

Interborough Express

A new transit line for Brooklyn and Queens

Community Board Briefing
– Brooklyn CB18



Agenda

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- 04** Project Updates
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 - Design
- 05** Community Focus Areas
- 06** Next Steps

Project Overview

The MTA logo is a white circle containing the letters "MTA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image, which is a grayscale aerial photograph of a city with a pink dashed line tracing a path across it.

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

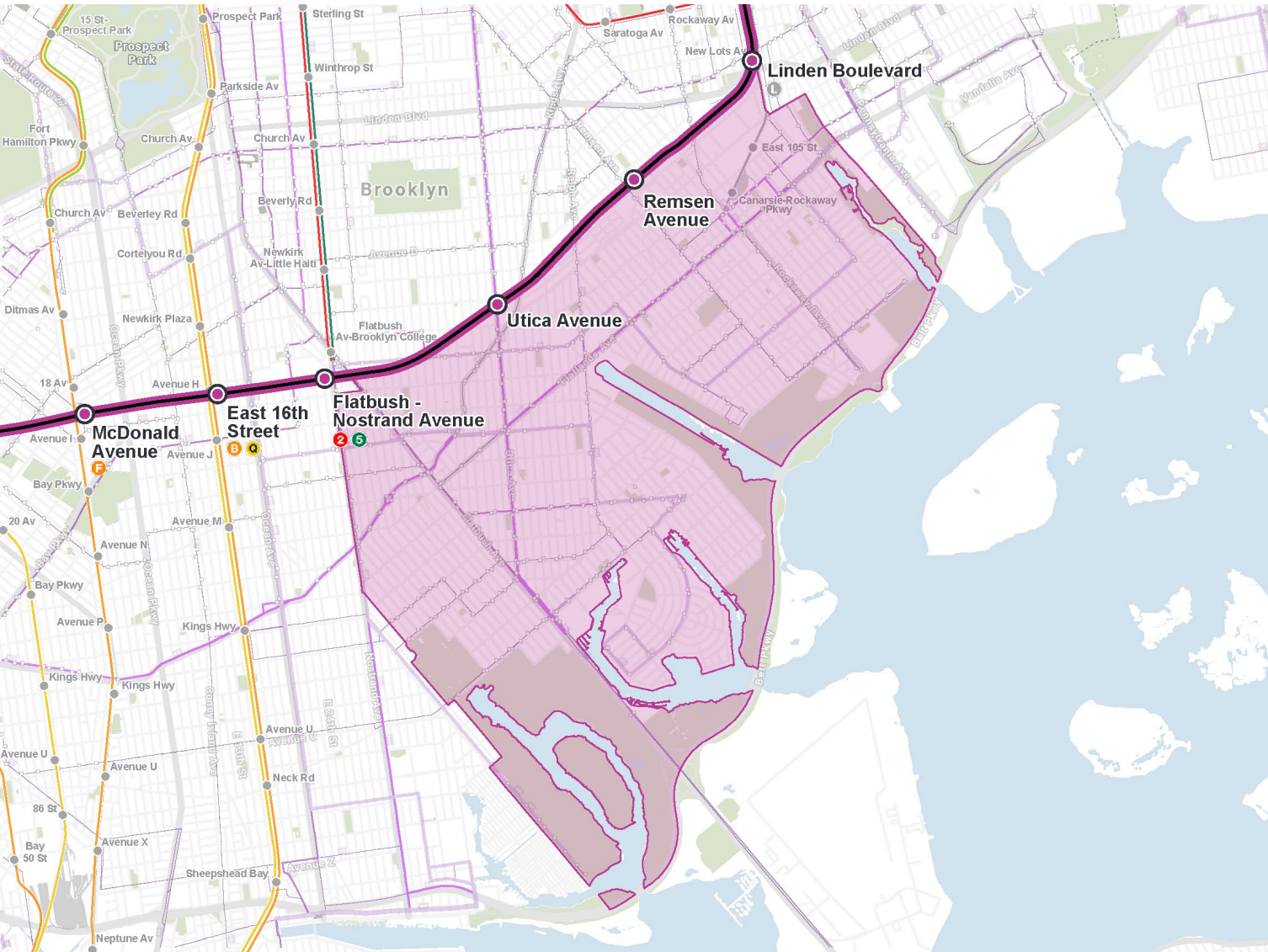


An aerial, grayscale map of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of streets and several large bodies of water. A prominent pink dashed line traces a path across the map, starting from a point in the lower-left quadrant and ending at a point in the upper-right quadrant. Both endpoints are marked with concentric pink circles, suggesting specific locations of interest. The path follows major thoroughfares and appears to connect two distinct urban centers.

