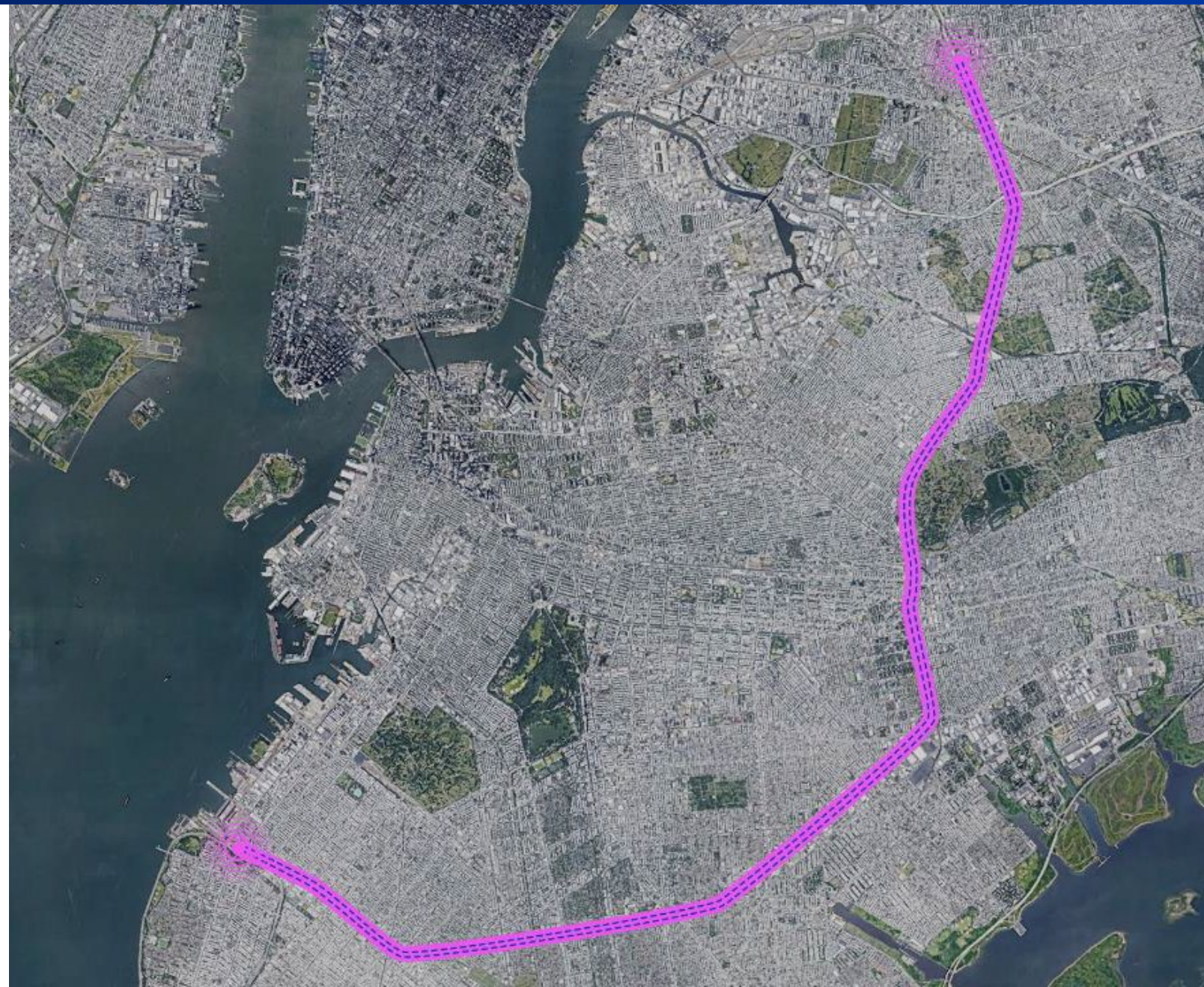
March 26, 2026

Interborough Express

Community Board Briefing – Brooklyn Community Board 14

MTA Construction & Development



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- 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

