



March 24, 2026

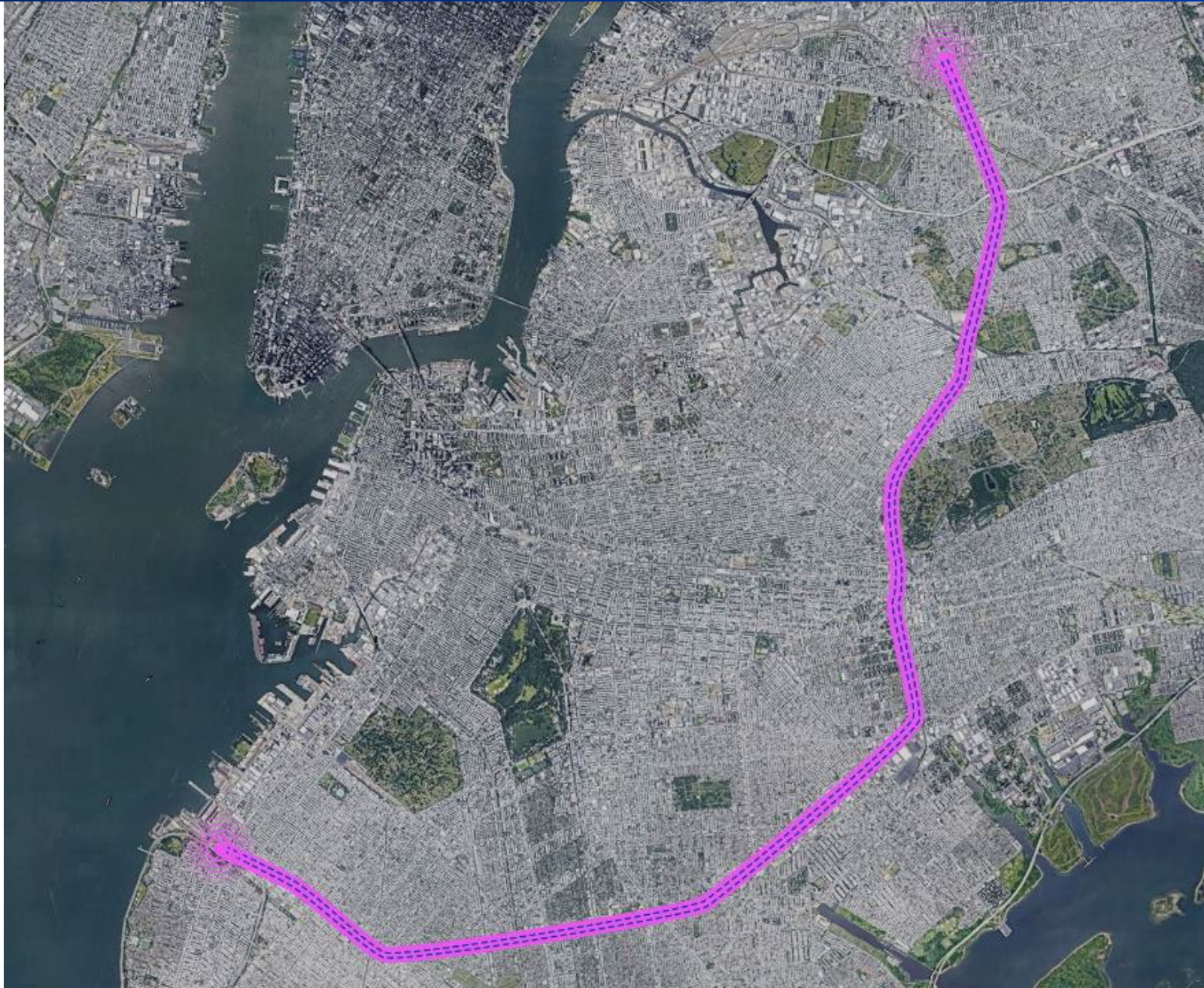
# Interborough Express

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Community Board Briefing —  
Queens CB05



Construction &  
Development



# Agenda

**01** Introductions

**02** Project Overview

**03** Access to Opportunity

**04** Project Updates

- Environmental Review
- Design

**05** Community Focus Areas

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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





