, etc.
- **Support for subway extension** and improvements to the existing subway system
- **Ideas for potential subway extension**, including alignments, termini, station locations, connections to different subway lines, and options for underground vs. elevated structure
- **Ideas for other transit improvements** besides a subway extension, as well as feedback on introduction of articulated buses on B46 SBS
- **Request for additional information** on Study

Transportation Intercept Survey

Intercept surveys were conducted in person using a tablet computer provided by the Study Team.

Transit Survey

(for office use only) Route Code: _____ Time: _____ Interviewer: _____ Direction: _____

Please take a few moments to help plan for your transit needs by filling out this survey.

What is your **HOME ADDRESS**: (please be specific, ex: 123 W. Main St):
(If you are visiting New York, please list the address where you are staying)

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

COMING FROM?

1. What type of place are you **COMING FROM NOW?**
(the starting place for your one-way trip)

- Your usual WORKPLACE
- Work related
- Your HOME → Go to Question #4
- Your hotel Hotel Residence (Visitor Only)
- Social or recreational
- Shopping
- School (K-12) (student only)
- College or University (student only)
- Airport (airline passenger only)
- Medical / dental
- Dining / coffee
- Escorting others (children, elderly)
- Place of worship
- Other: _____

2. What is the **NAME** of the place you are coming from now?

3. What is the **EXACT ADDRESS** of this place? (OR Intersection if you do not know the exact address)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

4. How did you **GET FROM** the place in Question #1 **TO THE VERY FIRST bus, subway or train you used for this one-way trip?**

- Walked **all the way**; how far did you walk? _____ minutes
- BIKE → BIKE SHARE Personal Bike
- Was dropped off using a Taxi, Uber, Lyft, or similar service (answer 4a)
- Was dropped off by someone – not a service (answer 4a)
- Drove alone and parked (answer 4a)
- Drove or rode with others and parked (answer 4a)

4a. Where did you get **ON** the first bus, subway or train you used for this one-way trip (Write the nearest intersection / park-and-ride lot / subway or train station below):

5. Where did you **get ON** this bus/subway? Please provide the nearest intersection / station name / park-and-ride lot.

6. What type of place are you **GOING TO NOW?**
(the ending place for your one-way trip)

- Your usual WORKPLACE
- Work related
- Your HOME → Go to Question #9
- Your hotel Hotel Residence (Visitor Only)
- Social or recreational
- Shopping
- School (K-12) (student only)
- College or University (student only)
- Airport (airline passenger only)
- Medical / dental
- Dining / coffee
- Escorting others (children, elderly)
- Place of worship
- Other: _____

7. What is the **NAME** of the place you are going to now?

8. What is the **EXACT ADDRESS** of this place? (OR Intersection if you do not know the exact address)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

9. How will you **GET TO** your destination (listed in Question #6) after you get off the **LAST bus, subway or train you will use for this one-way trip?**

- Walk **all the way**; how far did you walk? _____ minutes
- BIKE → BIKE SHARE Personal Bike
- Dropped off using Taxi, Uber, Lyft, or similar service (answer 9a)
- Dropped off by someone – not a service (answer 9a)
- Drive alone (answer 9a)
- Drove or ride with others (answer 9a)

9a. Where will you get off the last bus, subway or train you are using for this one-way trip (Write the nearest intersection / park-and-ride lot / subway or train station below):

10. Where will you **get OFF** this bus/subway? Please provide the nearest intersection / station name / park-and-ride lot.

11. **INCLUDING THIS BUS/TRAIN**, how many **TOTAL BUSES/SUBWAYS/TRAINS** will you use to make this **ONE-WAY TRIP?**

One, only this bus/train Two Three Four or more

11a. Please list the routes and/or subway/rail stations in the exact order you use them for this one-way trip.

START → → → → → **END**

1st route #/station 2nd route/station 3rd route/station 4th route/station 5th route/station

Other Information

12. What time did you leave home prior to taking this trip? _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one)

13. About what time will you return home today? _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one)

14. Will you (or did you) make this same trip in exactly the opposite direction today? Yes No
If YES – At what time did / will you leave for this trip in the opposite direction? _____ : _____ am/pm (circle one)

15. How did you pay for this one-way trip?
 Single-ride MetroCard Pay-per-ride MetroCard Unlimited Ride MetroCard
 Discounted MetroCard Transfer
 Other _____

16. What type of fare did you pay?
 Adult Senior Disabled

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

17. How many working vehicles (auto or motorcycles) are available to your household? _____ vehicles

18. Including YOU, how many people **live** in your household? _____ people

19. Including YOU, how many adults (age 16 and older) that are employed full or part time **live** in your household? _____ people

20. What is your employment status? (check the one response that BEST describes you)

- Employed full-time Not currently employed, but seeking work Retired
- Employed part-time Not currently employed, and not seeking work Homemaker

23a. If employed, what hours will you work today?
FROM _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one) TO _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one)

21. Are you a student? (check the one response that BEST describes you)

- Not a student Yes – Full Time college/university Yes – K - 12th grade
- Yes – Part Time college/university Yes – vocational/technical/trade school Yes – other

21a. [If #21 is Yes] Please specify your college/university/school name: _____

21b. [If #21 is Yes] If a student, what hours will you be at school today?
FROM _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one) TO _____ : _____ am / pm (circle one)

22. What year were you born? _____

23. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin? Yes No

24. Are you? (check all that apply)

- American Indian / Alaska Native Black/African American Asian Other Non White
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander White Other: _____

25. What is your gender? Male Female Other: _____

26. Which of the following BEST describes your **TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME** in 2018 before taxes?