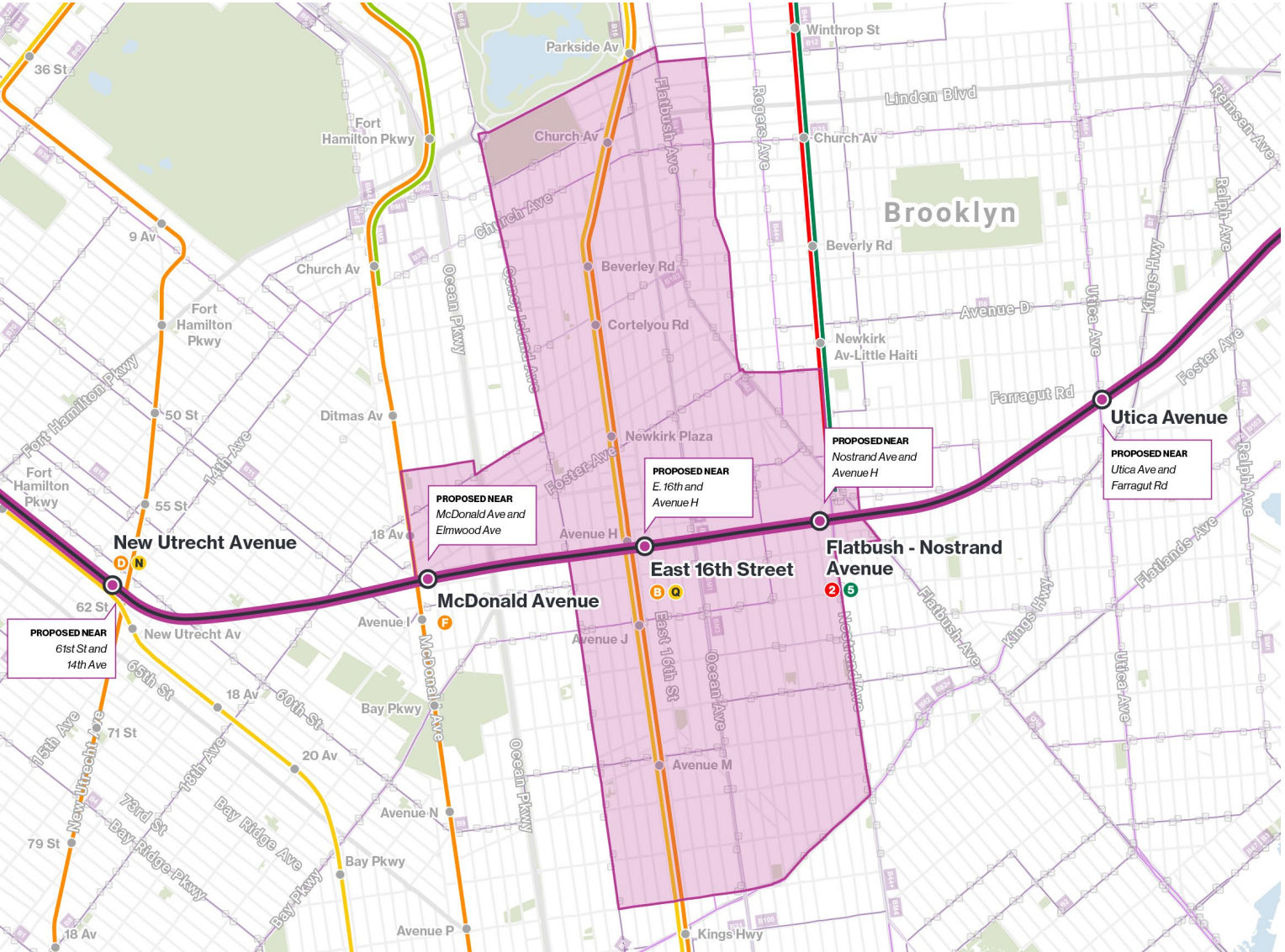
LIRR Connections at East New York & Woodside Avenues

160,000 projected daily weekday riders

32 min estimated runtime

Access to Opportunity

Brooklyn Community District 14



Brooklyn Community District 14 is currently served by:

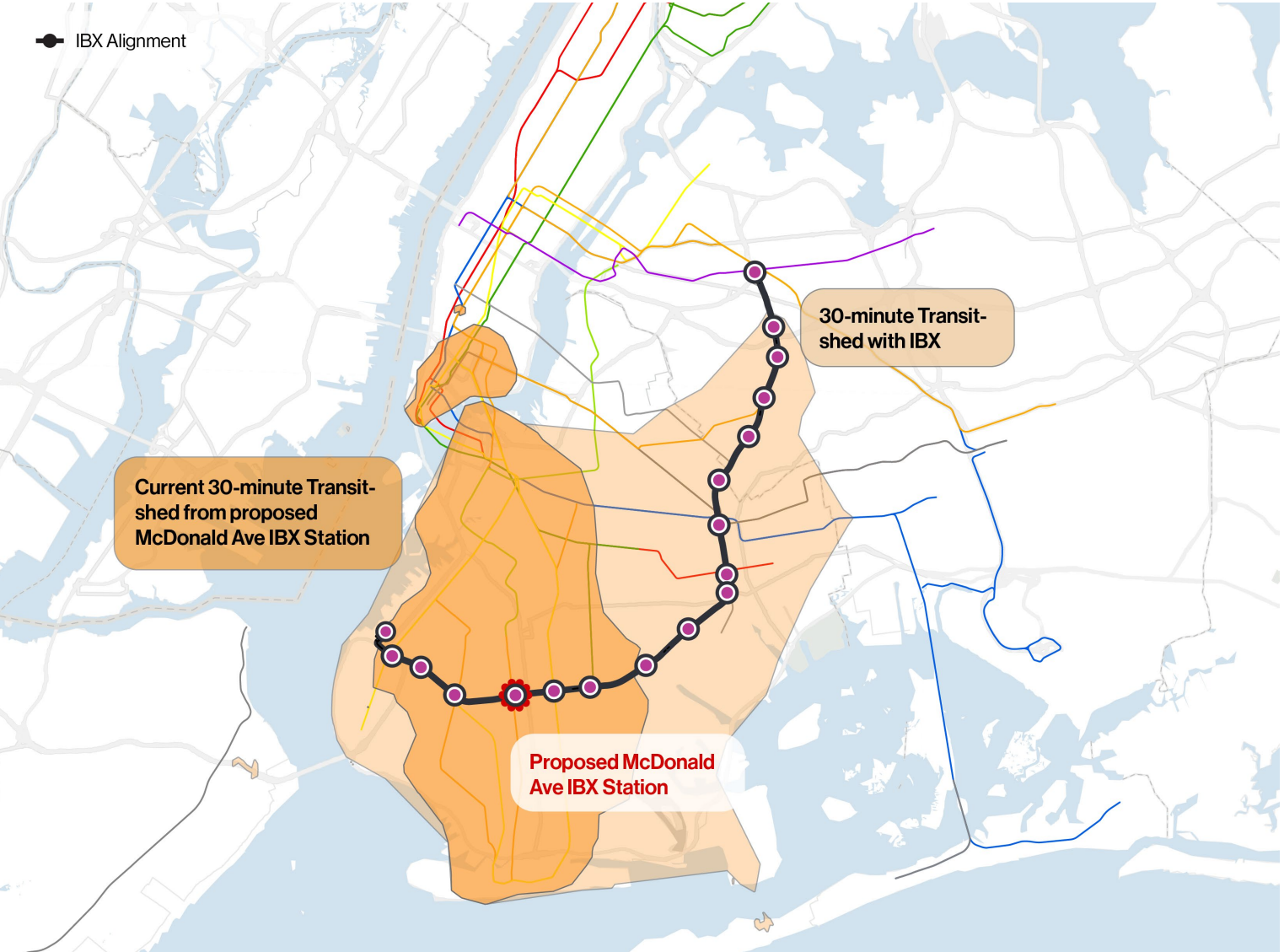
- **21** bus routes (B103, B11, B12, B16, B35, B41, B44, B44+, B49, B6, B68, B7, B8, B82, B82+, B9, BM1, BM2, BM3, BM4, Q35)
- Subway lines (**BFQ25**)

