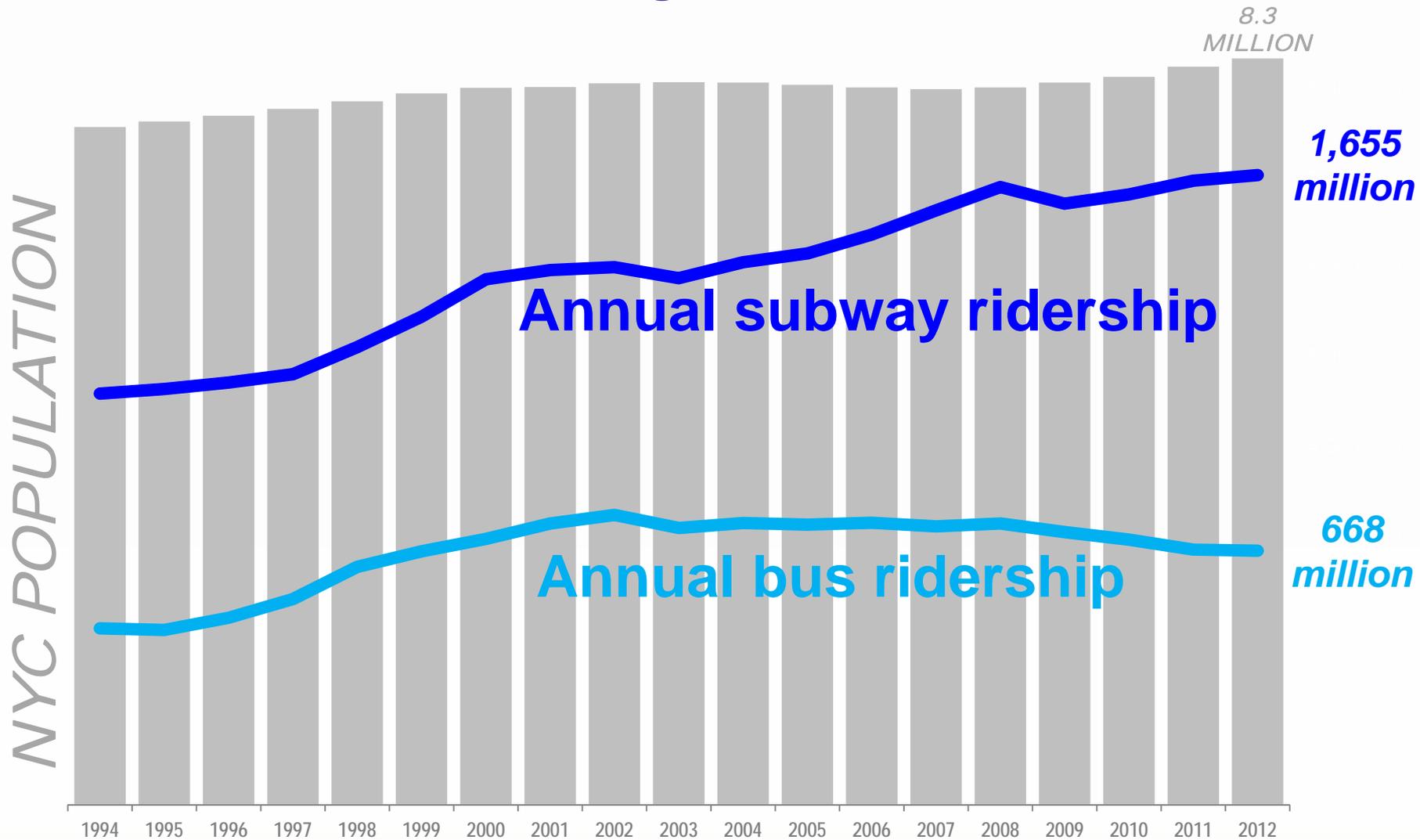# Select Bus Service:
