



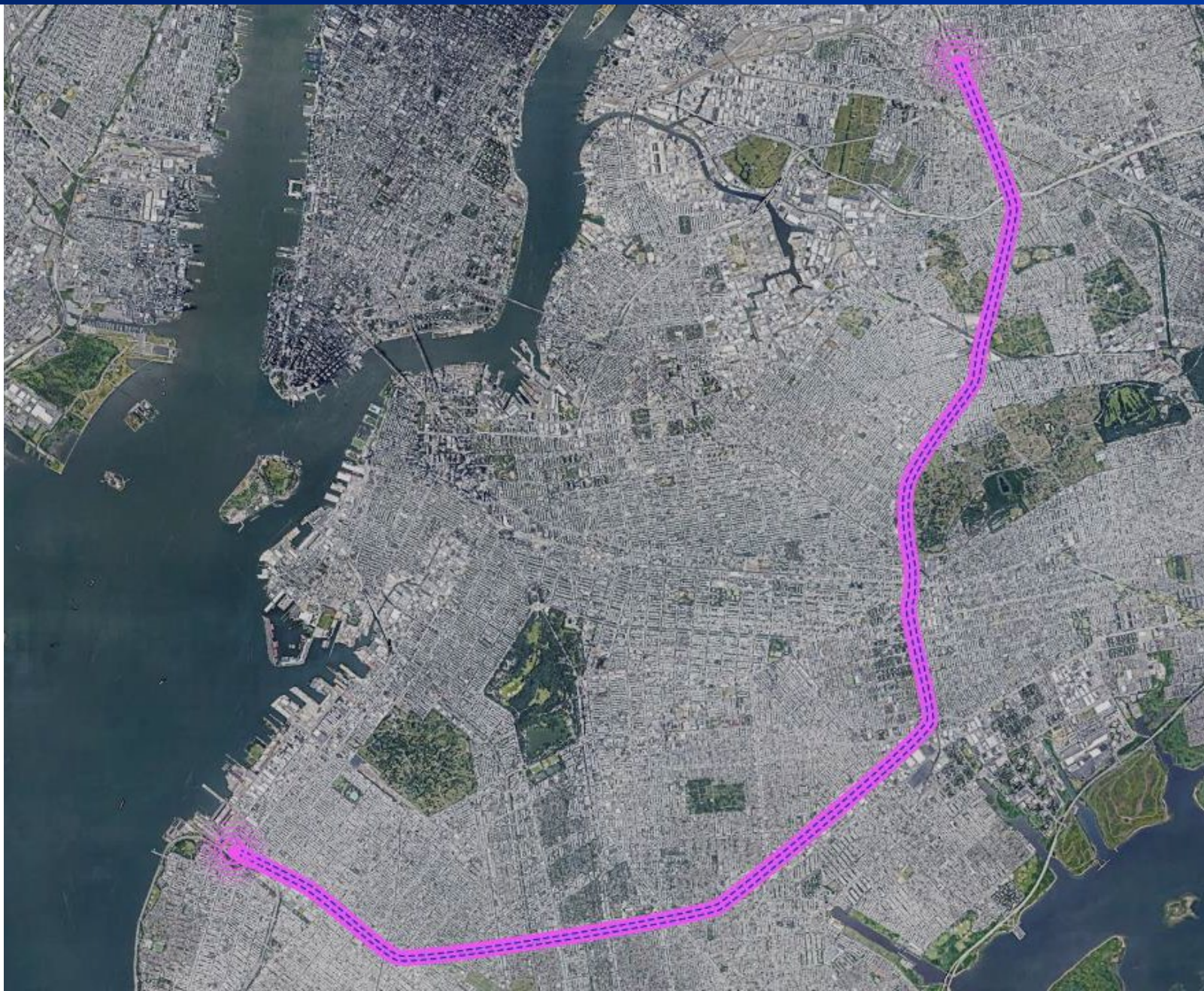
March 24, 2026

Interborough Express

Community Board Briefing –
Queens Community Board 5



**Construction &
Development**



Agenda

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03 Access to Opportunity

04 Project Updates

- Environmental Review
- Design

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Project Overview



Project Context

The Interborough Express (**IBX**) would provide a **transformative new transit connection between Brooklyn & Queens**

- It would be built along an existing rail corridor that runs from Sunset Park to Jackson Heights and is currently used solely for freight
- The IBX would **add passenger service** while preserving freight service
- The Southern portion (~11 miles) is owned by LIRR and operated by New York & Atlantic Railway
- The Northern portion in Queens (~3 miles) is owned by CSX



Project History

- **1876** Passenger service began as part of the New York and Manhattan Beach Railway
- **1924** Passenger service on the line ceased
- **1996** Regional Plan Association (RPA) releases the Third Regional Plan, proposing a new transit link
- **2022** Interborough Express Feasibility Report released; Governor Hochul directs the MTA to begin environmental review process
- **2023** Planning and Environmental Linkages study released; Environmental review work begins
- **2024** Project receives NYS funding to begin design
- **2025** IBX receives funding in MTA's Capital Plan; Project enters design phase; SEQRA scoping process begins



IBX Station Locations

The current station program was developed to **maximize connections** within MTA networks and major arterial roadways

18 IBX stations

13 IBX stations with subway transfers

17 Subway lines connecting with IBX
 A C E N Q R 2 3 5 7 B D F M J Z L

50+

Current bus route connections

LIRR

Connections at East New York & Woodside Avenues

160,000 projected daily weekday riders

32 min estimated runtime



Access to Opportunity



Queens Community District 5



Queens Community District 5 is currently served by:

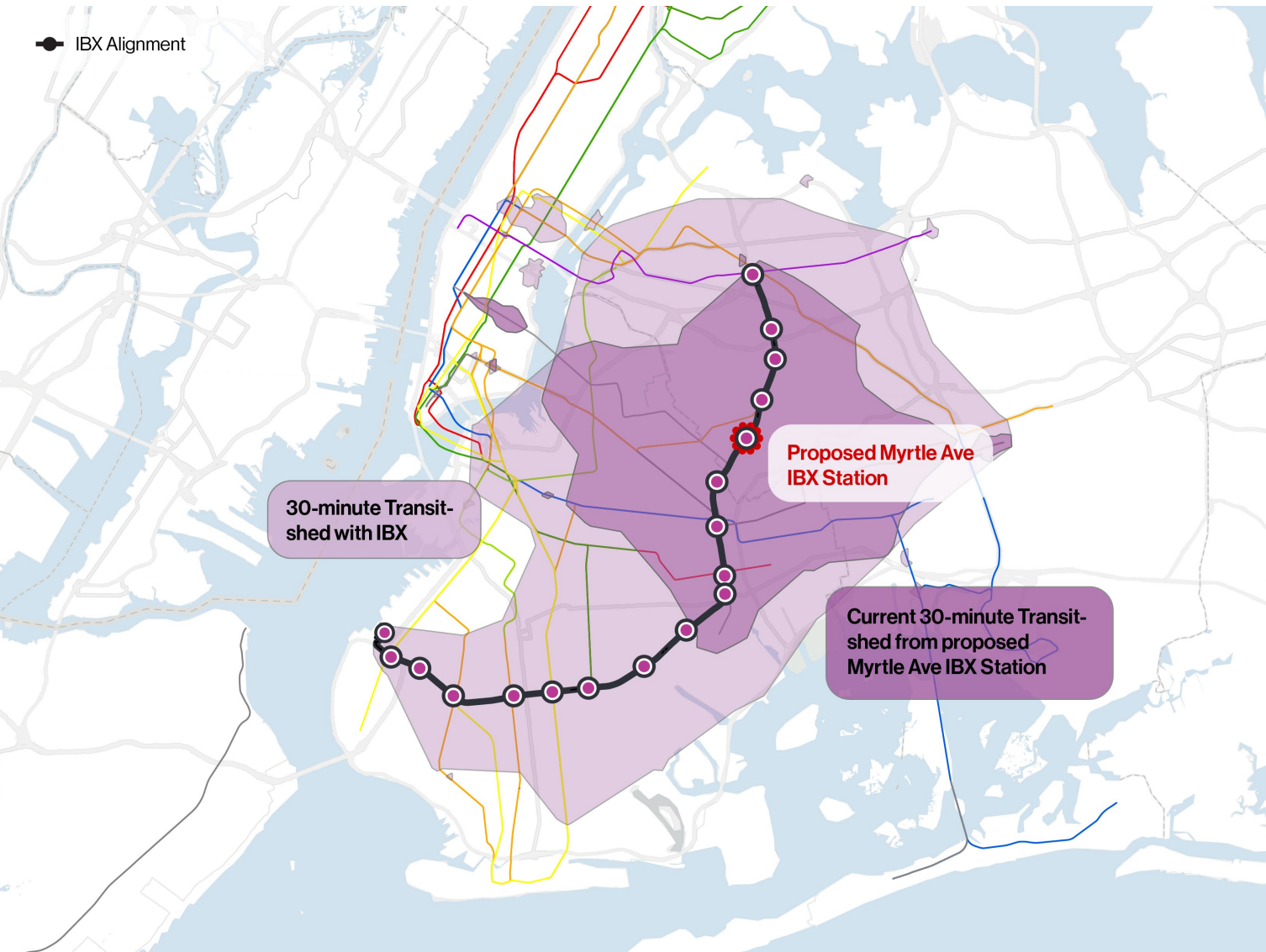
- **27** bus routes (B13, B20, B26, B38, B52, B54, B57, BM5, Q11, Q14, Q18, Q29, Q38, Q39, Q47, Q52+, Q53+, Q54, Q55, Q58, Q59, Q67, Q98, QM15, QM24, QM25, QM34)
- Subway lines (**M**)

IBX will introduce **four stops** at:

- Myrtle Avenue
- Metropolitan Avenue
- Eliot Avenue
- Grand Avenue

Exact station locations subject to change

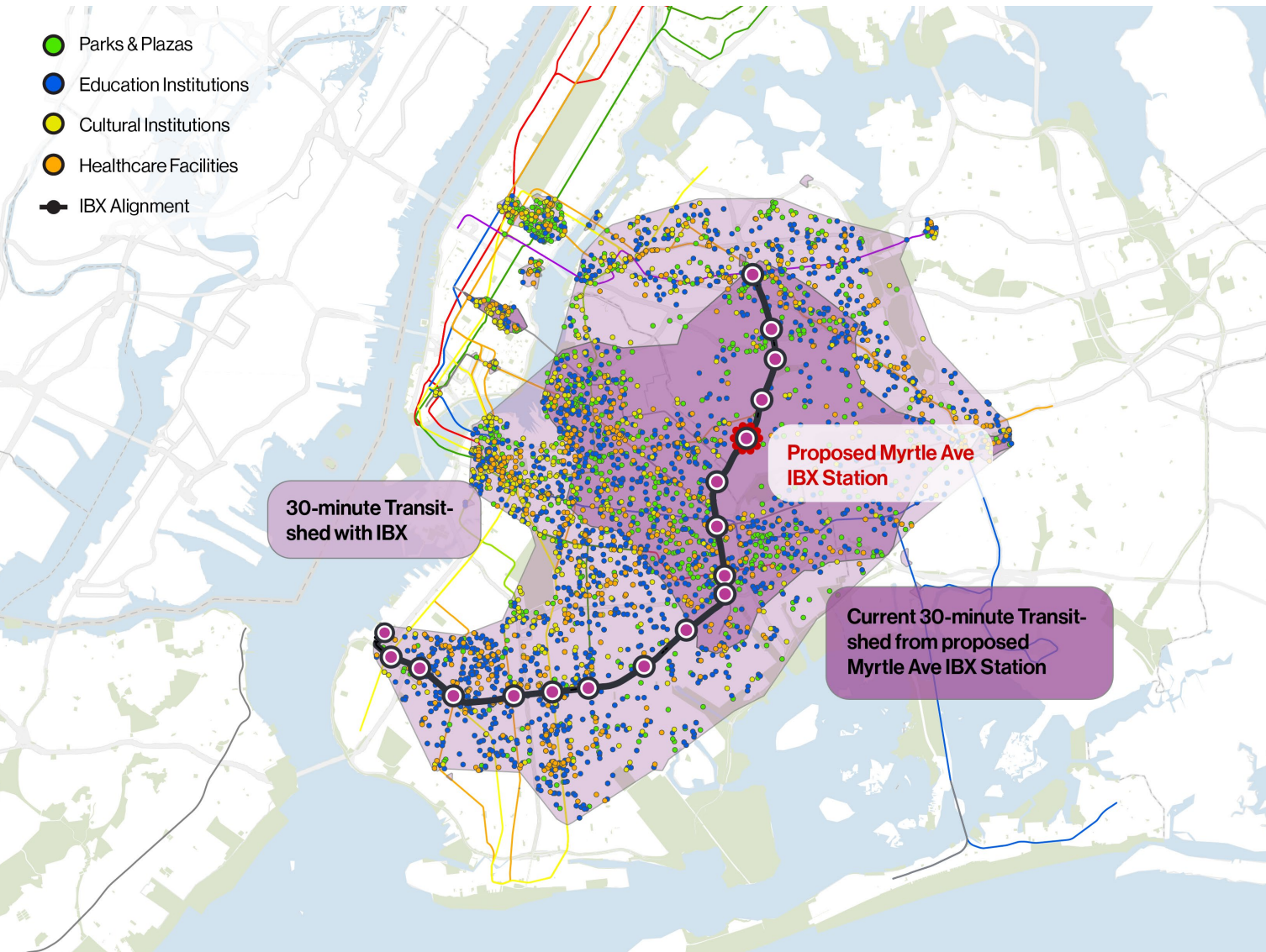
Access to Opportunity: Myrtle Avenue



IBX **more than doubles** the land area accessible within a 30-minute public transit trip

- **Residents** gain access to employment hubs, amenities, and recreation
- **Businesses** reach larger customer bases and talent pools
- Newly accessible **destinations** include:
 - Brooklyn Army Terminal
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - Jamaica
 - Midtown
 - Long Island City
 - Lower East Side
 - Union Square

Access to Opportunity: Myrtle Avenue



Residents and businesses near **Myrtle Avenue** will gain access to:

3.7x jobs

From 375K to 1.4M

2.6x healthcare facilities

From 420 to 1,085

5.6x higher education institutions

From 5 to 28

2.8x daycare & pre-K

From 619 to 1,706

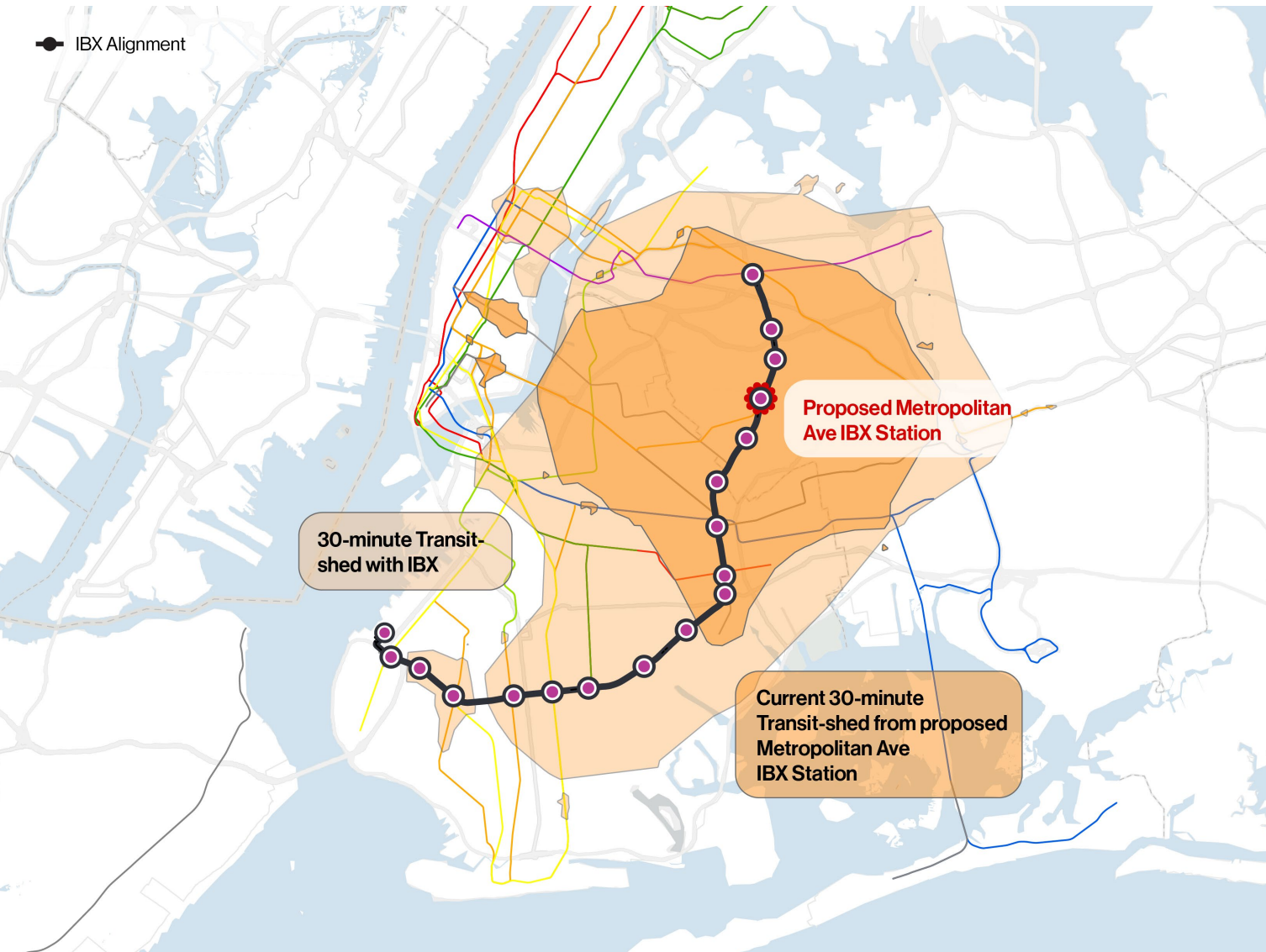
3.3x cultural institutions

From 180 to 592

2.5x working age population

From 1.3M to 3.4M

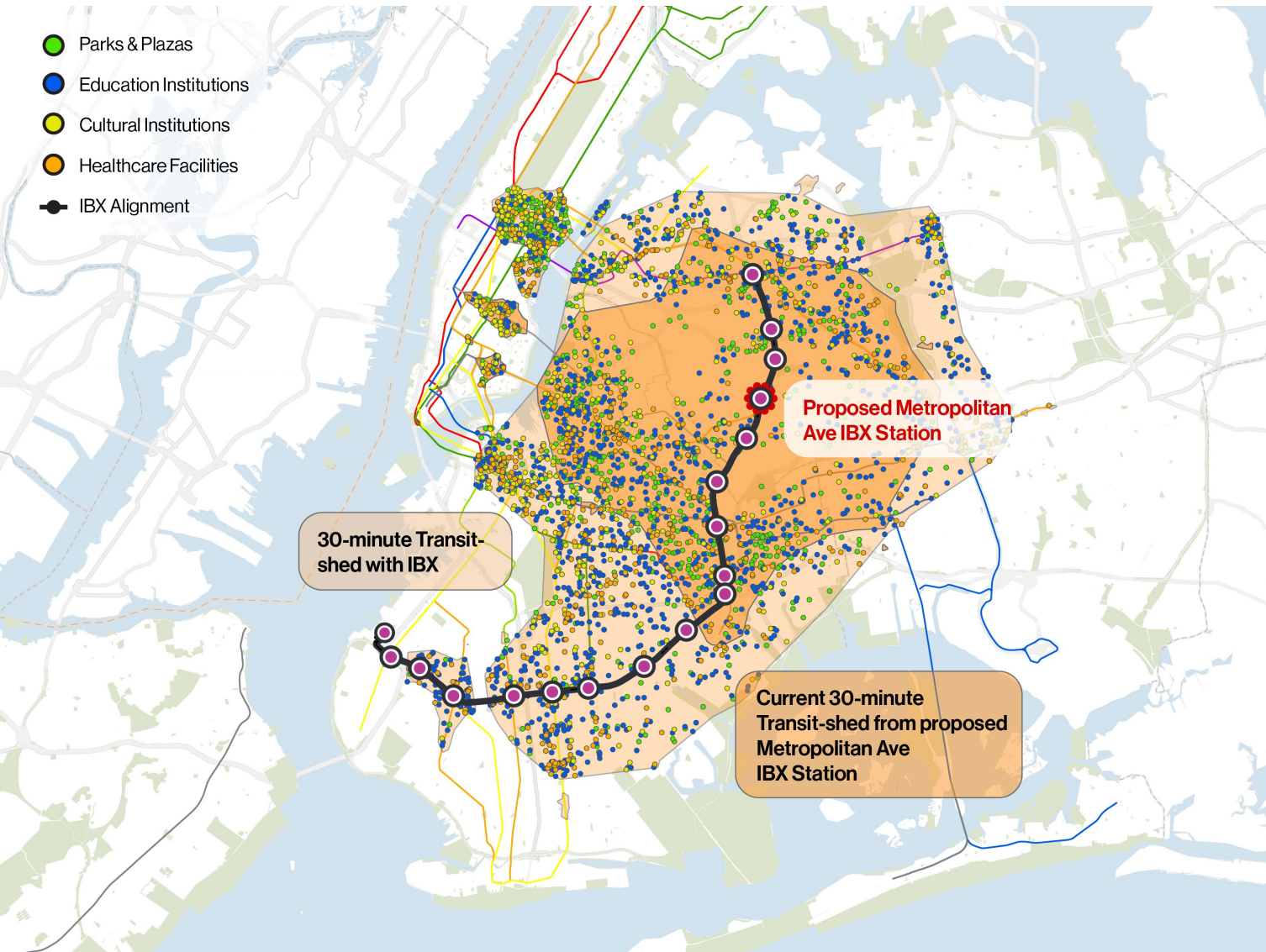
Access to Opportunity: Metropolitan Avenue



IBX **more than doubles** the land area accessible within a 30-minute public transit trip

- **Residents** gain access to employment hubs, amenities, and recreation
- **Businesses** reach larger customer bases and talent pools
- Newly accessible **destinations** include:
 - Brooklyn Army Terminal
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - Jamaica
 - Midtown
 - Long Island City

Access to Opportunity: Metropolitan Avenue



Residents and businesses near **Metropolitan Avenue** will gain access to:

3.8x jobs

From 445K to 1.7M

2.5x healthcare facilities

From 436 to 1,091

7.0x higher education institutions

From 5 to 35

2.4x daycare & pre-K

From 675 to 1,597

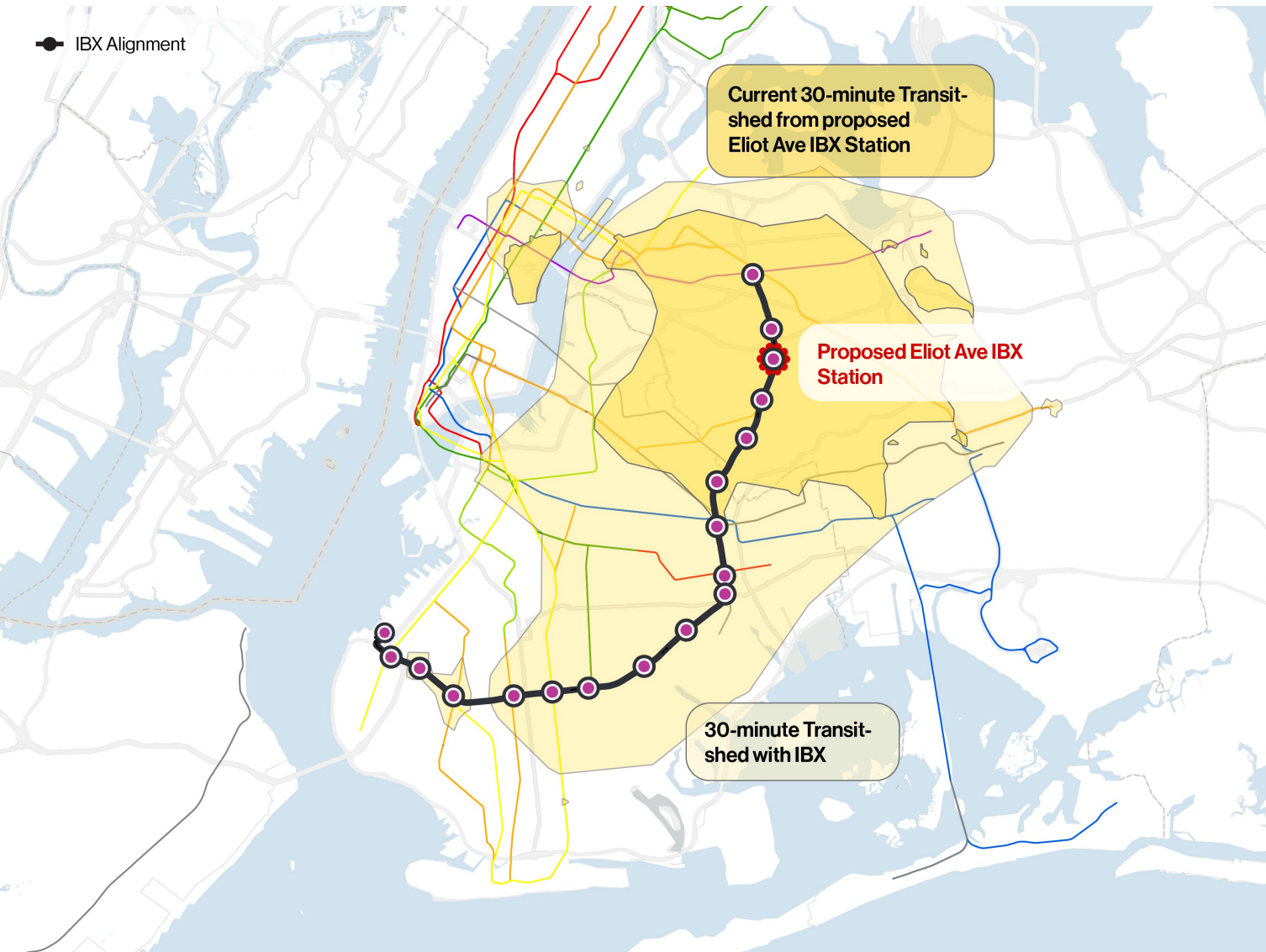
3.0x cultural institutions

From 213 to 642

2.1x working age population

From 1.5M to 3.2M

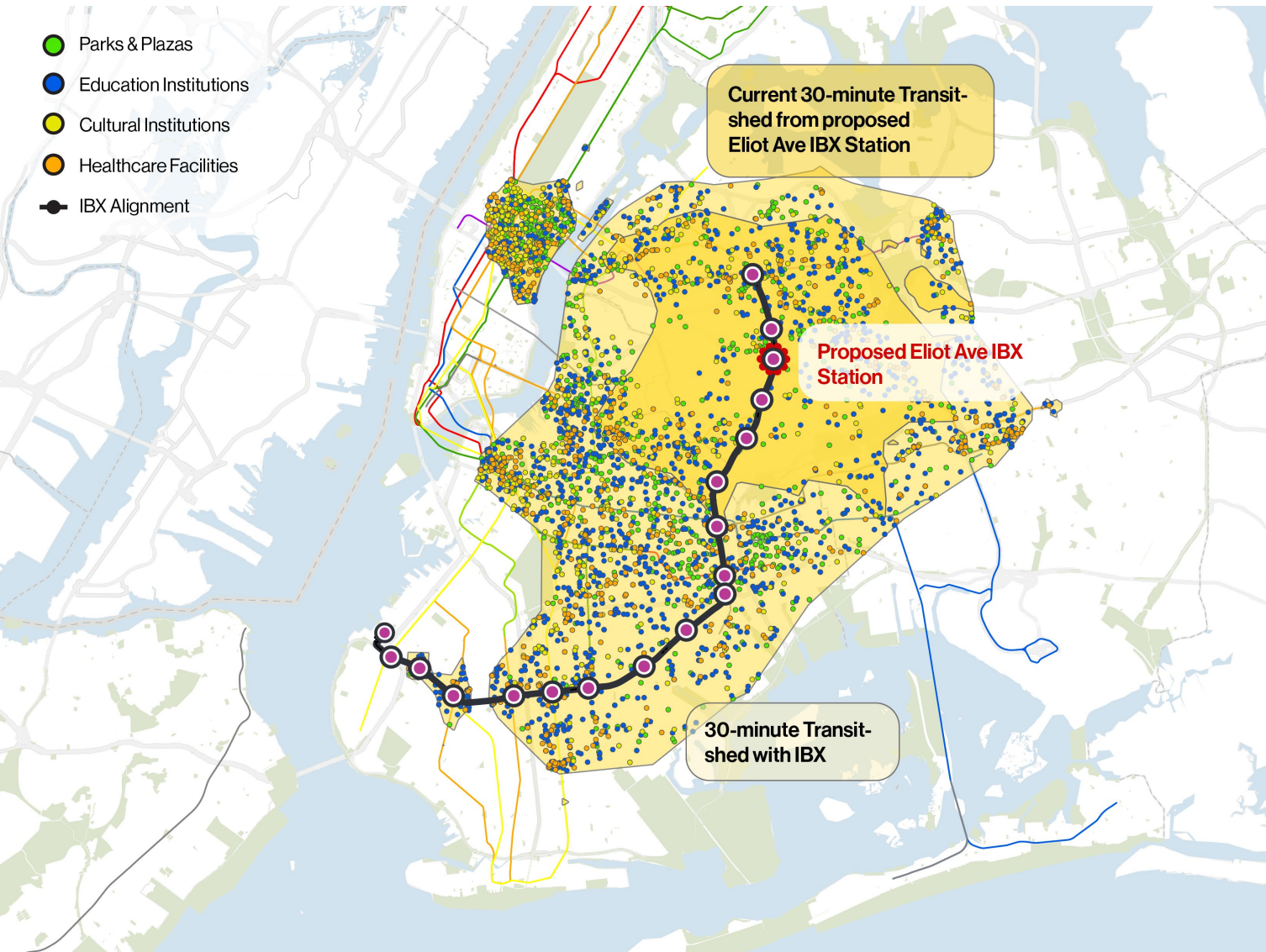
Access to Opportunity: Eliot Avenue



IBX **almost triples** the land area accessible within a 30-minute public transit trip