IBX will introduce **three stops** at:

- McDonald Avenue
- East 16th Street
- Flatbush – Nostrand Avenue

Exact station locations subject to change

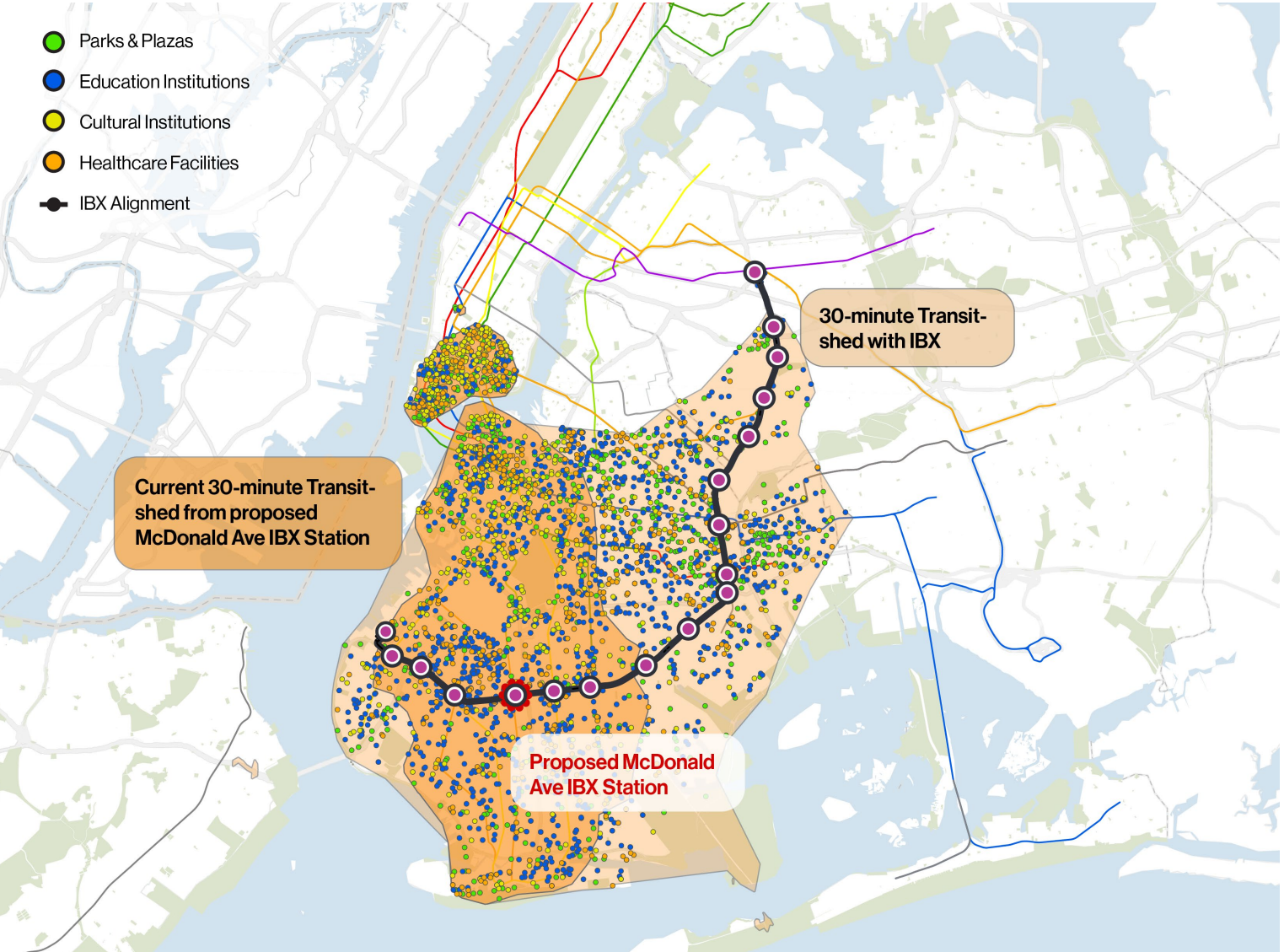
Access to Opportunity: McDonald Avenue



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:
  - Bay Ridge