- Below \$5,000 \$25,000 - \$29,999 \$43,000 - \$74,999
- \$12,000-\$16,499 \$30,000 - \$33,999 \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$16,500-\$20,999 \$34,000 - \$37,999 \$100,000 or more
- \$21,000-\$24,999 \$38,000 - \$42,999 Not provided

27. Do you speak a language other than English at home? No Yes - Which language? _____
IF YES: How well do you speak English? Very Well Well Less than well Not at all

WIN A PRIZE!!!!

People who submit an accurately completed survey will be entered in a random drawing for a chance to win a \$200 MetroCard.

Communication preference: ___ text ___ email ___ phone
Are you a New York State resident? ___ yes ___ no

Name: _____
Phone Number: (____) _____
E-mail address: _____

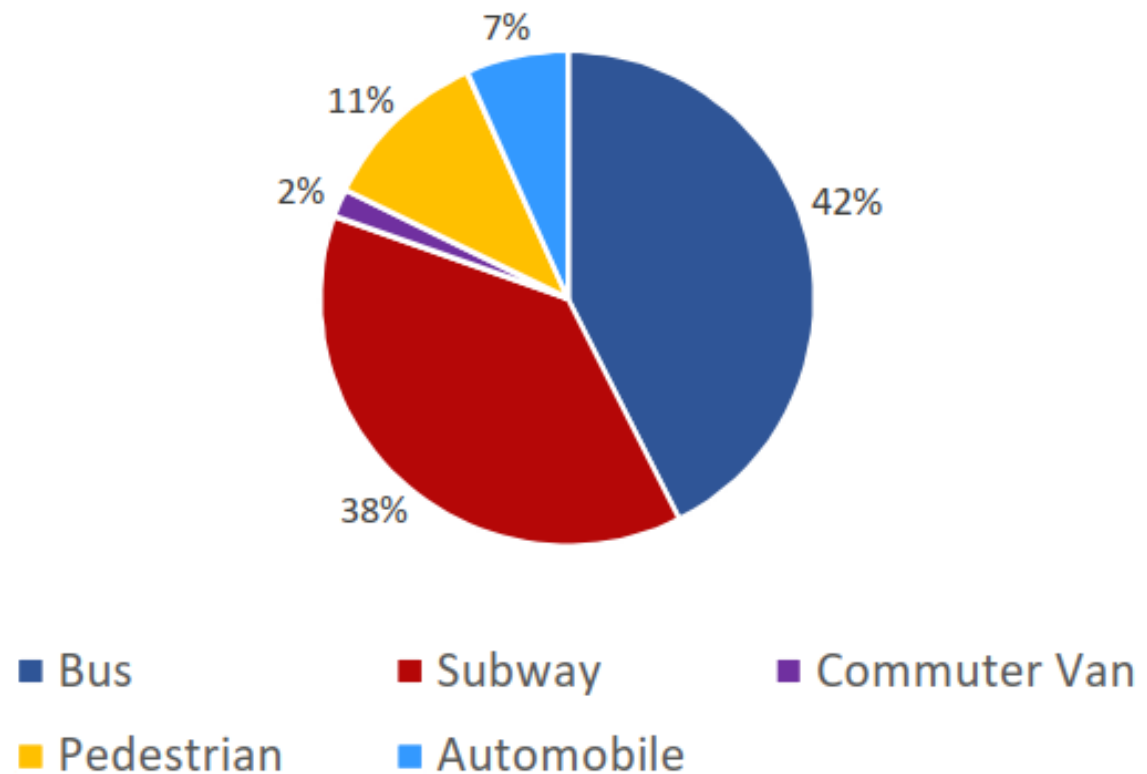
Are you willing to participate in additional travel surveys for MTA? ___ yes ___ no

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Summary of Transportation Intercept Survey Respondents