Access to Opportunity



Brooklyn Community District 18



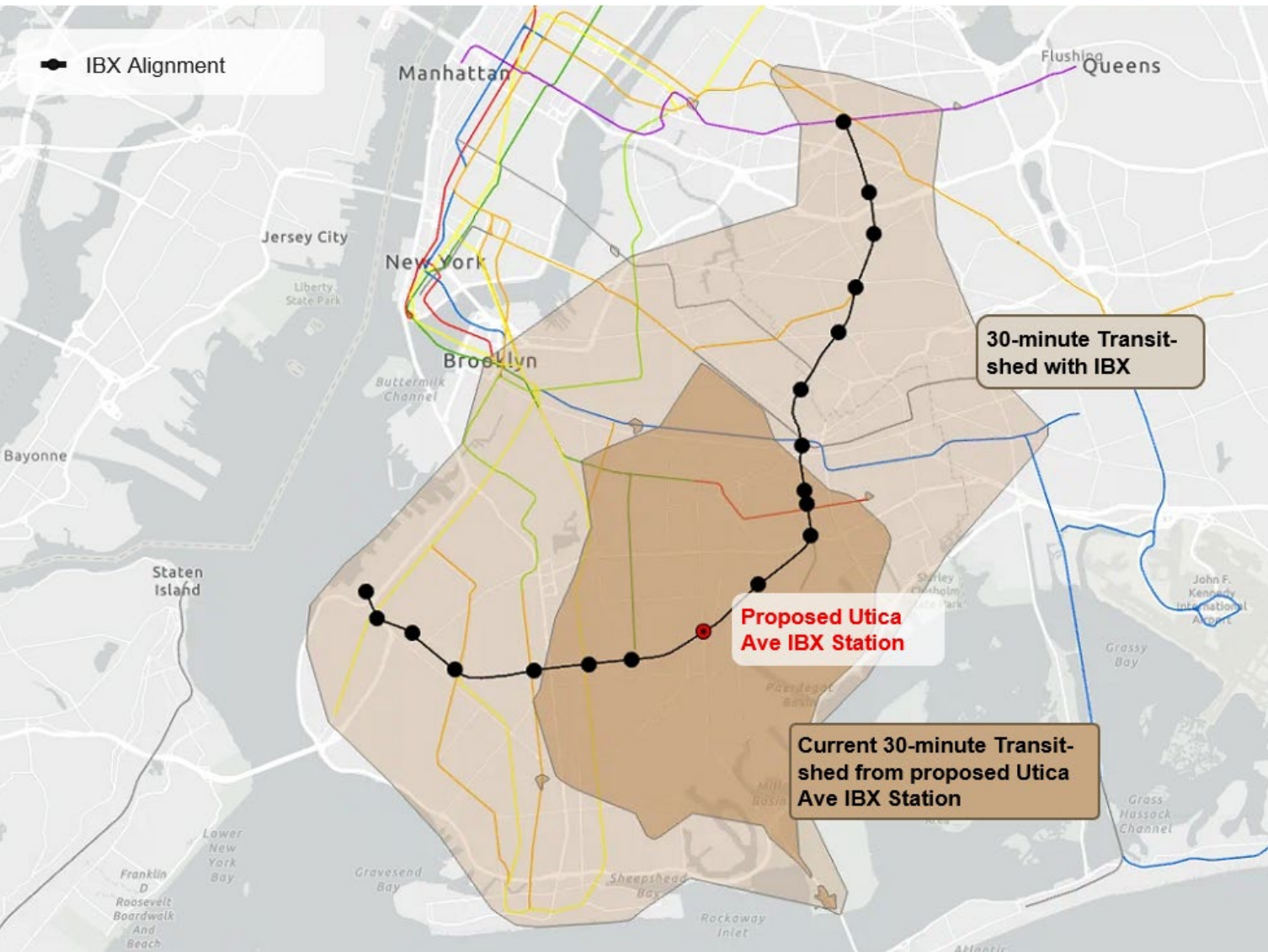
Brooklyn Community District 18 is currently served by:

- **24** bus routes (B100, B103, B15, B17, B2, B3, B31, B41, B42, B44, B44-SBS, B46, B46-SBS, B47, B6, B60, B7, B82, B82-SBS, B9, BM1, BM2, BM4, Q35)
- (L) subway line

IBX will introduce **three stops** at:

- Utica Avenue
- Remsen Avenue
- Linden Boulevard

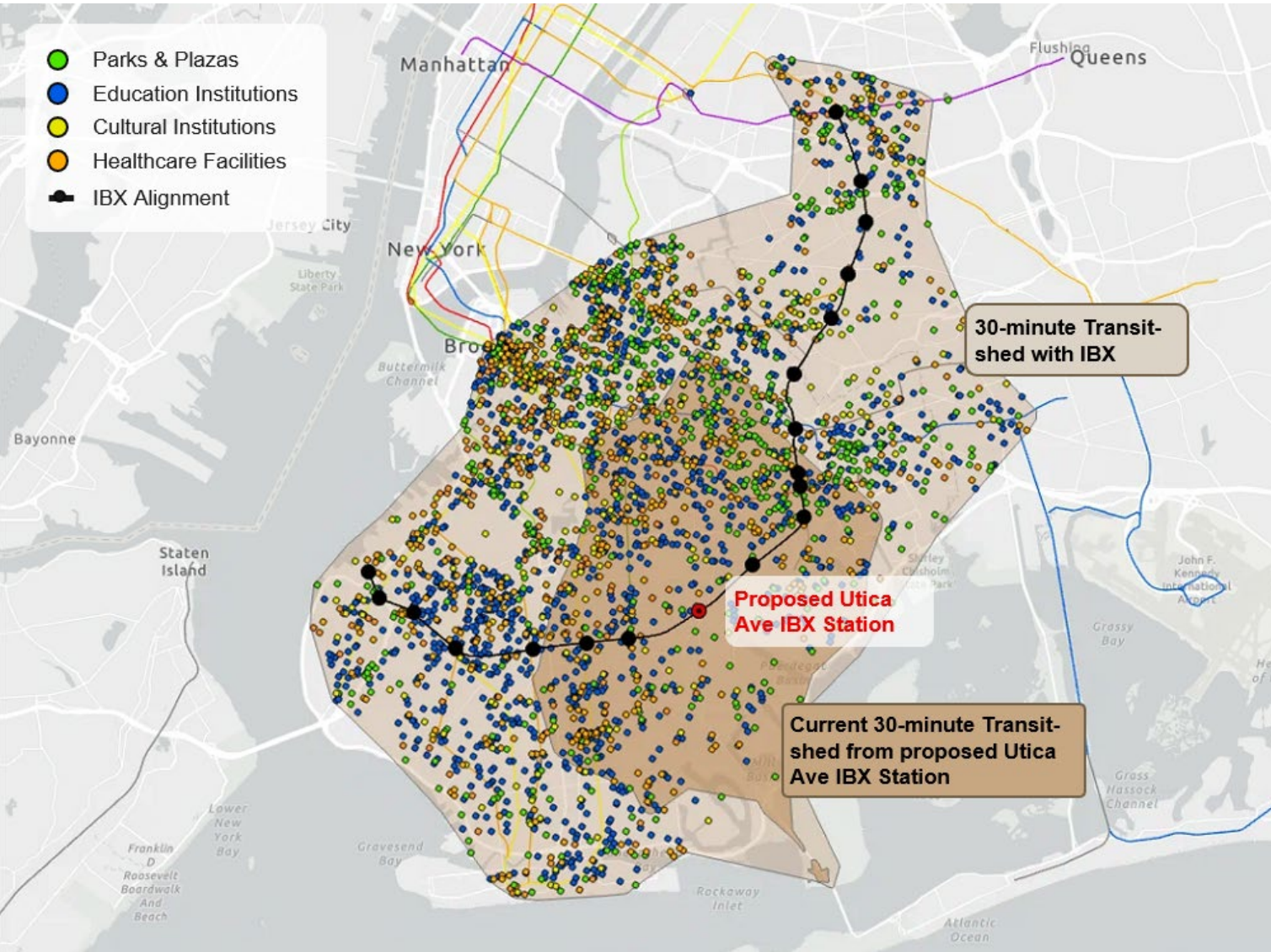
Access to Opportunity: Utica Avenue



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
 - Coney Island
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - Long Island City
 - Williamsburg