  - Far Rockaway beaches
  - Jackson Heights
  - Sunset Park

Access to Opportunity: McDonald Avenue



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

2.1x jobs
From 510K to 1.1M

2.2x healthcare facilities
From 435 to 1K

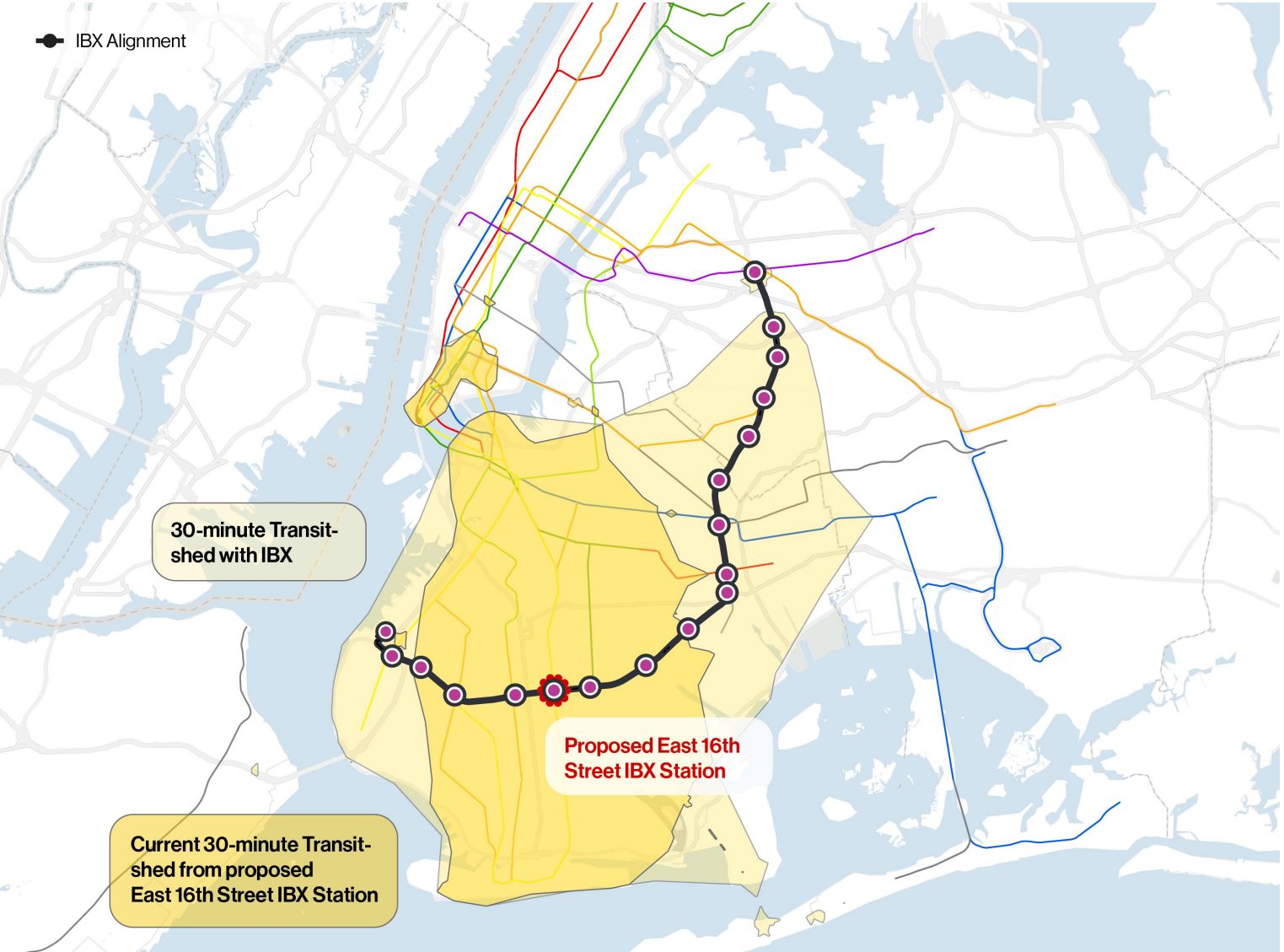
2.2x higher education institutions
From 15 to 33