- **Residents** gain access to employment hubs, amenities, and recreation
- **Businesses** reach larger customer bases and talent pools
- Newly accessible **destinations** include:
 - Brooklyn Army Terminal
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - Jamaica
 - Midtown
 - Long Island City
 - Upper East Side
 - Williamsburg

Access to Opportunity: Eliot Avenue



Residents and businesses near **Eliot Avenue** will gain access to:

3.6x jobs

From 558K to 2M

4.3x healthcare facilities

From 267 to 1,139

4.8x higher education institutions

From 9 to 43

3.8x daycare & pre-K

From 423 to 1,592

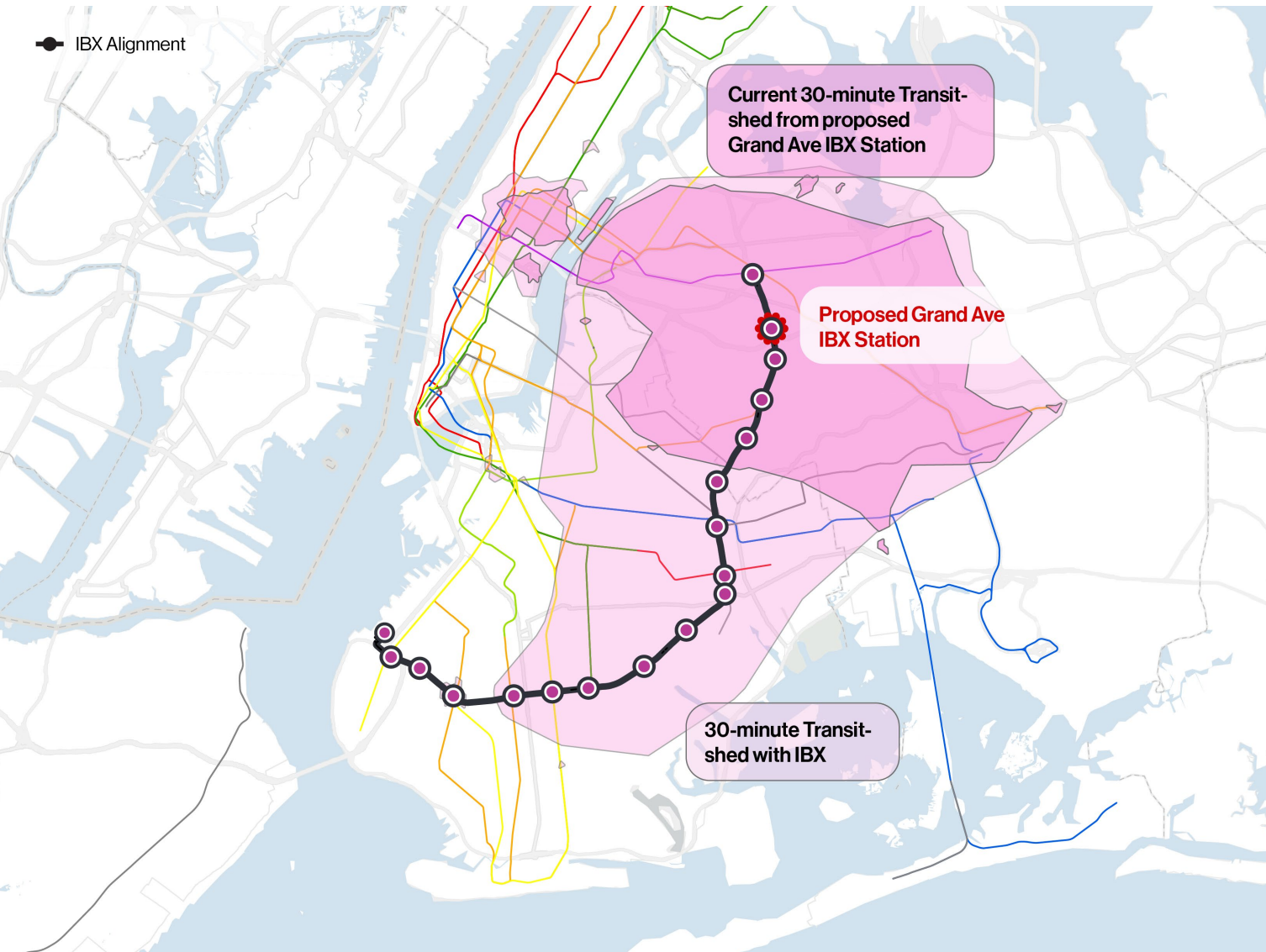
4.5x cultural institutions

From 147 to 655

3.1x working age population

From 1.1M to 3.3M

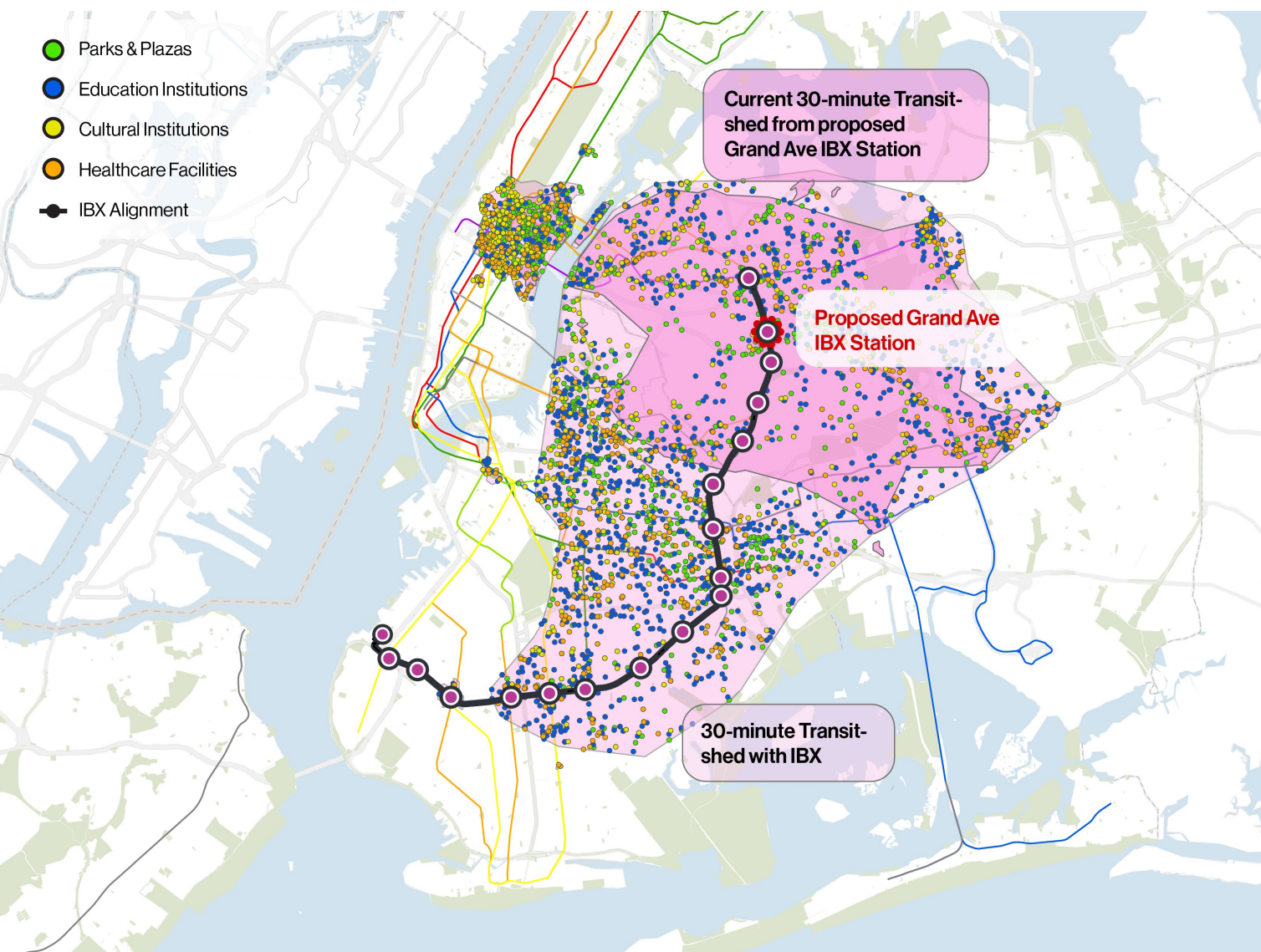
Access to Opportunity: Grand Avenue



IBX **more than doubles** the land area accessible within a 30-minute public transit trip

- **Residents** gain access to employment hubs, amenities, and recreation
- **Businesses** reach larger customer bases and talent pools
- Newly accessible **destinations** include:
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - Midtown
 - Long Island City
 - Upper East Side
 - Williamsburg

Access to Opportunity: Grand Avenue



Residents and businesses near **Grand Avenue** will gain access to:

2.3x jobs

From 875K to 2M

2.9x healthcare facilities

From 365 to 1,055

3.8x higher education institutions

From 11 to 42

2.6x daycare & pre-K

From 582 to 1,487

2.9x cultural institutions

From 226 to 653

2.5x working age population

From 1.3M to 3.1M

Project Updates



Environmental Review



SEQRA Environmental Review

In October 2025, MTA kicked off the environmental review process under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

- MTA completed the Scoping phase in November, hosting two in-person and two virtual Scoping meetings. Over 500 comments were provided.
- Environmental analyses are now underway
- A final Scoping Document will be issued this year, with a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to follow



Scoping Meeting in Middle Village, Queens

Property Acquisition