# 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

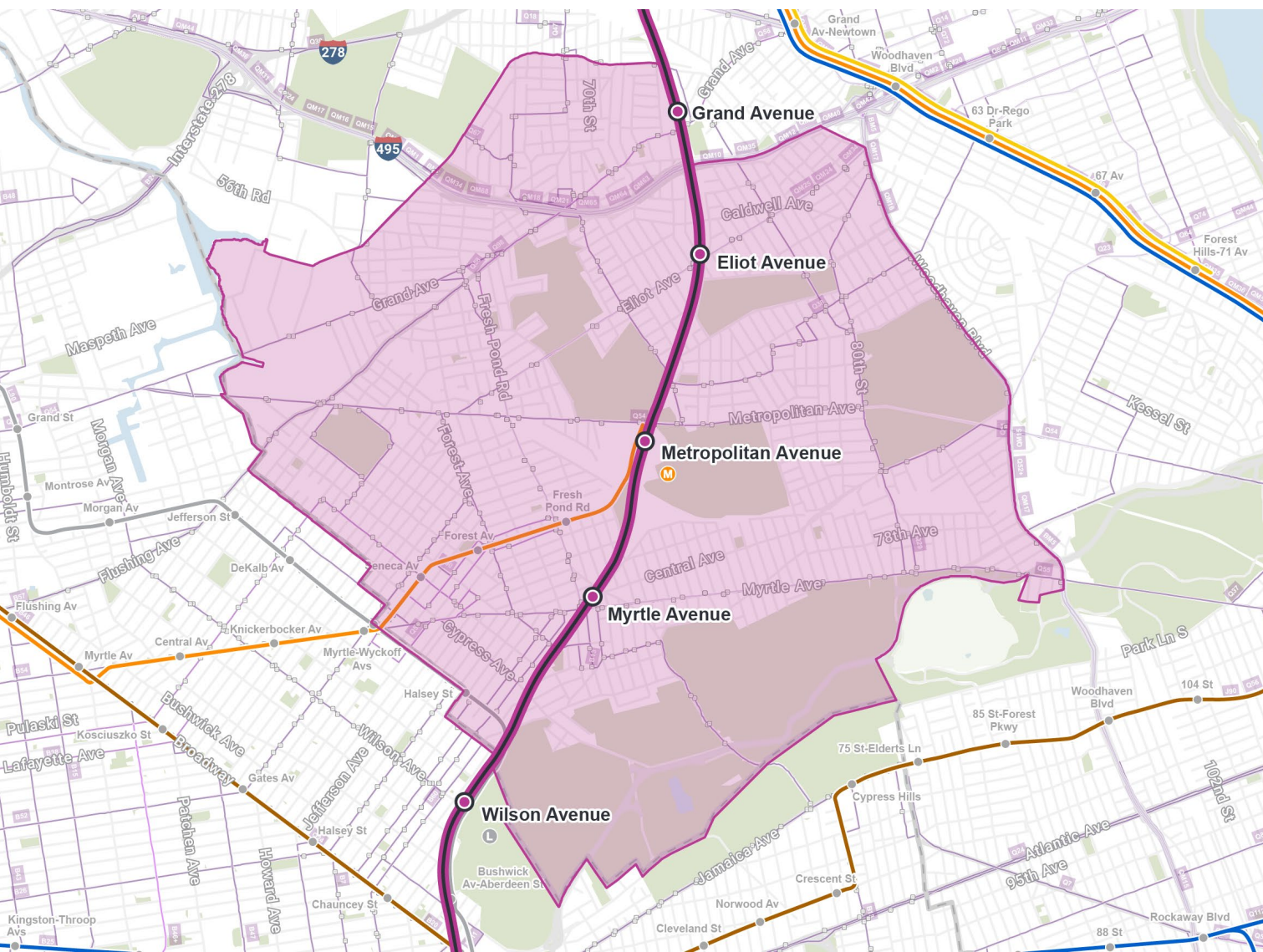
Connections at East New York & Woodside Avenues



# Access to Opportunity



# Queens Community District 5



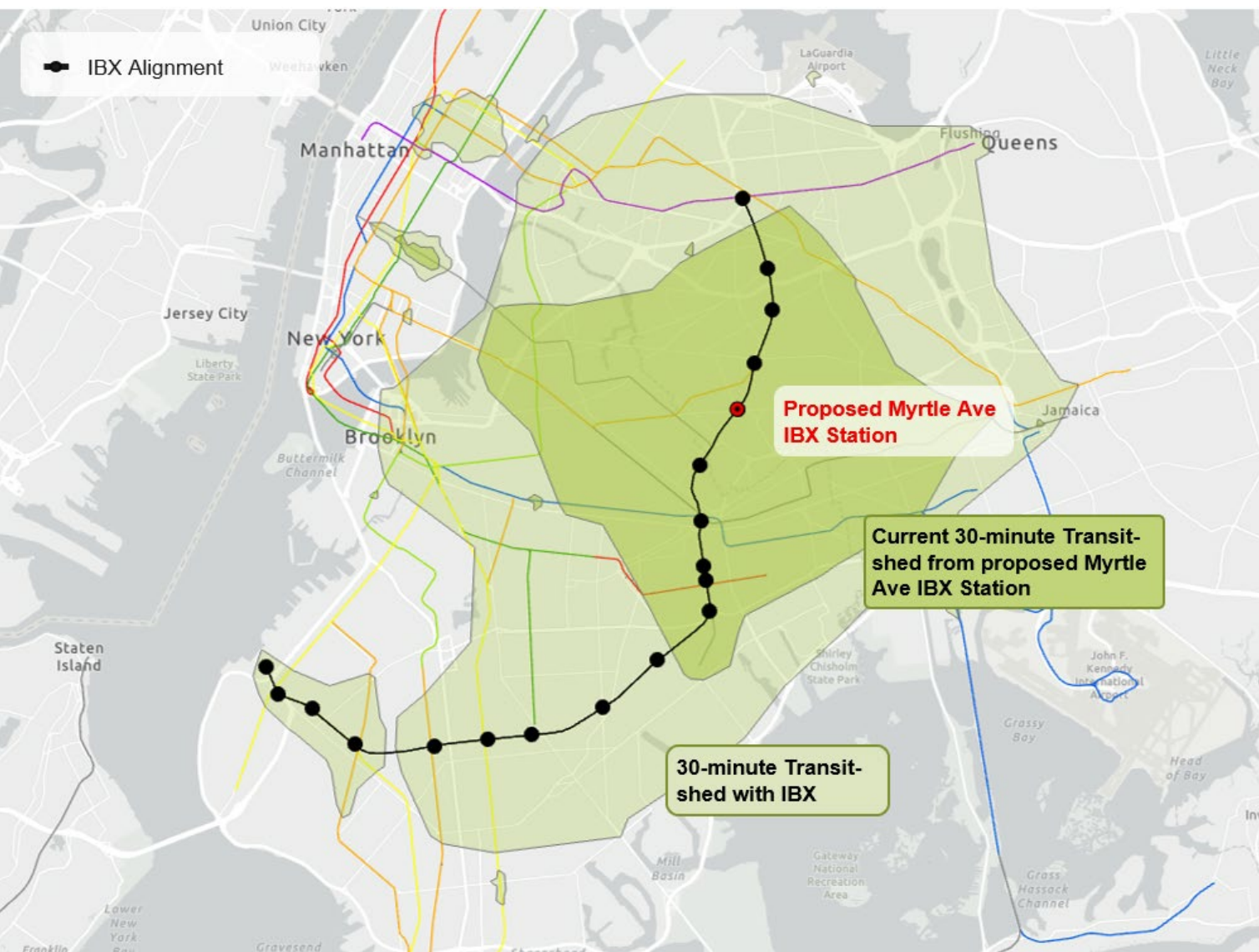
Queens Community District 5 is currently served by:

- **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 line

IBX will introduce **four stops** at:

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

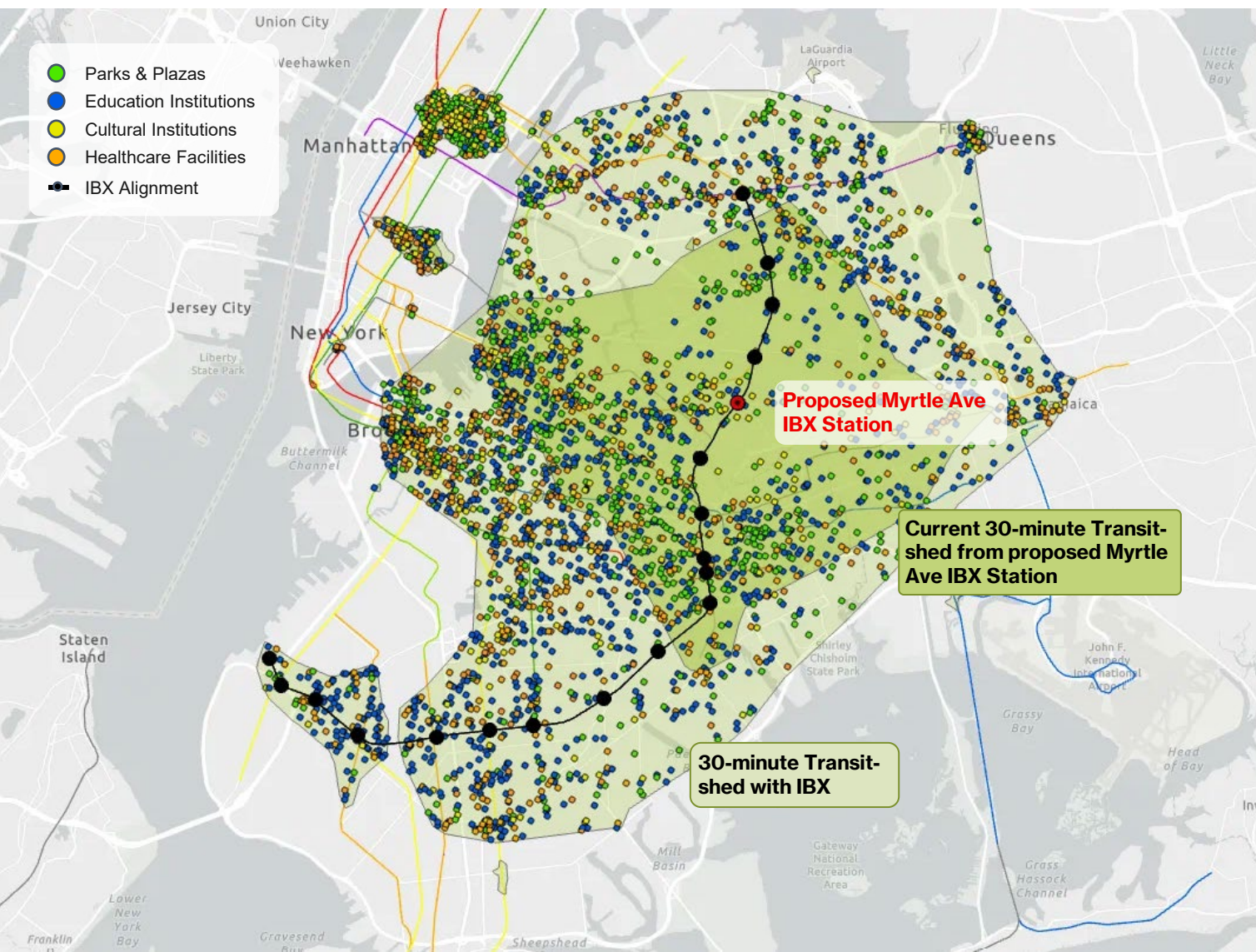
# Access to Opportunity: Myrtle Avenue



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
  - Lower East Side
  - Union Square