1.9x daycare & pre-K
From 854 to 1,616

2.4x cultural institutions
From 301 to 708

2.1x working age population
From 1.3M to 2.8M

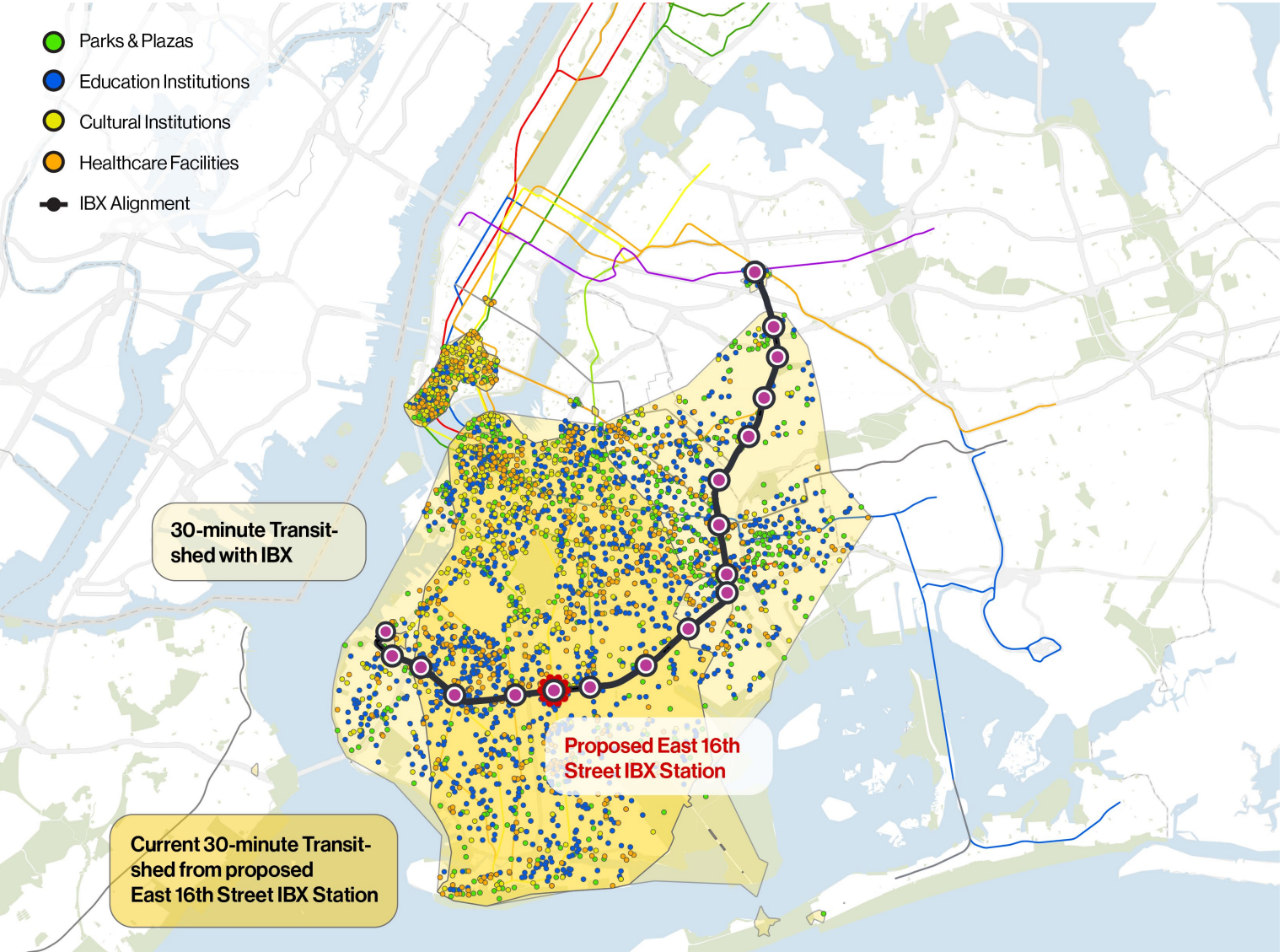
Access to Opportunity: East 16th Street



IBX **almost 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** span as far north as Jackson Heights and as far south as the Rockaways

Access to Opportunity: East 16th Street



Residents and businesses near **East 16th Street** will gain access to:

1.4x jobs
From 764K to 1.1M

1.4x healthcare facilities
From 705 to 985

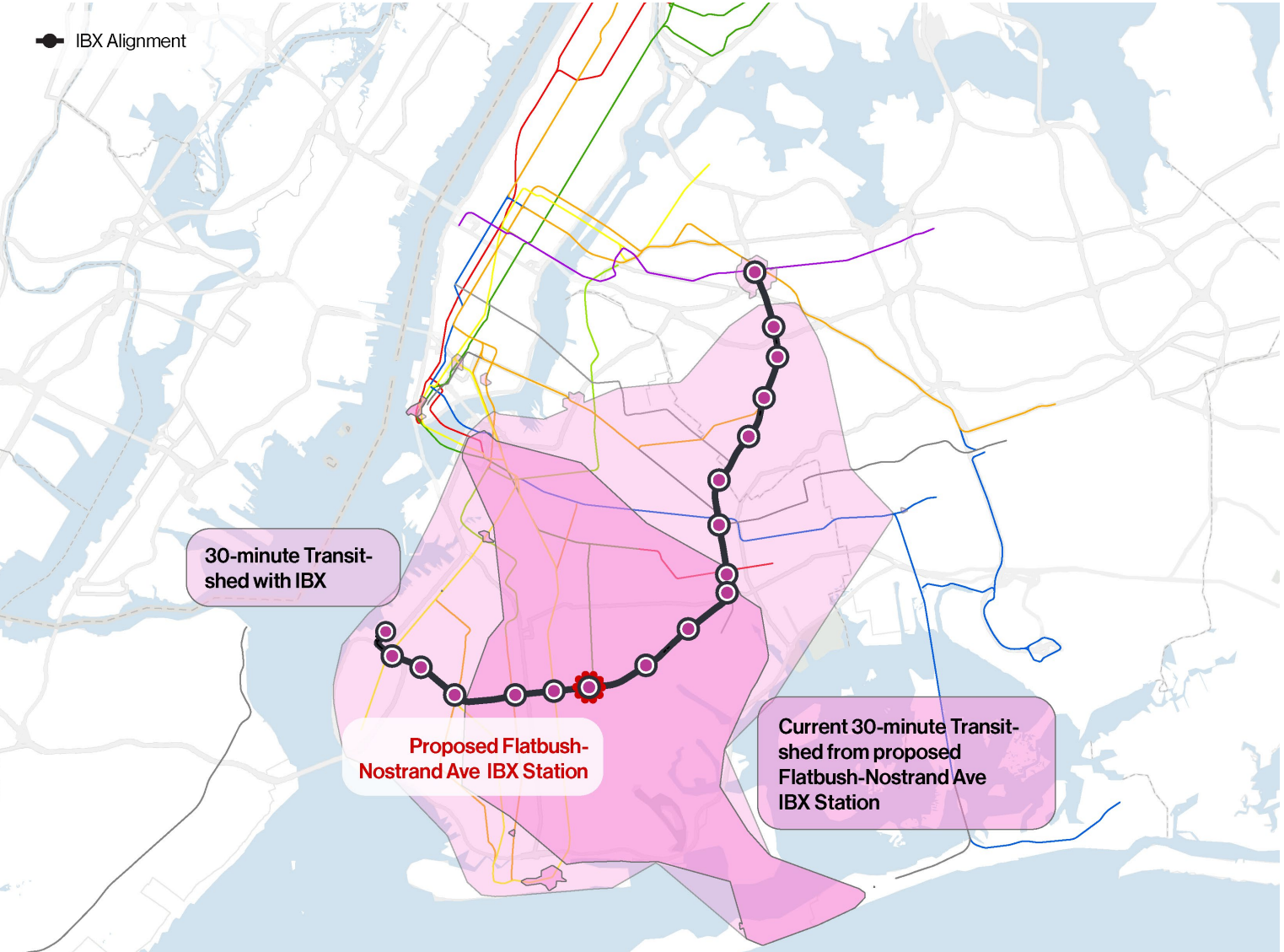
1.1x higher education institutions
From 27 to 30