Access to Opportunity: Utica Avenue



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

4.4x jobs

From 203K to 892K

2.8x healthcare facilities

From 324 to 899

4.5x higher education institutions

From 4 to 18

3.2x daycare & pre-K

From 505 to 1,620

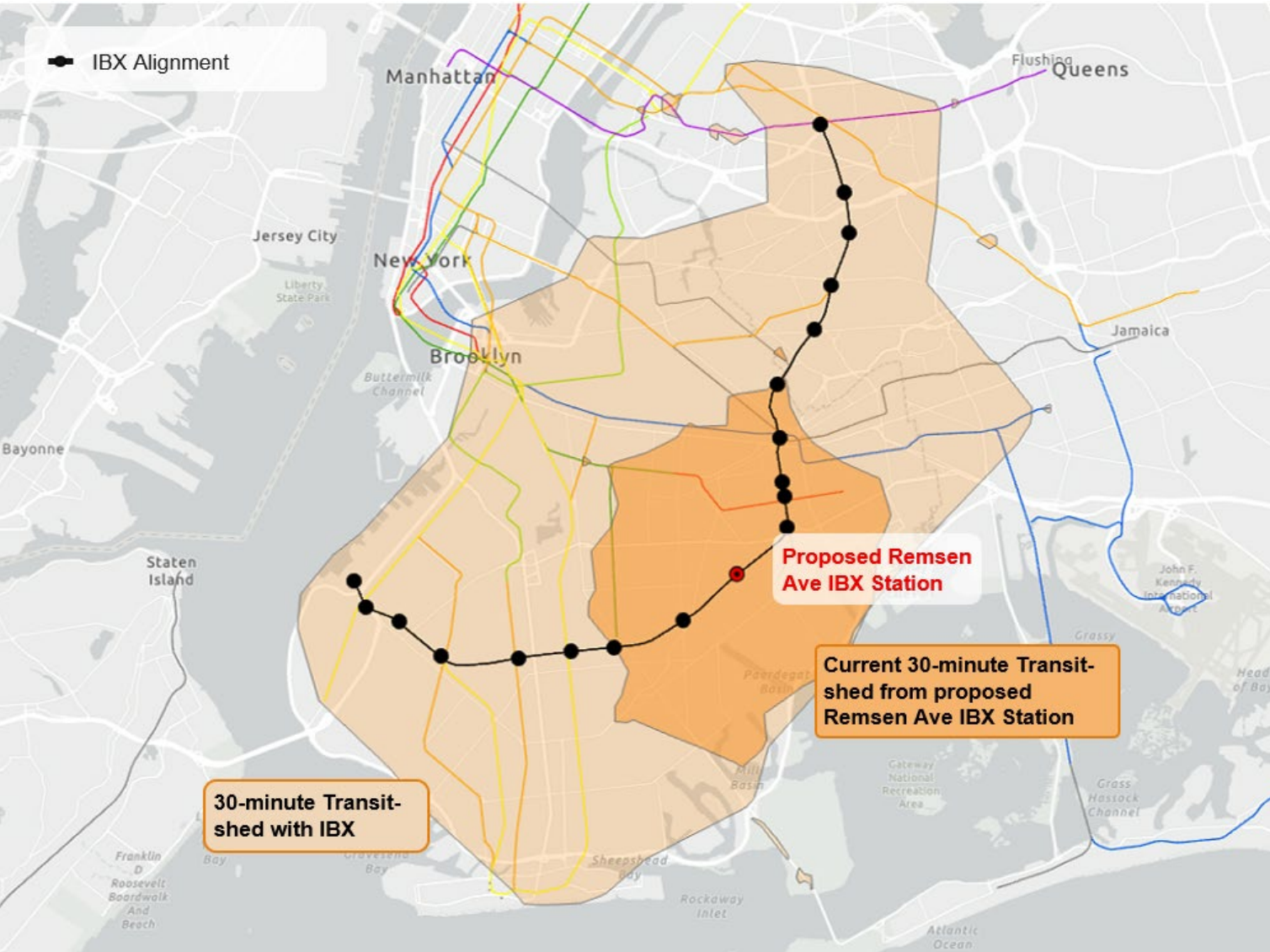
4.2x cultural institutions

From 105 to 445

3x working age population

From 741K to 2.3M

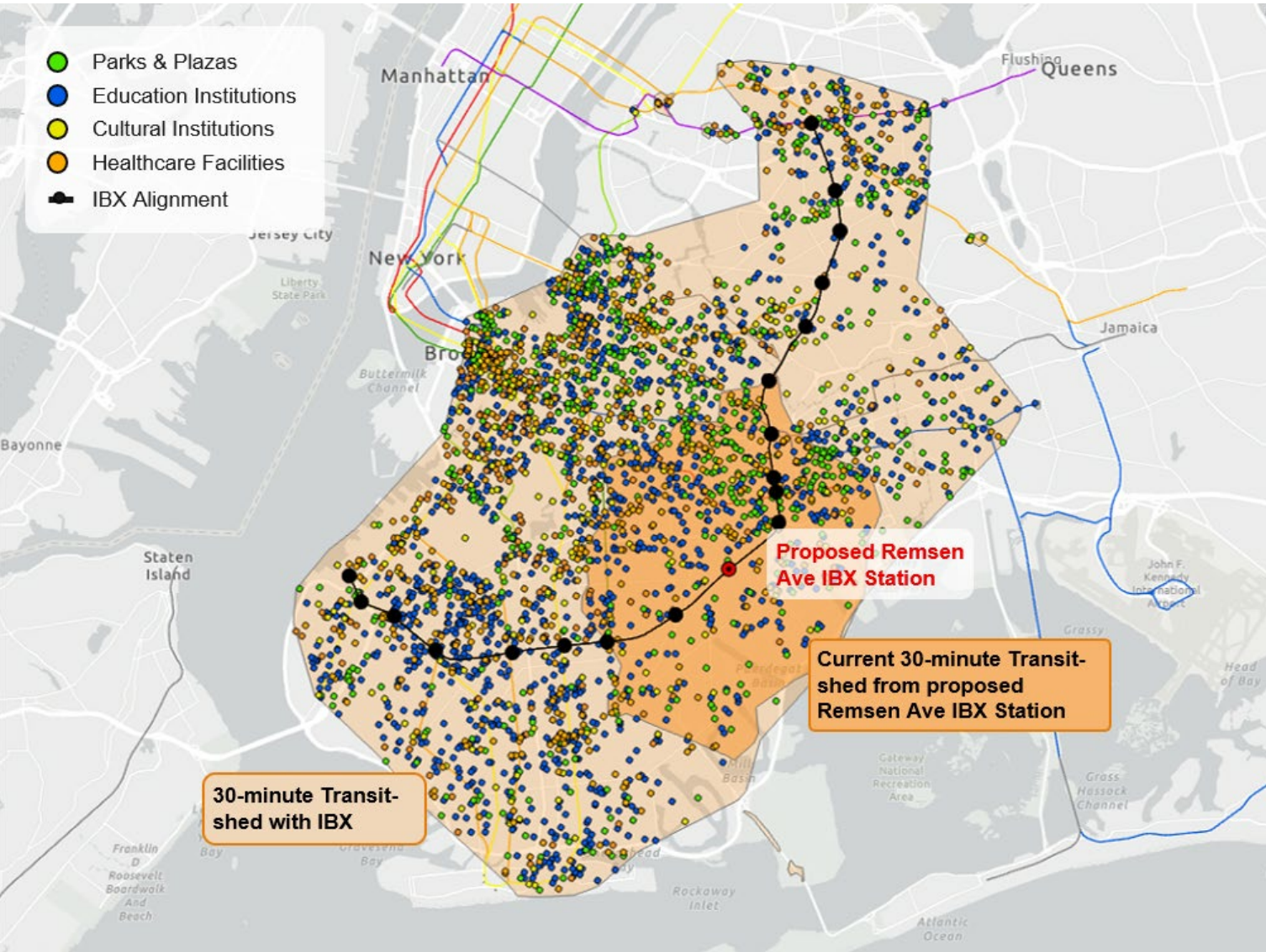
Access to Opportunity: Remsen Avenue



IBX **more than quadruples** 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
 - Coney Island
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - DUMBO
 - Long Island City
 - Williamsburg

Access to Opportunity: Remsen Avenue



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

7.5x jobs

From 126K to 941K

4.1x healthcare facilities

From 228 to 928;