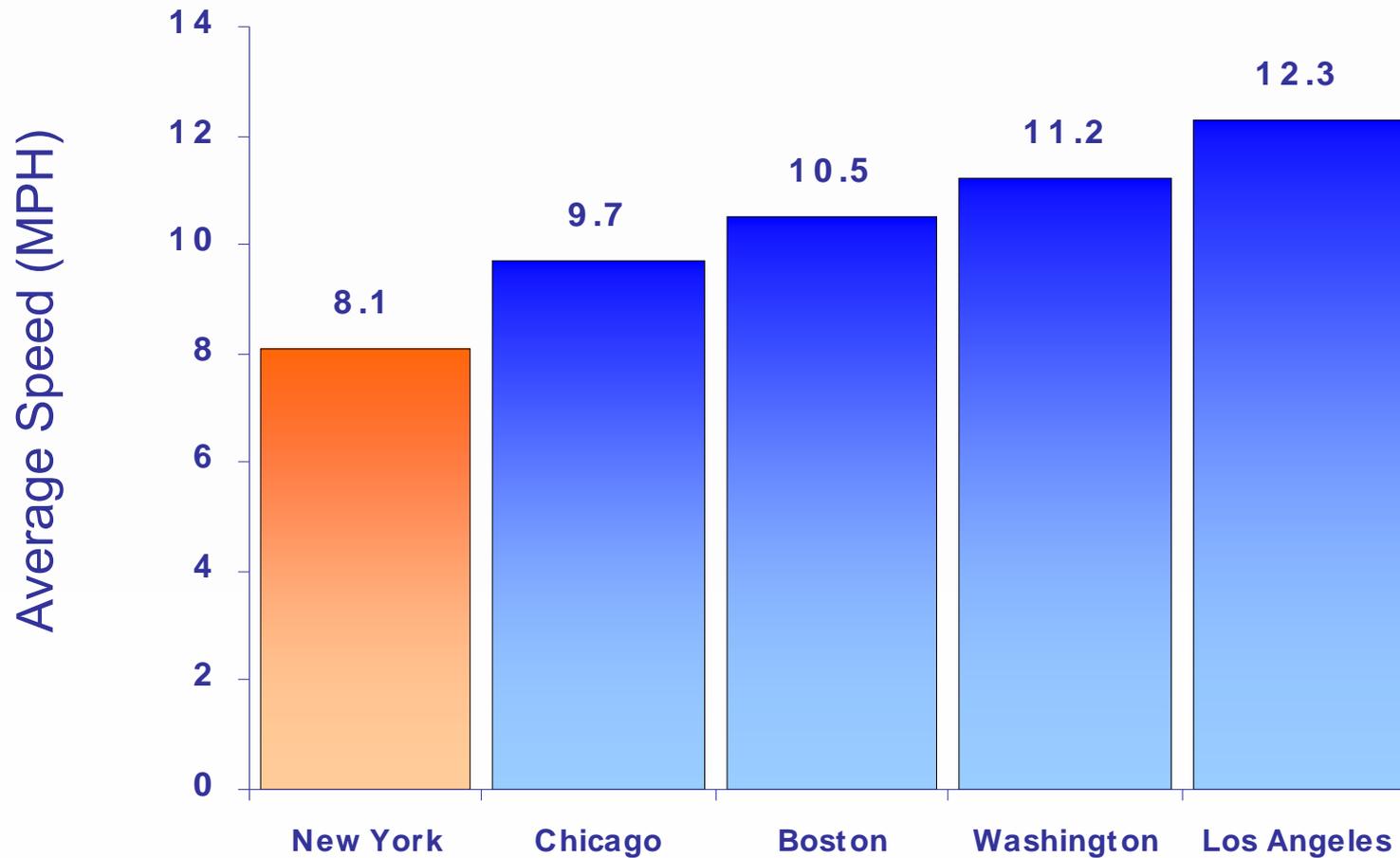# The New York City Experience