1.4x daycare & pre-K
From 1,135 to 1,598

1.2x cultural institutions
From 525 to 644

1.6x working age population
From 1.8M to 2.8M

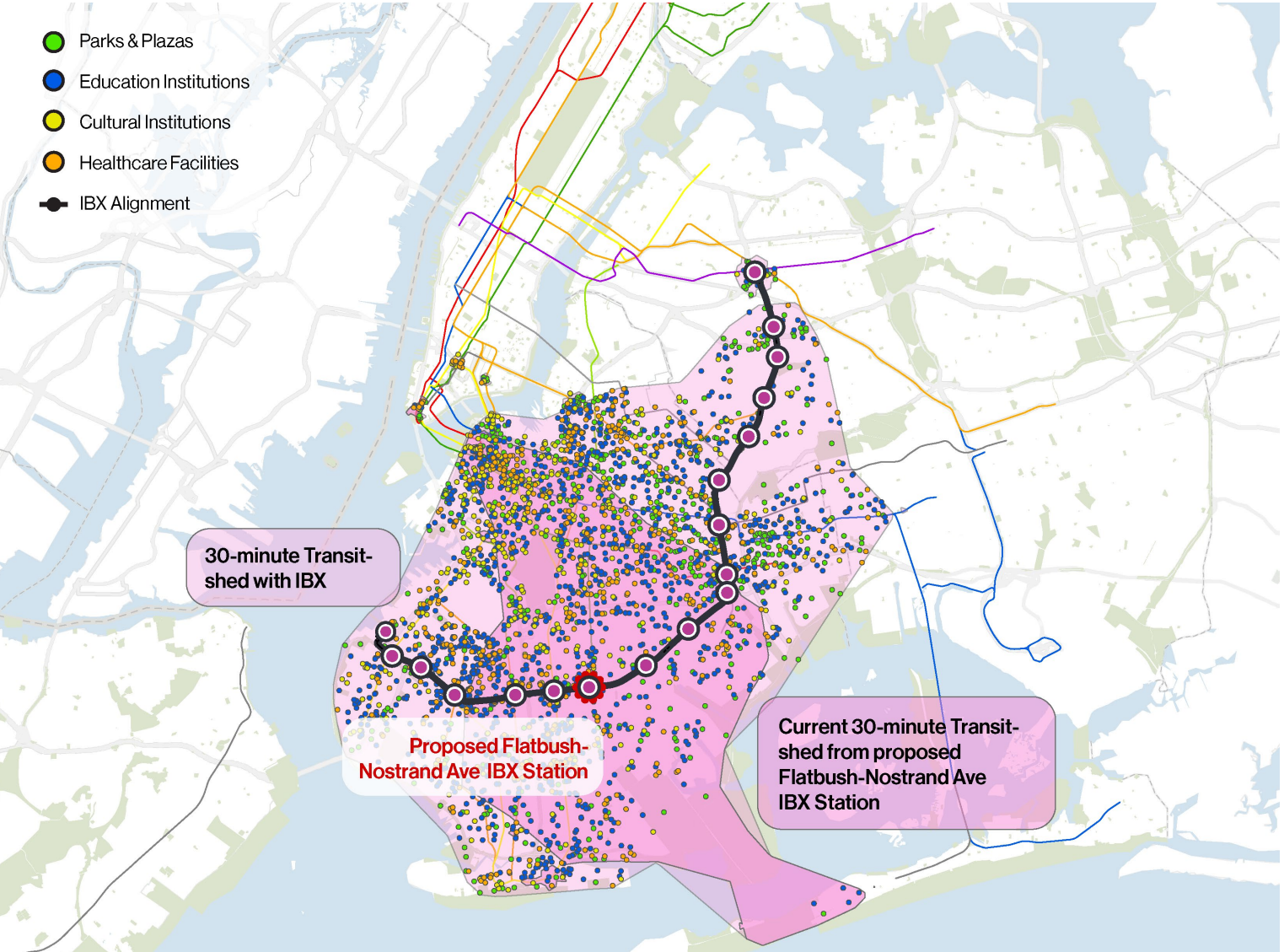
Access to Opportunity: Flatbush-Nostrand Avenue



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:
  - Bay Ridge
  - Brooklyn waterfront
  - Jackson Heights
  - Park Slope
  - Sunset Park
  - Sheepshead Bay

Access to Opportunity: Flatbush-Nostrand Avenue



Residents and businesses near **Flatbush-Nostrand Avenue** will gain access to:

2.2x jobs
From 380K to 848K

2x healthcare facilities
From 454 to 887

1.6x higher education institutions
From 15 to 24

2.2x daycare & pre-K
From 735 to 1,582

1.9x cultural institutions
From 252 to 485

2.2x working age population
From 1.3M to 2.9M

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 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	95%
Surveying Models conditions in 3D	65%
Structures Inspections Assesses integrity of nearby infrastructure, like bridges	95%