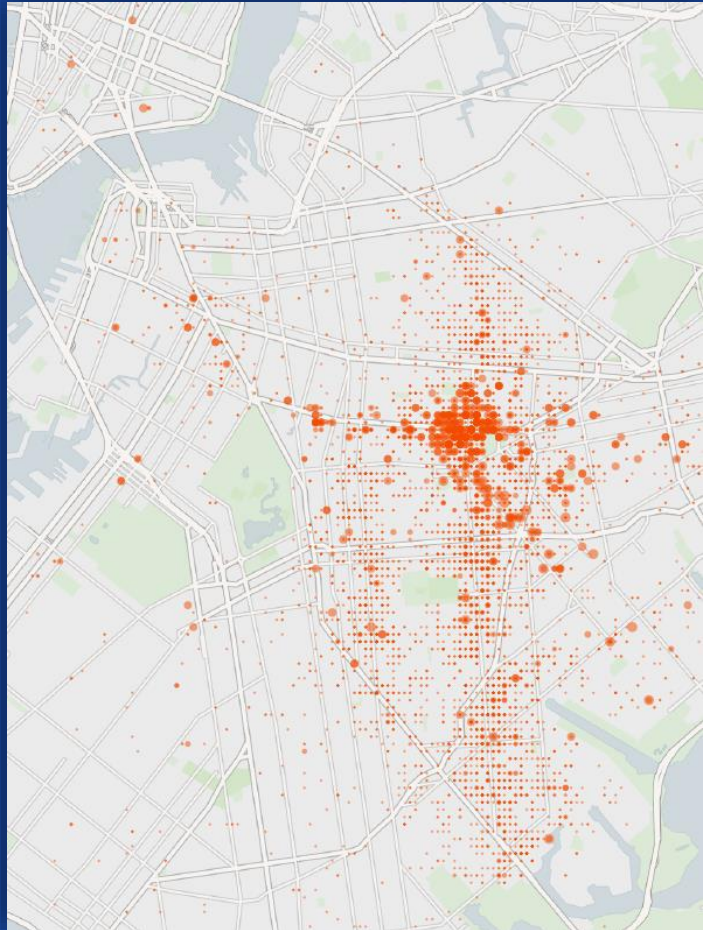
- 5,318 total survey responses across five different modes of travel
- About 60 percent of respondents were female
- Nearly 70 percent of respondents identified as “non-Hispanic/Black”
- More than 60 percent of respondents reported having no vehicle in their household

Survey Responses by Mode of Travel

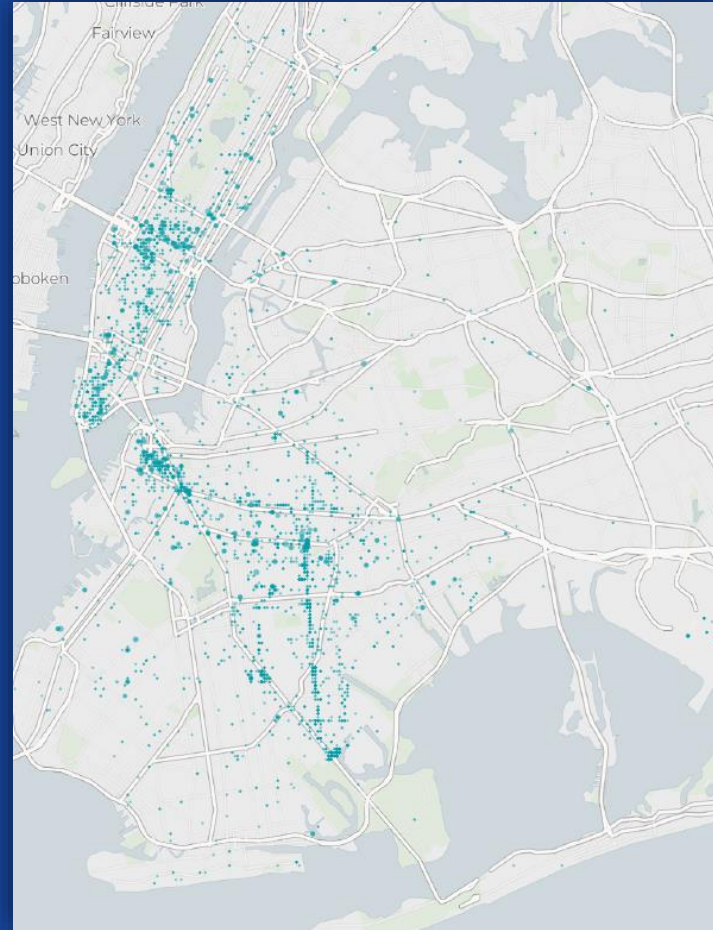


Survey Respondents: Home and Work Locations

Respondents generally lived in the study corridor and worked in the expected employment locations of Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn



Home Locations



Work Locations

Other Relevant Projects



Other Relevant Projects: Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign

- Project kicked off in October 2019
- Collaboration between NYCT and NYCDOT
- A holistic, clean-slate look at Brooklyn bus service to deliver more frequent, reliable service
- Full assessment of all local, SBS, and express bus service in the context of future market needs and travel trends
- Goal of improving customer experience



<https://new.mta.info/brooklynbusredesign>

Next Steps / Questions & Comments

Next Steps: Utica Avenue Study

Continue Ongoing Work:

- Define land use scenarios
- Define and evaluate subway operational improvements for 2 3 4 5
- Summarize current travel demand incorporating results from the Transportation Intercept Survey

Conduct initial screening of Utica Avenue transit improvement alternatives



Utica Avenue Transit Improvements Study

Study Update

Winter 2020