IBX's location **within an existing rail corridor significantly reduces** the need for private property acquisition

- However, a small number of properties will need to be acquired
- MTA is also aware of encroachments into the right of way
- MTA is working to identify these properties and minimize acquisitions to the extent possible
- Acquisition may only begin after the EIS is complete (est. Q4 2026). If acquisition is required, MTA will fully comply with the Uniform Relocation Act and all applicable laws governing the use of eminent domain.



Project Design



Design Process

- MTA has retained an engineering team to **begin design** of the IBX project
- Design is a **two-year process** that includes three workstreams:

Due Diligence	Civil Design	System Design
• Surveys • Geotech • Environmental • Structure inspections	• Site work • Utilities • Structures • Track work	• Stations • Operations facility • Storage yard • Power, train control, communications

- MTA's design team will also assist with procurement of construction contracts

Due Diligence: Pre-Design In Queens

- Pre-design is when **sites are analyzed in detail**
- This work tells MTA about project feasibility – and **changes to earlier assumptions**
- The design team has distributed flyers and contacted properties close to work sites to ensure coordination and minimal disruption

Field Work Underway	Completion
Geotechnical Investigation Evaluates soil, rock, groundwater conditions	30%
Surveying Models conditions in 3D	50%
Structures Inspections Assesses integrity of nearby infrastructure, like bridges	75%



Test Pit Operations on Cypress Avenue

Systems Design: Stations & Urban Realm

Since Fall 2025, MTA's design team has conducted site investigations, developed station prototypes, and analyzed critical factors such as fire and life safety

- **Design is prioritizing** the passenger experience, neighborhood interfaces, accessibility, and connection with other modes of transportation
- This Spring, MTA will host a series of **public workshops** to ask for input on these and related topics:
 - Safety
 - Wayfinding
 - Street lighting
 - Passenger information products
 - Treatments for fencing/barriers



Prototype of Station Entrance (Illustrative Only)