Background

- MTA New York City Transit:
  - Part of Metropolitan Transportation Authority (New York State)
  - Operator of New York City's public transit system
  - Over 5.3 million subway and 2.2 million bus trips per day

- New York City Department of Transportation:
  - New York City mayoral agency
  - Operator of New York City's 6,000 miles of streets, 787 free bridges, 12,000 traffic lights, and the Staten Island Ferry
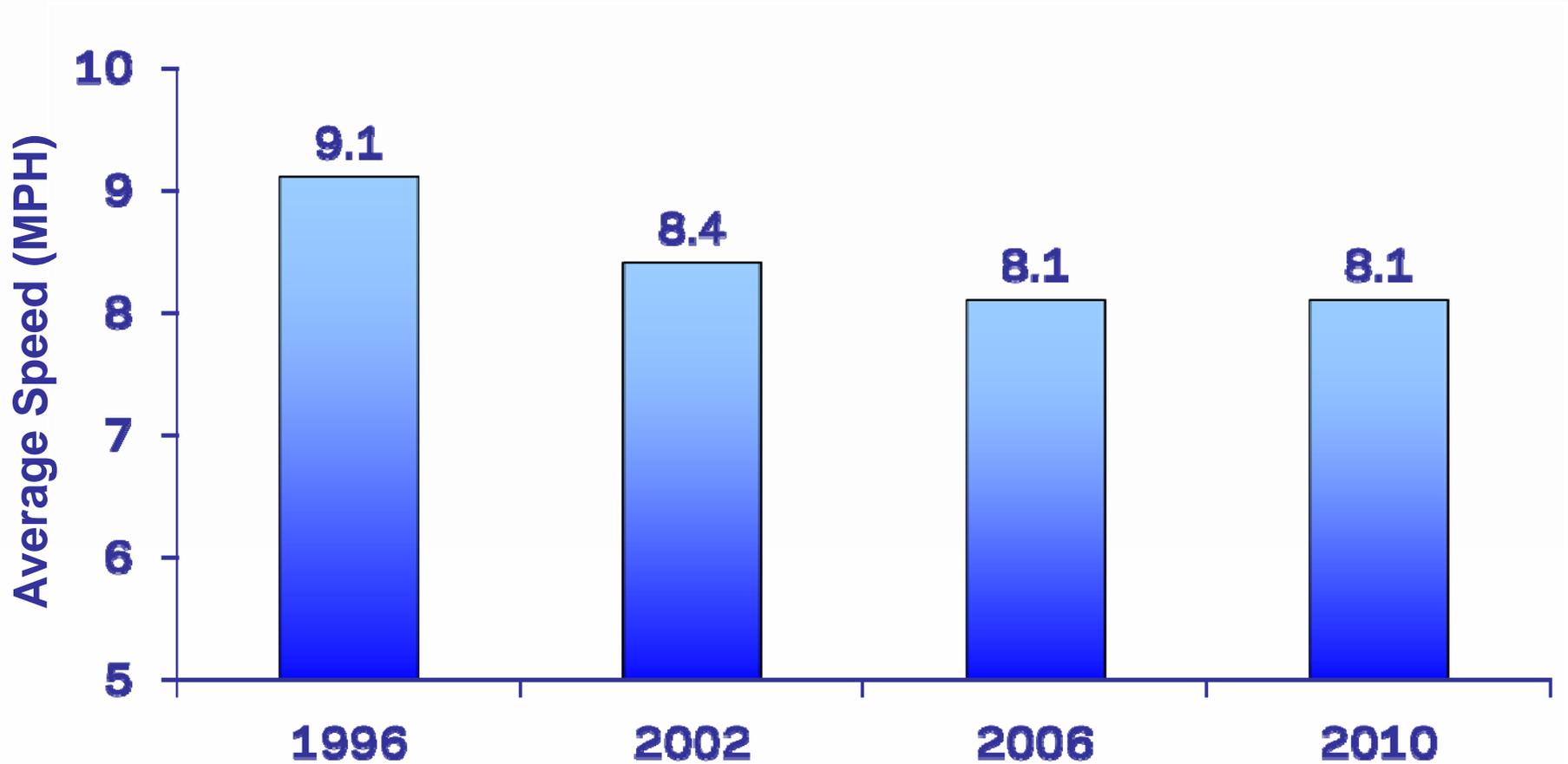
Background