19x higher education institutions

From 1 to 19

5.2x daycare & pre-K

From 328 to 1,692

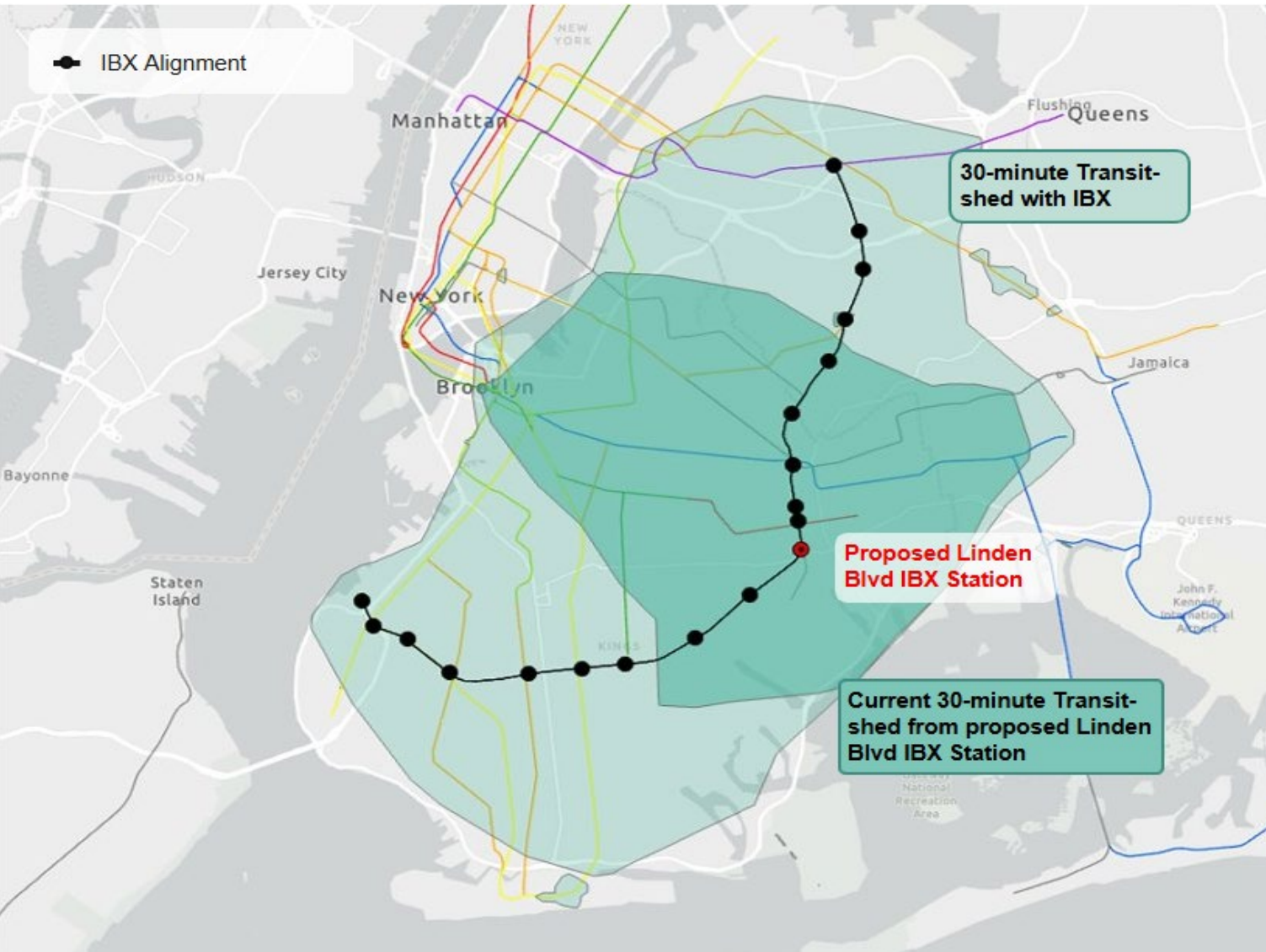
8.2x cultural institutions

From 57 to 468

4.8x working age population

From 439K to 2.4M

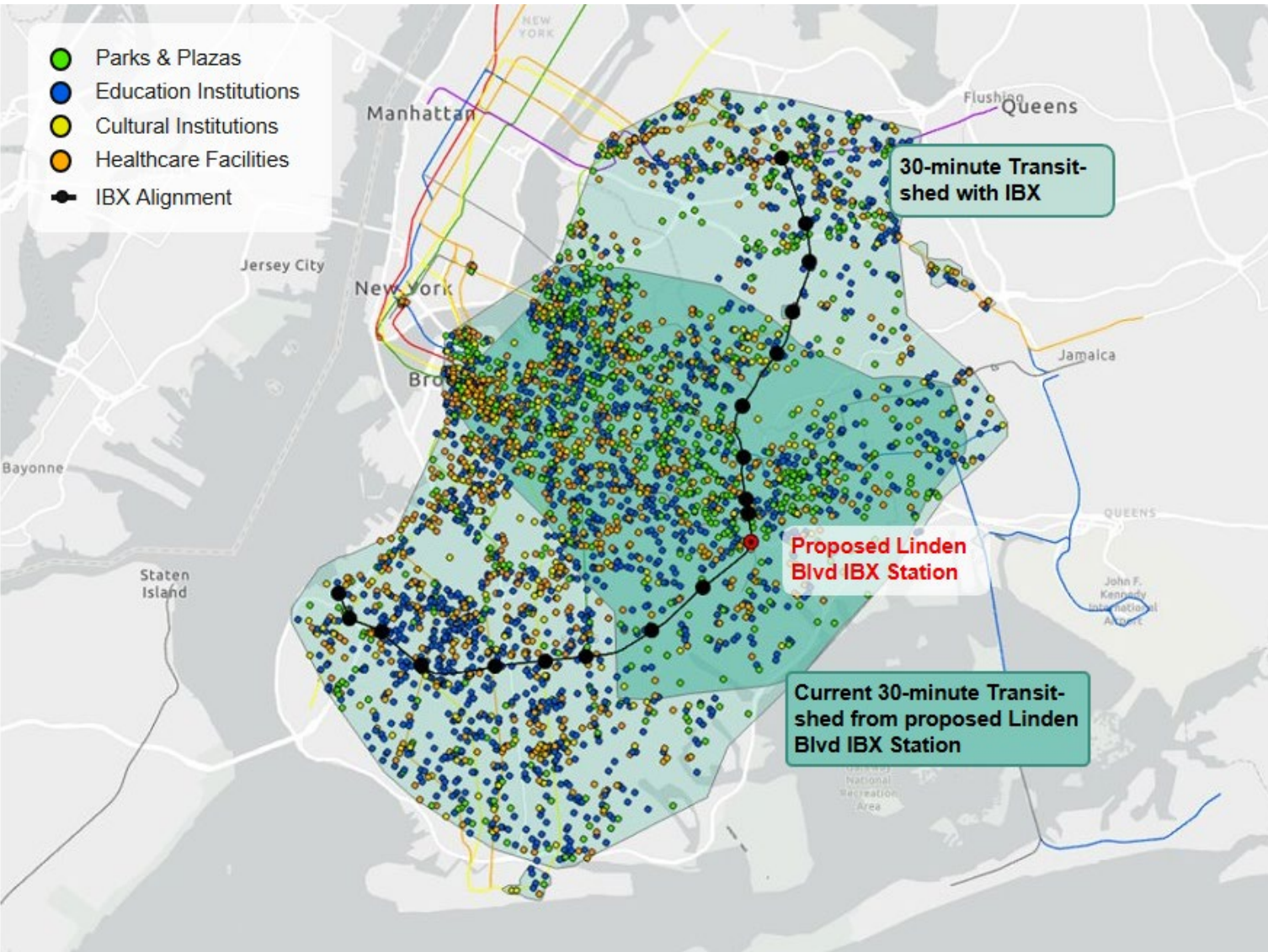
Access to Opportunity: Linden Boulevard



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
 - Coney Island
 - Downtown Brooklyn
 - DUMBO
 - Long Island City
 - Lower Manhattan

Access to Opportunity: Linden Boulevard



Residents and businesses near **Linden Boulevard** will gain access to:

2.5x jobs

From 414K to 1.1M

1.9x healthcare facilities

From 512 to 970

1.8x higher education institutions

From 13 to 23

2.4x daycare & pre-K

From 740 to 1,750

2.1x cultural institutions

From 258 to 546

2.2x working age population

From 1.2M to 2.5M

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

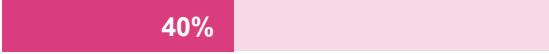


- MTA has retained Jacobs and HDR to **begin design** of the IBX project
- Design is a **two-year process** that includes three workstreams:

| Due Diligence | Civil Design | System Design |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys • Geotech • Environmental • Structure inspections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site work • Utilities • Structures • Track work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Brooklyn