# Access to Opportunity: Myrtle Avenue



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

**5.6x jobs**

From 281K to 1.6M

**3.3x healthcare facilities**

From 310 to 1,027

**8.7x higher education institutions**

From 3 to 26

**3.2x daycare & pre-K**

From 496 to 1,586

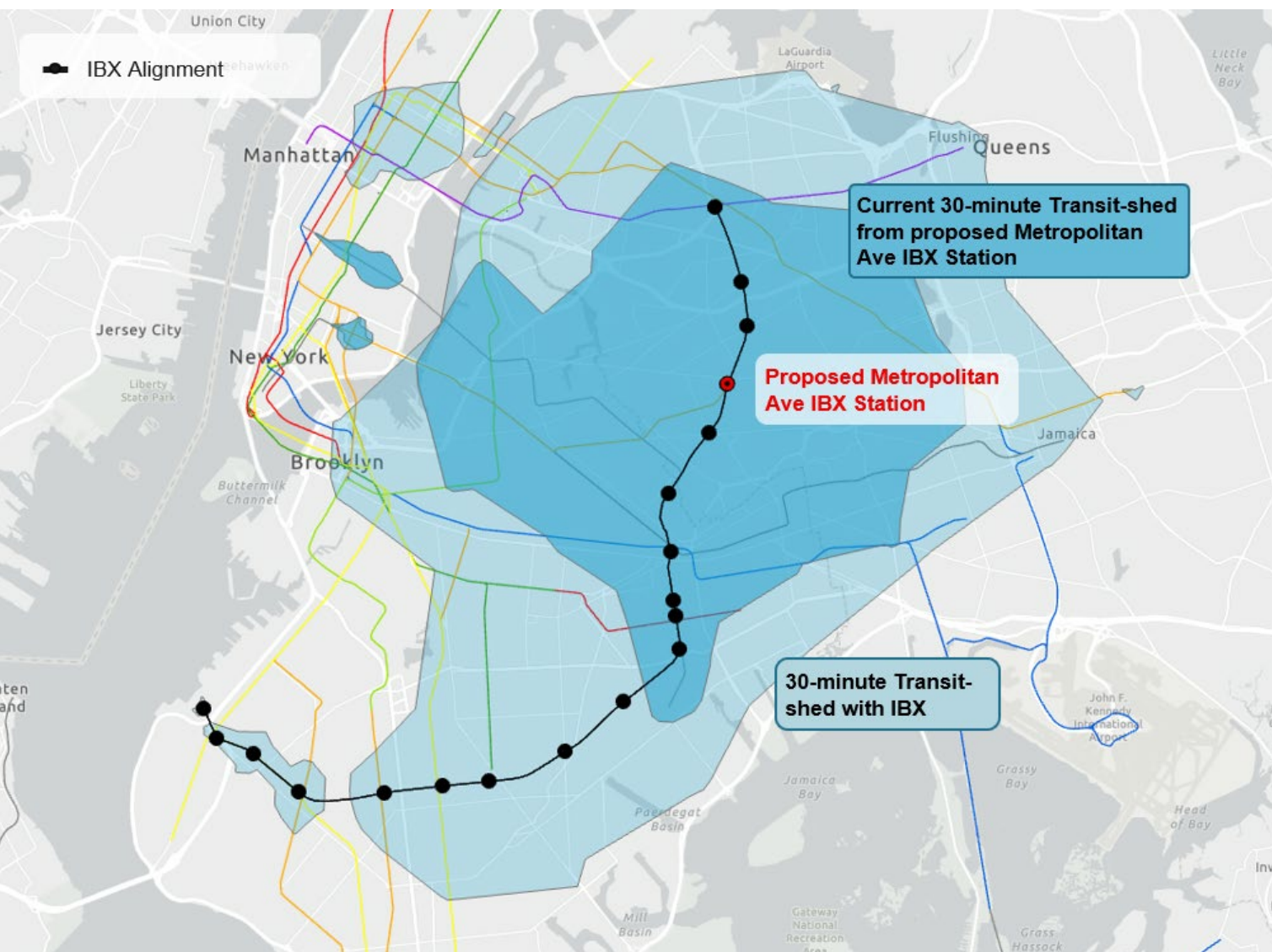
**5.2x cultural institutions**

From 117 to 609

**2.9x working age population**

From 833K to 2.4M

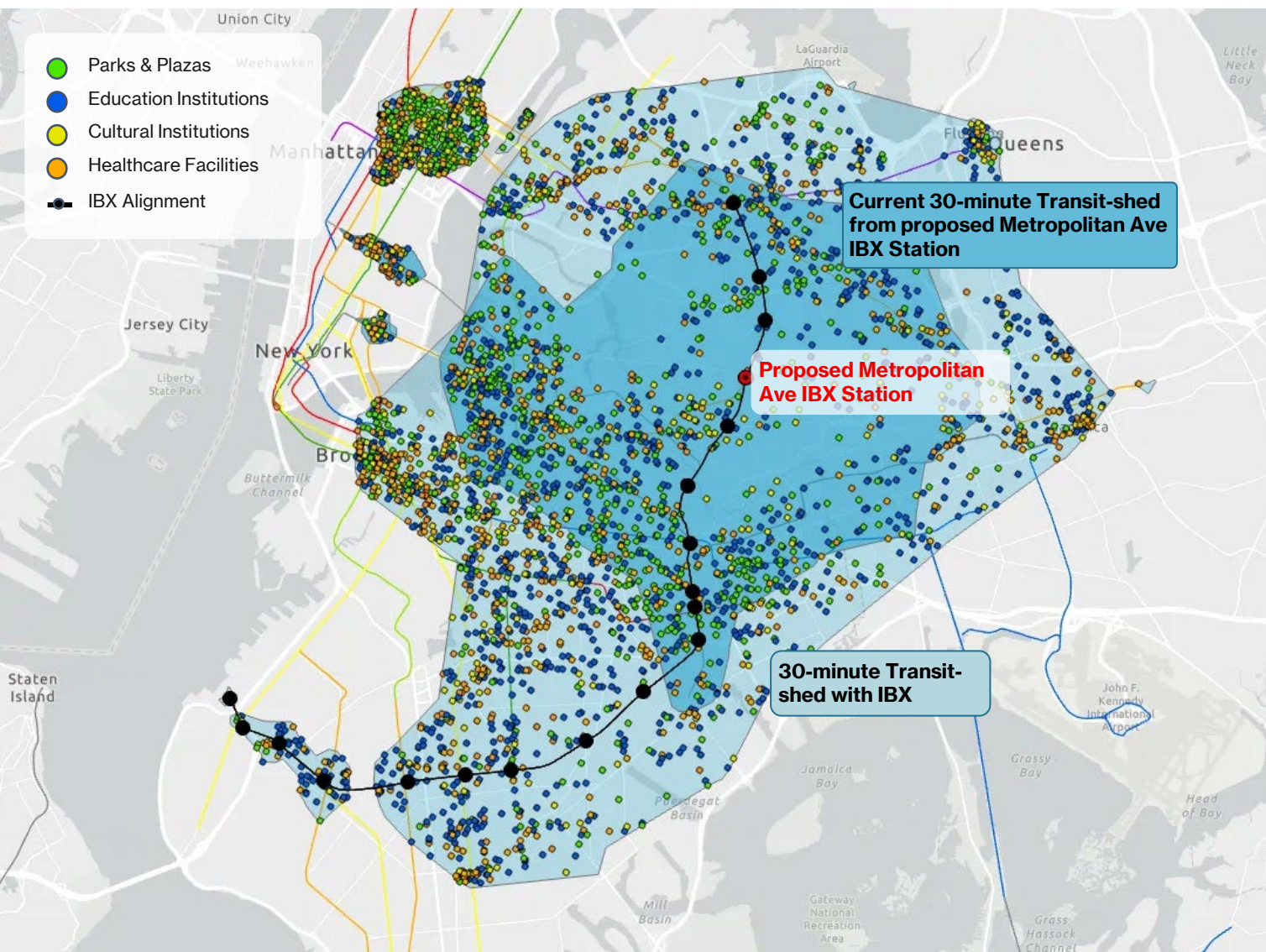
# Access to Opportunity: Metropolitan Avenue



