Better Buses, Better Streets: Incorporating Multimodal Designs Along Bus Corridors

Multimodal Bus Corridors in the Bronx

In conjunction with MTA’s Bronx Bus Network Redesign that began in 2019, NYC DOT began pursuing bus priority improvements along corridors in the borough that were experiencing high ridership, slow bus speeds, and located in NYC’s priority investment areas.

E.L. Grant Hwy (implemented in 2020), and University Ave Phase 1 (implemented in 2022), were two connecting corridors that met these criteria. These two corridors serve six bus routes with a combined average of 66,000 daily passengers. Their wide roadway widths also presented opportunities not only for bus priority improvements, but also for incorporating multimodal treatments such as parking-protected bike lanes, accessible bus stop boarding islands, and a variety of pedestrian safety treatments such as painted curb extensions, neckdowns, and closing slip lanes to create new pedestrian plazas.

The completion of these two projects complements other NYC DOT projects in the surrounding area, such as downstream from these six routes that feed into 181 St in Manhattan via the Washington Bridge. NYC DOT implemented a busway corridor along 181 St in 2021, and bus and bike improvements are currently being studied along the Washington Bridge. Phase 2 of University Ave will also be implemented in 2023.

E.L. Grant Highway

BEFORE

Two travel lanes in each direction, unprotected bike lane, standard curbside parking. Channelization in unutilized roadway space.

AFTER

Center-running bus lanes, accessible bus boarding islands at each bus stop that create shorter crossing distances, floating parking lane, parking-protected bike lane.

University Avenue

BEFORE

Two travel lanes in each direction, unprotected bike lane, standard curbside parking.

AFTER

Offset bus lanes, accessible bus boarding islands at select bus stops that create shorter crossing distances, floating parking lane, parking-protected bike lane.