- 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 |  40% |
| Surveying Models conditions in 3D |  45% |
| Structures Inspections Assesses integrity of nearby infrastructure, like bridges |  55% |



Soil Boring Operations within New York & Atlantic's Right of Way

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)

Vehicle Manufacturers



MTA is engaging with a deep pool of manufacturers to explore options for modern, state-of-the-art vehicles for IBX service

- Conversations with these manufacturers help MTA and their design team to understand **design requirements and performance** of different vehicle types
- **ADA accessibility**, rider comfort, and market availability are top priorities

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



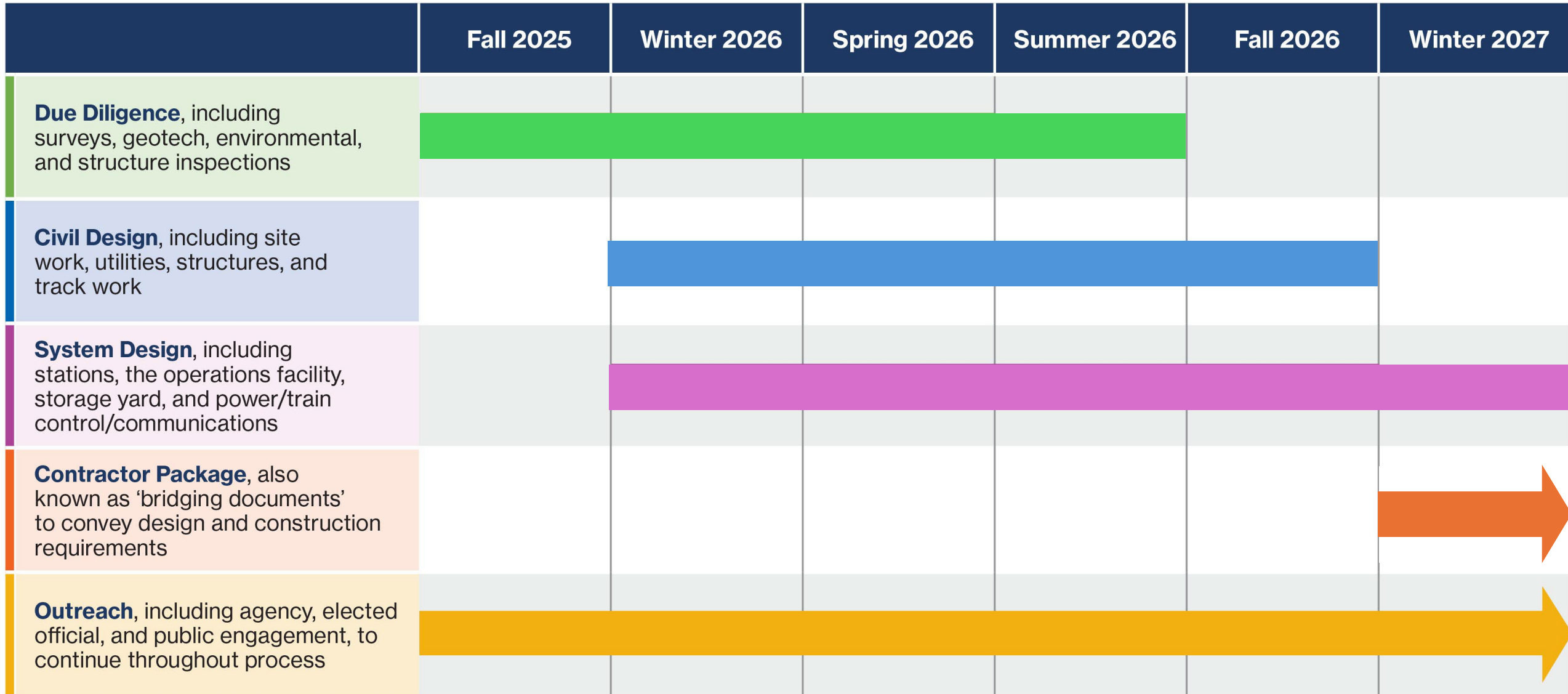
Upcoming Public Outreach



- 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!