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:

**4.3x jobs**

From 418K to 1.8M

**2.9x healthcare facilities**

From 372 to 1,088

**7.8x higher education institutions**

From 5 to 39

**2.4x daycare & pre-K**

From 631 to 1,536

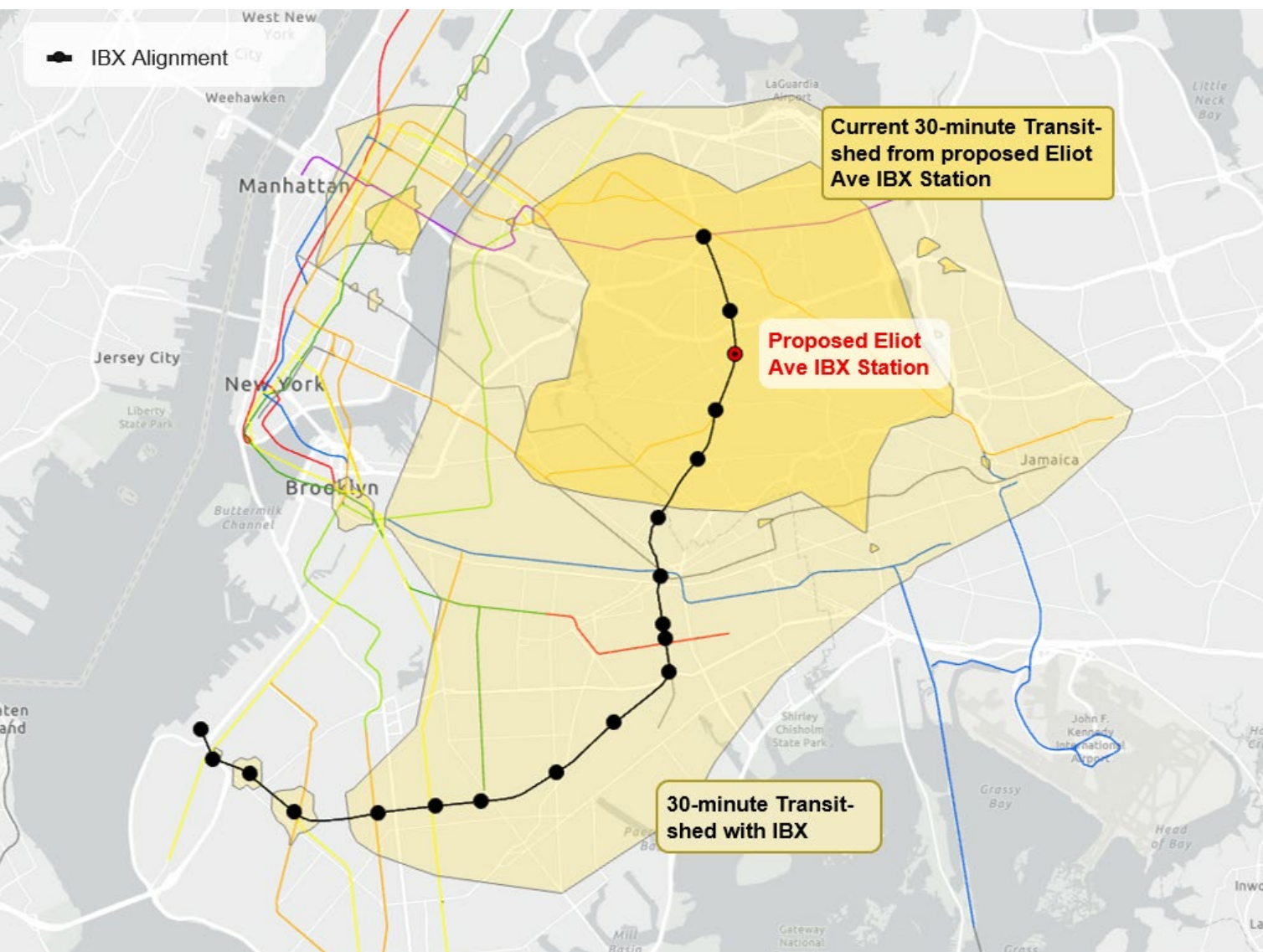
**3.4x cultural institutions**

From 193 to 649

**2.2x working age population**

From 1.1M to 2.4M

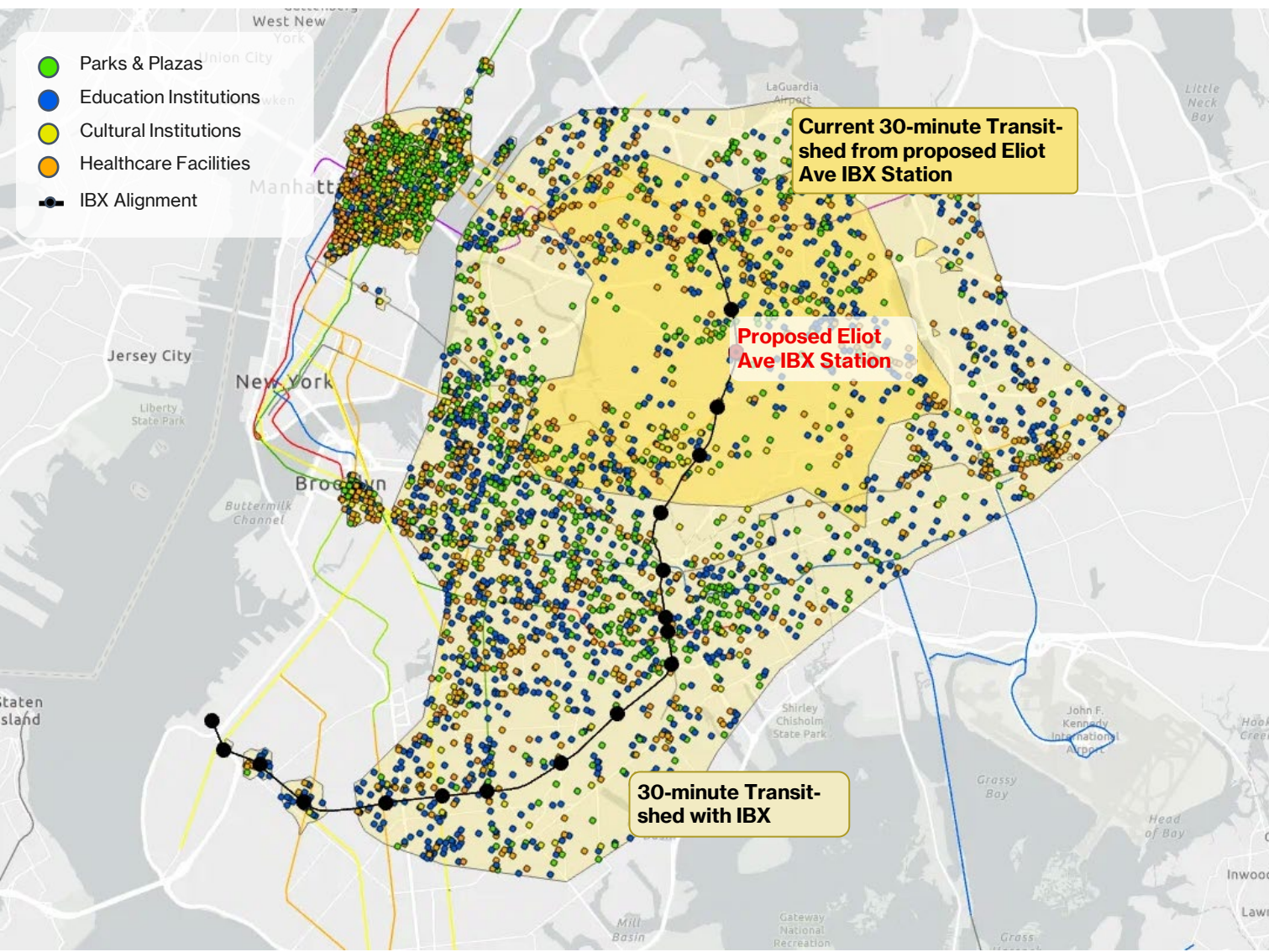
# Access to Opportunity: Eliot Avenue



IBX **more than 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:

**4.6x jobs**

From 443K to 2.1M

**4.9x healthcare facilities**

From 229 to 1,115

**5.6x higher education institutions**

From 8 to 45

**4.1x daycare & pre-K**

From 371 to 1,536

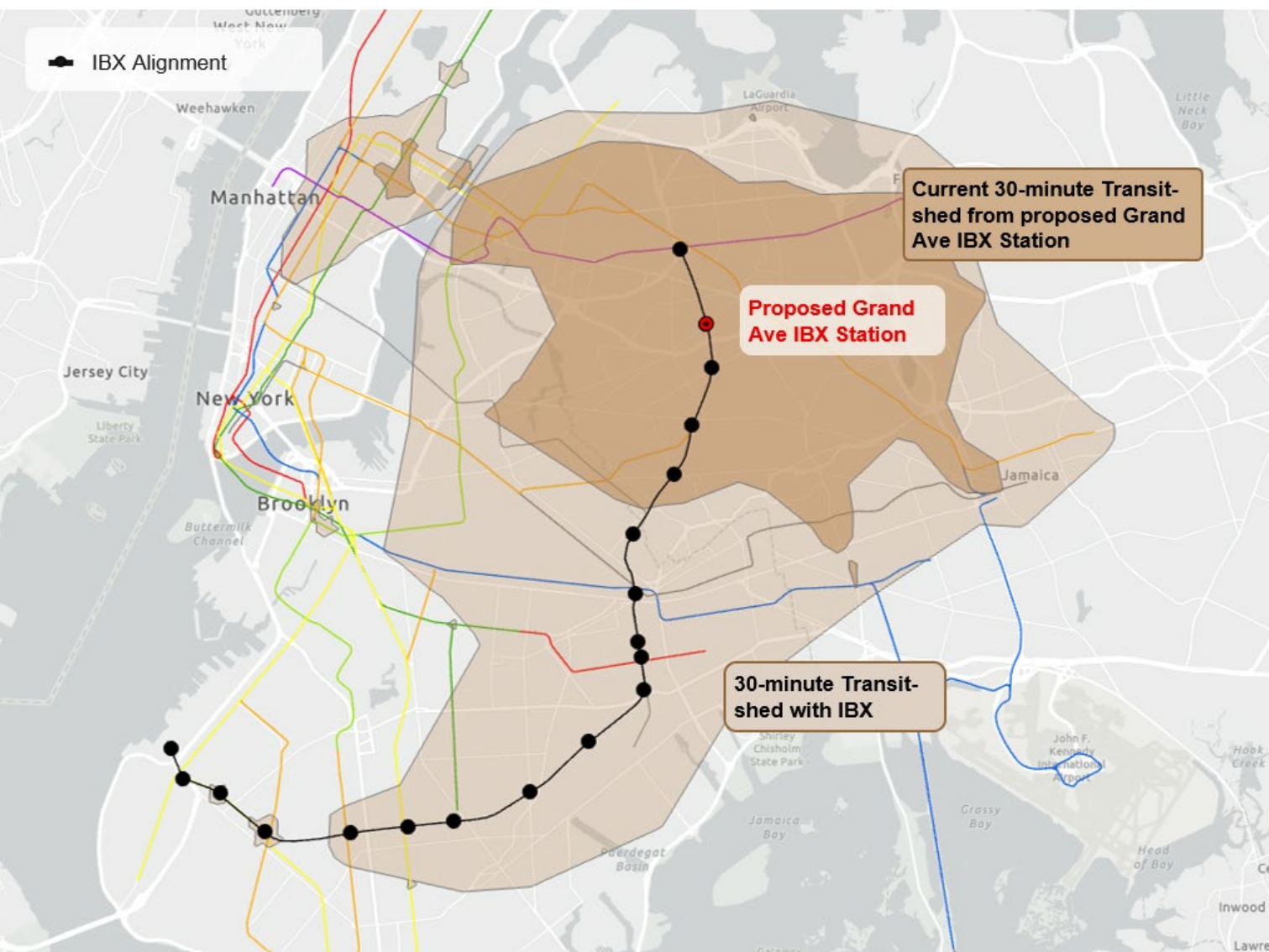
**5.6x cultural institutions**

From 132 to 739

**3.4x working age population**

From 706K to 2.4M

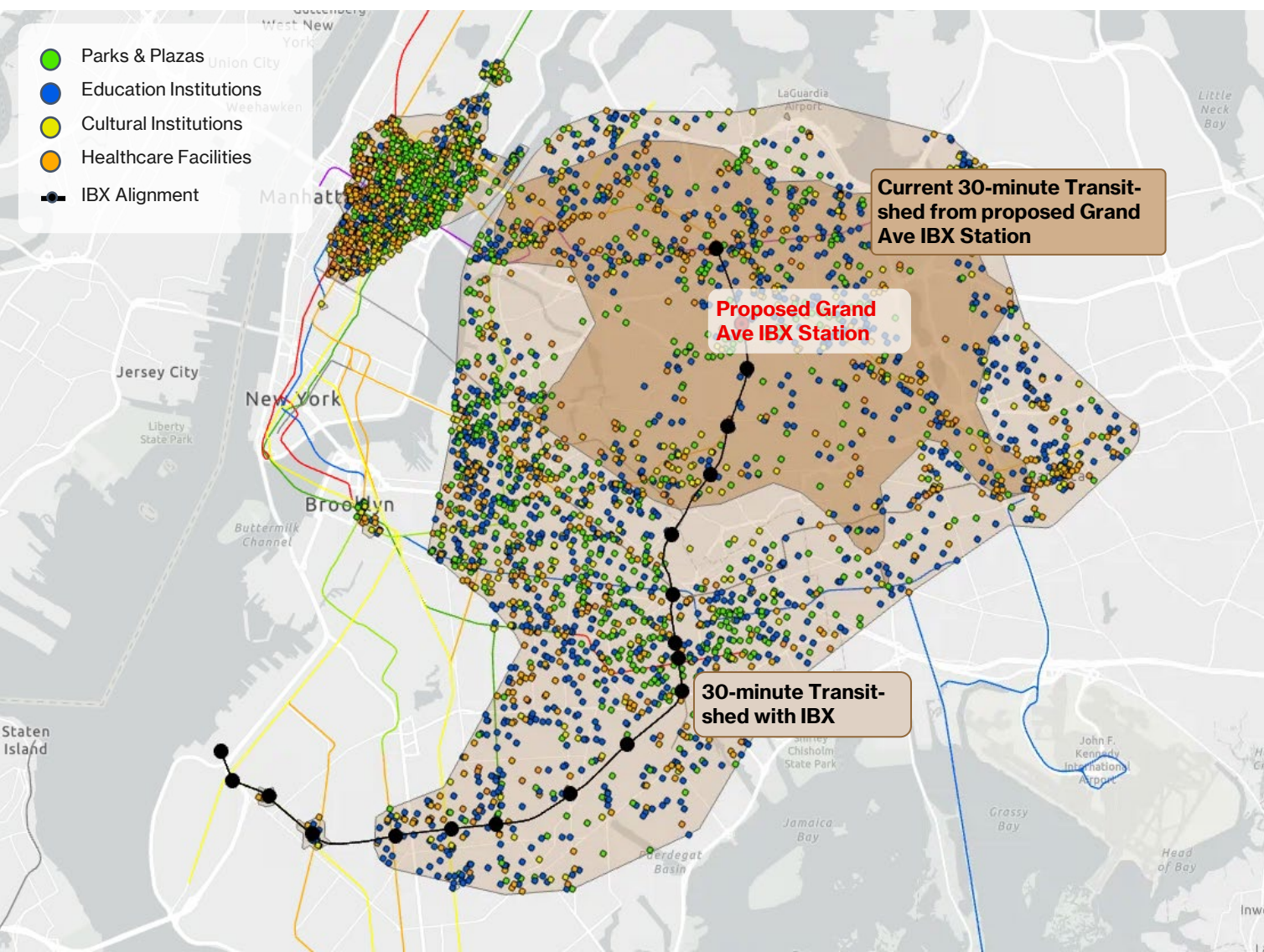
# Access to Opportunity: Grand Avenue



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:

**4.3x jobs**

From 505K to 2.2M

**4.5x healthcare facilities**

From 223 to 1,012

**5x higher education institutions**

From 9 to 45

**3.4x daycare & pre-K**

From 412 to 1,393

**5.2x cultural institutions**

From 138 to 714

**3x working age population**

From 764K to 2.3M

# 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 working to identify those properties and is striving to minimize this number 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. Elected officials and stakeholders will be kept informed.



# Project Design



# Design Process

- MTA has retained Jacobs and HDR to **begin design** of the IBX project
- Design is a **two-year process** that includes three workstreams:

| Due Diligence                                                                                                                       | Civil Design                                                                                                              | System Design                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveys</li><li>• Geotech</li><li>• Environmental</li><li>• Structure inspections</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site work</li><li>• Utilities</li><li>• Structures</li><li>• Track work</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stations</li><li>• Operations facility</li><li>• Storage yard</li><li>• Power, train control, communications</li></ul> |

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

# Pre-Design & Data Collection In Queens

- Pre-design is a critical phase of any engineering project when sites are analyzed in detail.
  - This work tells us about project feasibility – and what might need to change from previous assumptions.
- In addition to conducting the field work described below, we have distributed flyers and contacted properties close to work sites to ensure coordination and minimal disruption.

| Field Work Underway                                                                        | Completion                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Geotechnical Investigation</b><br>Evaluates soil, rock, groundwater conditions          | <div> <div>25%</div> </div> |
| <b>Surveying</b><br>Models conditions in 3D                                                | <div> <div>40%</div> </div> |
| <b>Structures Inspections</b><br>Assesses integrity of nearby infrastructure, like bridges | <div> <div>25%</div> </div> |



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



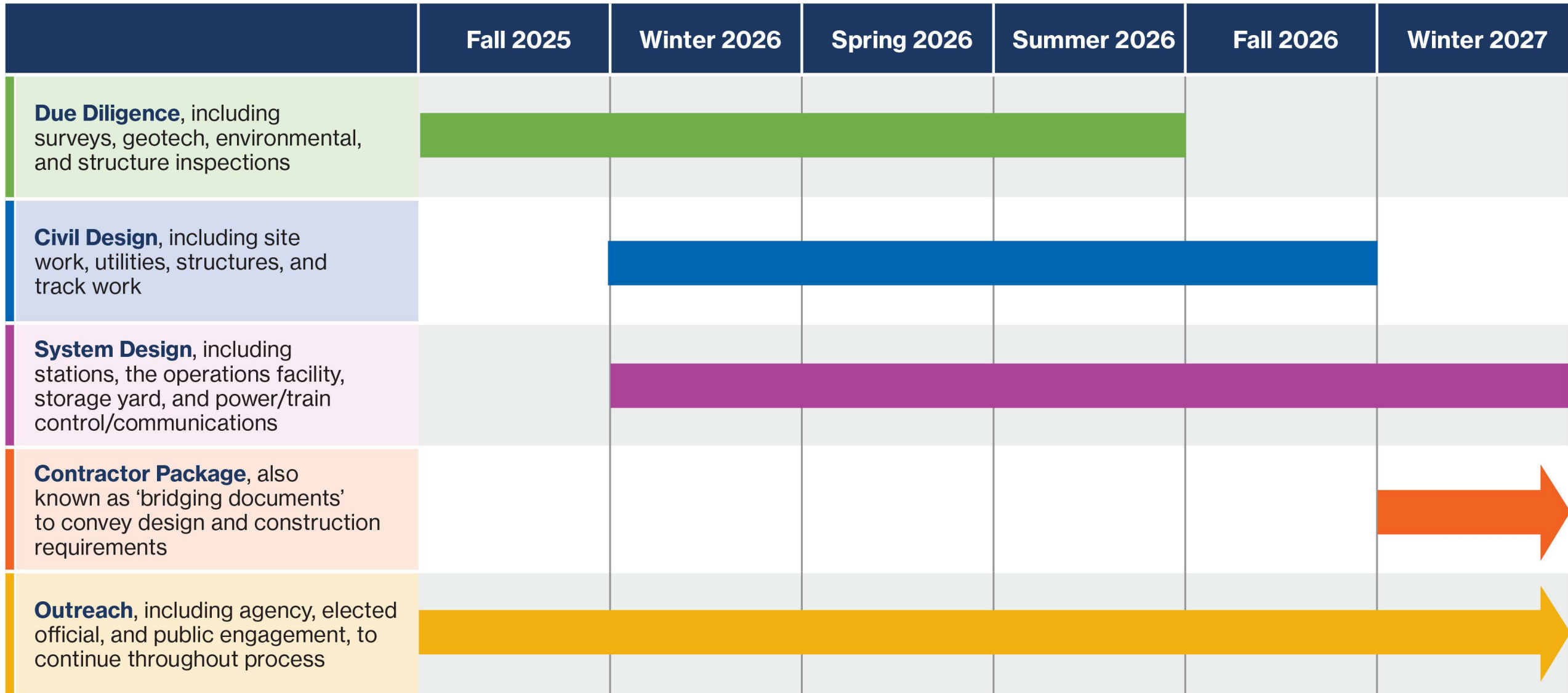
# Upcoming Public Outreach



- 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*

# Next Steps



# Q&A



# Thank you!