8.3
MILLION

1,655
million

Annual subway ridership

668
million

Annual bus ridership

NYC POPULATION

1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Background: Bus Speeds

Background: Bus Speeds

New York City Transit

Sources of Bus Delay

Other Delays
3%

In Motion Time
54%

Traffic Lights
21%

Boarding/Alighting
Passengers
22%
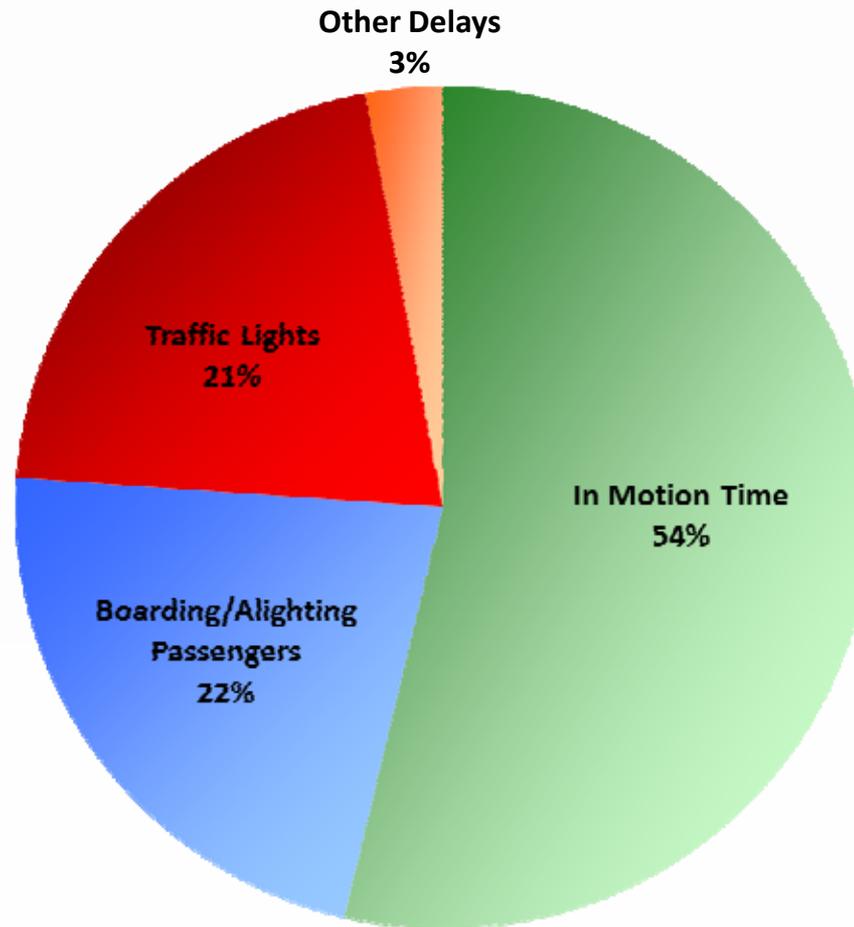
Features of Select Bus Service

Bus lanes

Faster fare collection

Bus signal priority

SBS

Branding

Passenger info
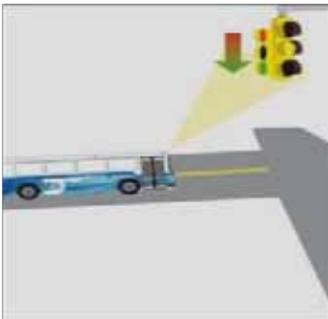
Stations

Bus Lanes

Bus Lane Cameras

Pre-Payment

Transit Signal Priority

Branding

Passenger Information

Stations

Stations: Bus Bulbs

SBS Corridors In Progress

SBS Results

Fordham Road/Pelham Parkway:

- New/Upgraded bus lanes
- Off-board fare collection
- Transit Signal Priority
- Simplified Service Pattern
- New Shelters

Implemented June 2008:

- **46,000** daily riders
- **20%** reduction in travel time
- **10%** increase in ridership
- **~$10M** implementation cost

SBS Results

First Avenue/Second Avenue:

- New/Upgraded bus lanes
- Off-board fare collection
- New low floor 3-door buses
- Integration with bicycle network

Implemented October 2010

- **57,000** daily riders
- **15-18%** reduction in travel time
- **10%** increase in ridership
- **~$10M** implementation cost
- Bus bulbs, TSP, ~$10M additional