Community Focus Areas



Stormwater Management

As part of design, MTA and their design team are developing a **resilience plan to mitigate stormwater flooding** throughout the corridor

- MTA continues to **meet with NYCDEP** to coordinate stormwater modeling, existing system connection, and future mitigation plans
- Resilience plan design is prioritizing public safety, operational resilience, and impacts to adjacent neighborhoods, particularly during storm events



Track Ponding at Entrance to 65th Street Yard

Electrical Grid Capacity



MTA and their design team are **working with ConEd** to ensure IBX's electrical needs can be met by the existing grid – and that any grid improvements resulting from IBX also benefit communities

- IBX's electrical design is **prioritizing** public safety and resilience, overall impact, and vehicle performance under different conditions
- Upcoming public outreach will ask for feedback on substation architecture to blend with the existing community fabric

Next Steps



Upcoming Public Outreach



- MTA expects to ask for your feedback at three key stages over the next year:
 - To inform **design decisions**, including about stations, urban realm connections, and vehicle layout
 - To receive formal comment on the **DEIS** as part of New York's SEQRA process
 - To inform the **draft design** concepts developed during preliminary engineering
- MTA welcomes your input on locations, languages, and groups or individuals to include in this outreach
- To date, MTA has hosted: 12 open houses, 10 pop ups, four SEQRA scoping meetings, and quarterly Community Council meetings

Open House at the Queens Public Library in Ridgewood

Upcoming Public Workshop Dates

- Join the MTA at one of the six upcoming, in-person, interactive public workshops:
 - Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 7Q (Jackson Heights)
 - Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10AM-12PM** – Christ the King (Middle Village)
 - Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 235K (East Flatbush)
 - Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 6–8 PM** – Maimonides Medical Center (Borough Park)
 - Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 88Q (Ridgewood)
 - Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10 AM–12 PM** – East New York Arts and Civic High School (East New York)

Help Shape the Interborough Express (IBX)

SPRING 2026

Join us for in-person, interactive public workshops about the proposed light rail connection between Brooklyn and Queens

Participants will be able to:

- Share your priorities for stations and train design, and your experience using transit
- Hear background information and recent updates on the project
- Have opportunities to ask the project team questions
- Participate in family-friendly activities – all are encouraged to attend!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING WORKSHOP

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 7Q (Queens: 80-55 Cornish Ave, Elmhurst, NY 11373)
- Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10AM-12PM** – Christ the King (Queens: 68-02 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379)
- Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 235K (Brooklyn: 5811 Ditmas Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11203)
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 6–8 PM** – Maimonides Medical Center (Brooklyn: 4802 10th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11219)
- Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6–8 PM** – PS 88Q (Queens: 60-85 Catalpa Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385)
- Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10 AM–12 PM** – East New York Arts and Civic High School (Brooklyn: 800 Van Siclen Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11207)

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2026

The environmental review and design processes are both active, and each has public engagement opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- Nov 2025**: Scoping meetings
- Fall/Winter 2026**: Draft EIS

DESIGN

- Spring 2026**: Input on design priorities
- Fall/Winter 2026**: Feedback on draft design

WE ARE HERE

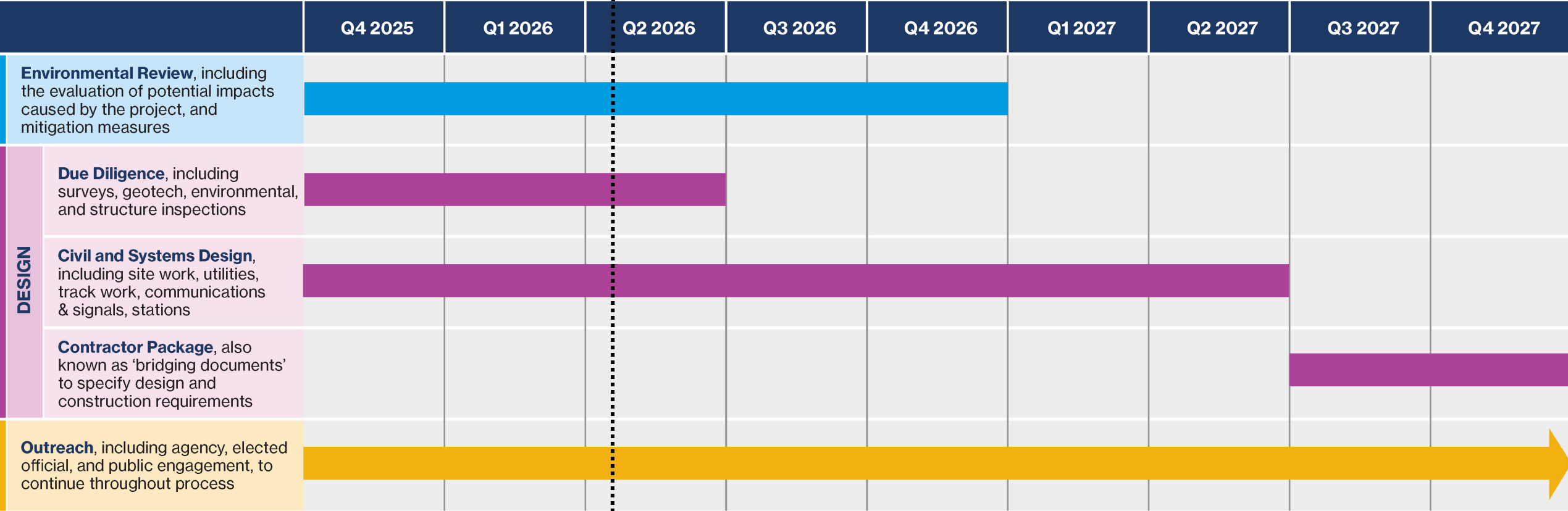
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Scan the QR code for an IBX survey

For more information please visit: mta.info/IBX

For translation or interpretation into languages other than English and Spanish, please contact us with advance notice at IBXoutreach@mtacd.org

Next Steps



We Are Here



***Scan the QR code to
share your input!***

We want to hear from you!

Take the IBX survey to share your input on design priorities to help shape the Interborough Express.

Survey available in English and Spanish.

Q&A



Thank you!