SBS Results: Traffic
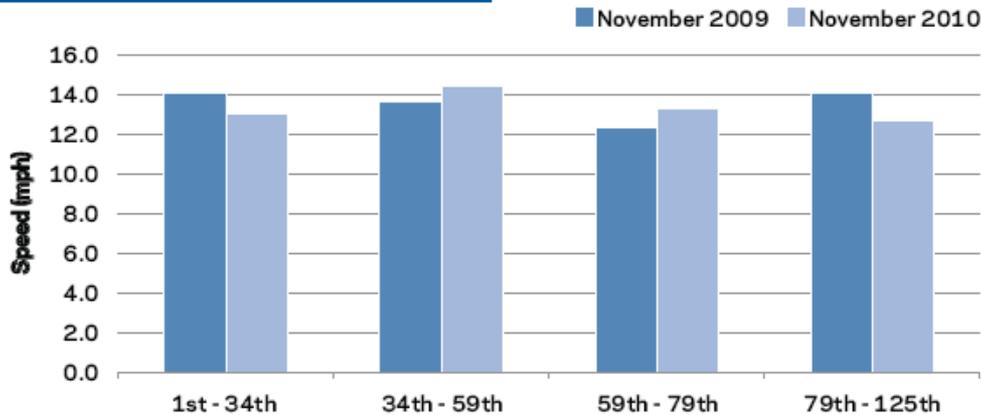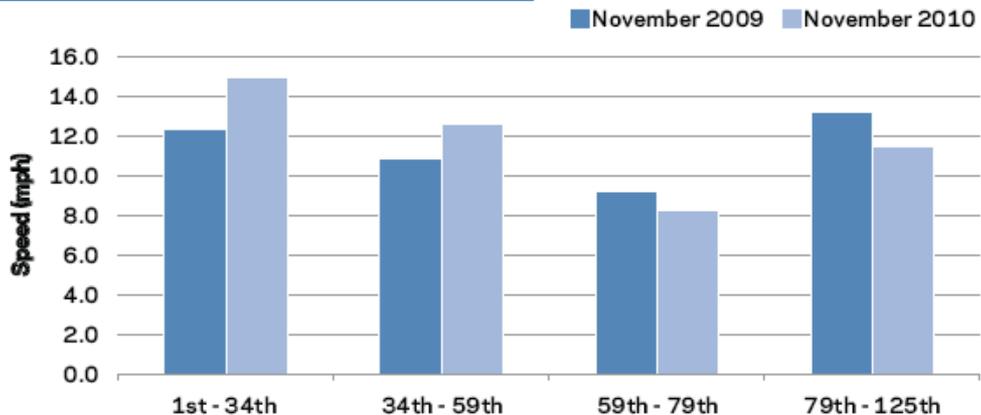
Average Speeds on First Avenue

Figure 12: Average Speeds from Taxi GPS data on First Avenue

Average Speeds on Second Avenue

- Roadway speeds measured using GPS devices in in-service yellow taxis, for trips beginning and ending on First Avenue or Second Avenue

- Evaluation showed minimal changes in traffic speeds

- Traffic volumes also showed minimal changes

SBS Results

34th Street SBS:

- Bus lanes implemented in 2008

- Off-board fare collection in 2011

- Simplified route pattern/brand

- Bus bulbs, offset bus lanes, articulated buses coming in 2013

Results to date:

- **21,000** daily riders

- **23%** reduction in travel time

- **31%** increase in ridership

- **~$20M** project cost (including 2013 implementation)

SBS Results

Hylan Boulevard SBS:

- Peak period bus lanes
- Simplified route pattern/brand
- Pedestrian safety improvements
- Left turn bays/traffic flow improvements

Implemented September 2012:

- **32,000** daily corridor riders (half on express buses to Manhattan)
- **12%** service increase (too early for detailed ridership counts)
- **~$6M** project cost

Upcoming SBS Projects

Nostrand/Rogers SBS:

- New bus lanes
  - 5 miles of offset bus lanes – maintenance of parking along entire route
- Off-board fare collection
- New low-floor articulated buses
- Transit Signal Priority
- Bus bulbs at 14 stations
- Funded by $28M FTA New Starts Grant
- Implementation: **Fall 2013**

Nostrand Ave Bus Rapid Transit
Project Site Map

Upcoming SBS Projects

Nostrand/Rogers SBS:

Upcoming SBS Projects

Webster Avenue SBS:

- Bx41 LTD → Bx41 SBS

- 4 miles of offset bus lanes with bus bulb stations

- For the entire route:
  - Low-floor buses
  - Off board fare collection
  - Station and bus branding
  - Transit signal priority
  - Pedestrian safety improvements

- Summer 2013 projected launch

- Bus bulbs in 2015
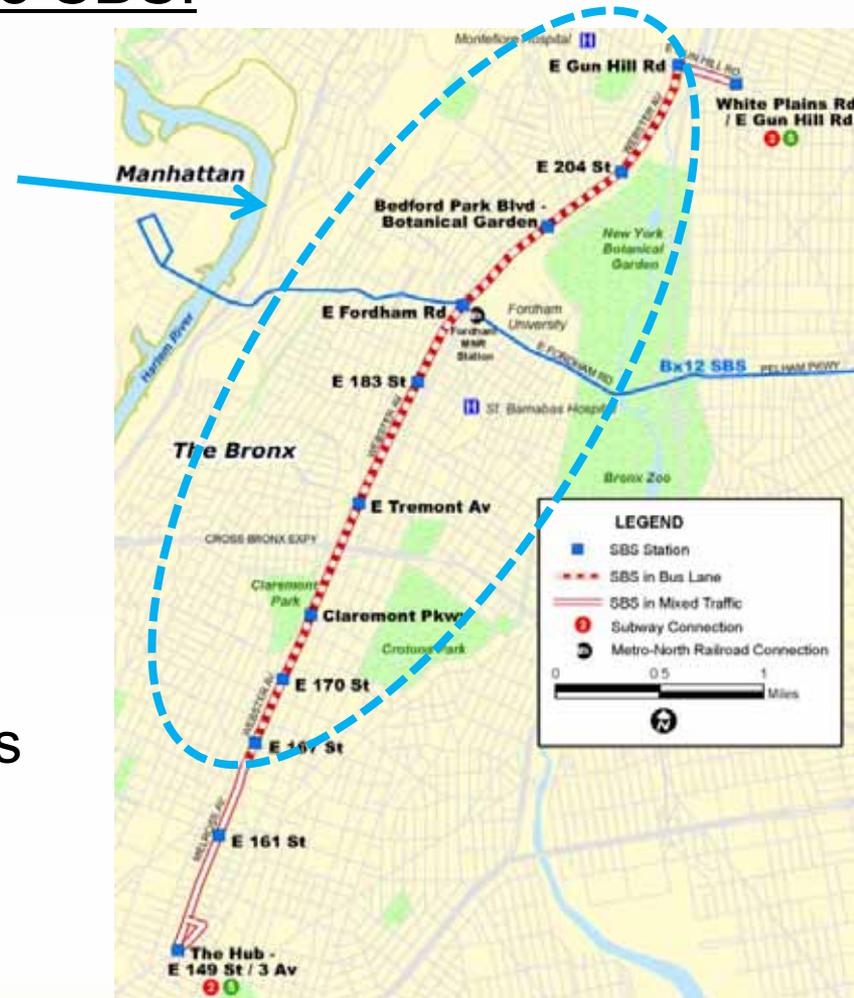
Upcoming SBS Projects

<u>Webster Avenue SBS:</u>

Upcoming SBS Projects

LaGuardia Airport SBS:

- Goal to both serve the airport, and to provide better neighborhood service to 125th Street, Jackson Heights

- Substantial outreach underway for project, particularly along 125th Street

- M60 SBS, Q70 services tentatively scheduled for Summer/Fall 2013

- Bronx service not funded

New York City Transit

Upcoming SBS Projects

LaGuardia Airport SBS:

Future SBS Corridors

Lessons Learned

- Agency partnership key to implementing good projects

- Measure success based on outcomes

  – Ridership increases

  – Speed of service

  – No other negative effects (traffic, safety, etc)

- Value of fast and (relatively) cheap solutions

- Accept working in a multi-modal environment

- Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good

Questions?