Soil Boring Operations within LIRR Bay Ridge Branch

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

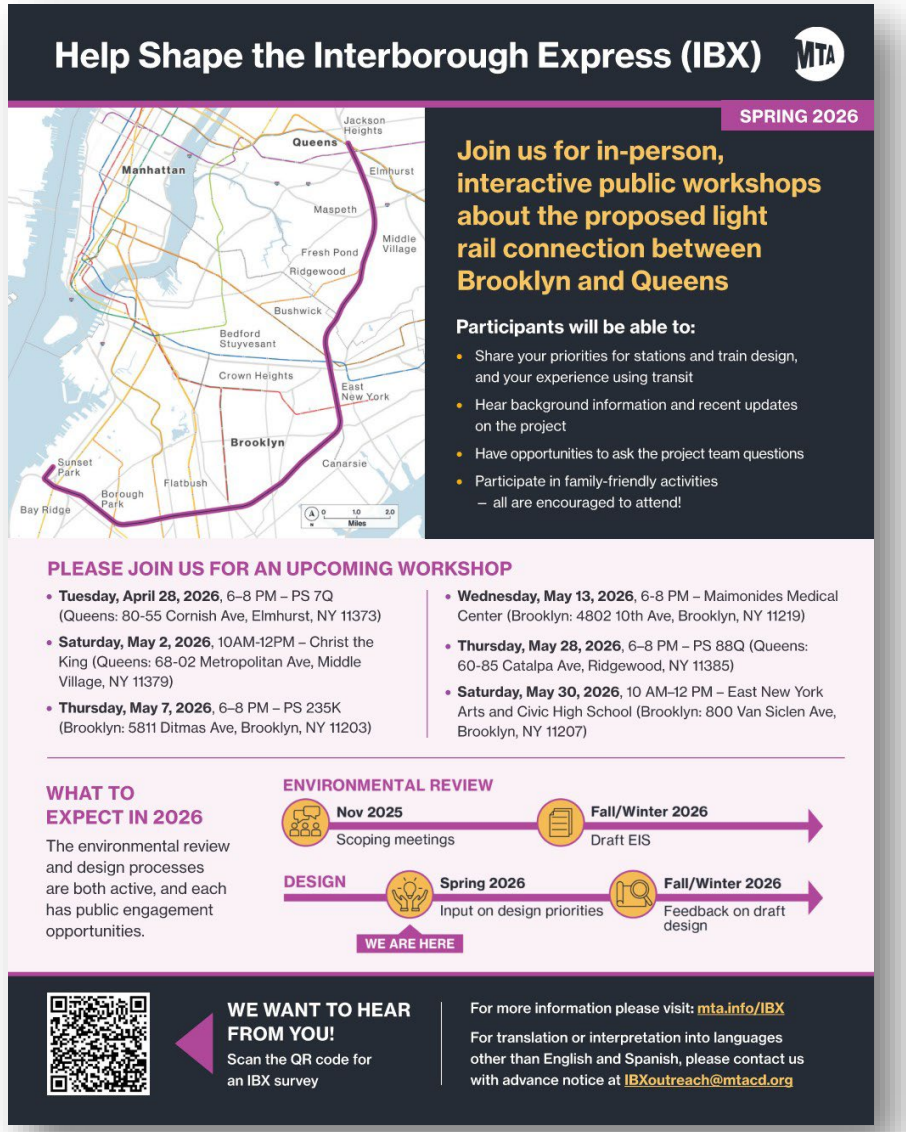
Upcoming Public Outreach

Open House at the Queens Public Library in Ridgewood

- 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

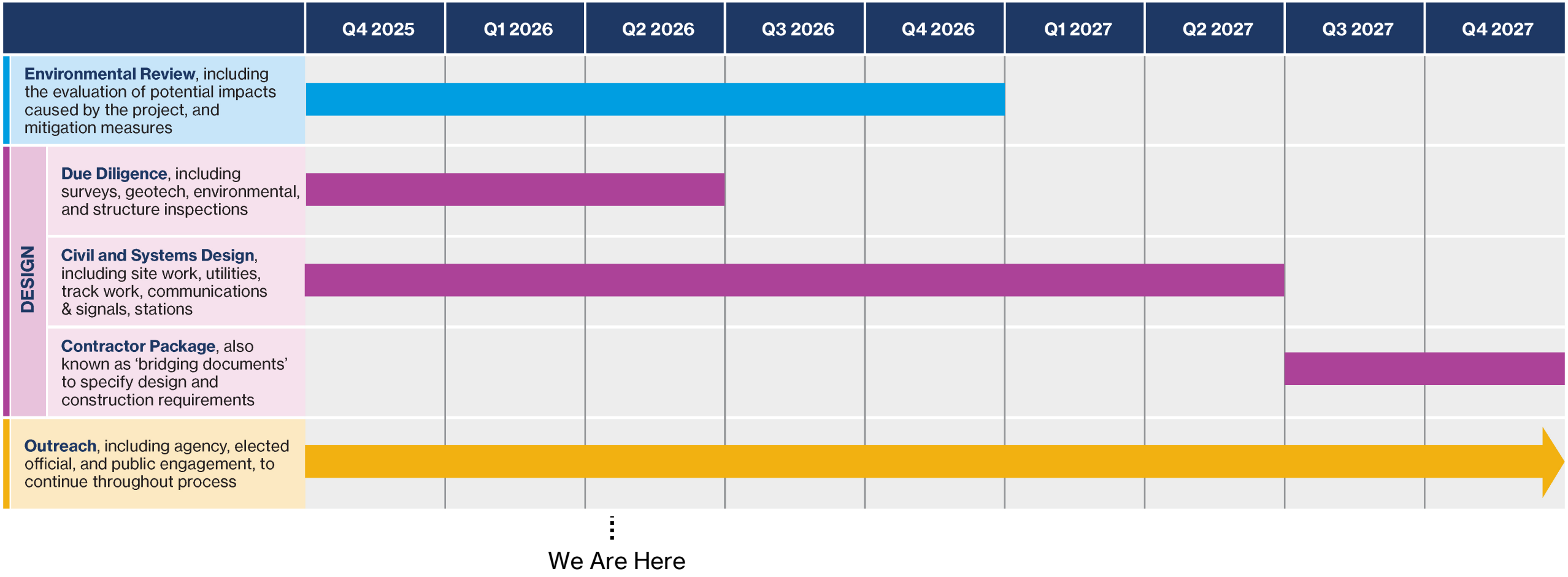
Upcoming Public Workshop Dates

- 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)



Public Workshop Invite Flyer

Next Steps


Q4 2025
Q1 2026
Q2 2026
Q3 2026
Q4 2026
Q1 2027
Q2 2027
Q3 2027
Q4 2027
Environmental Review, including the evaluation of potential impacts caused by the project, and mitigation measures
DESIGN
Due Diligence, including surveys, geotech, environmental, and structure inspections
Civil and Systems Design, including site work, utilities, track work, communications & signals, stations
Contractor Package, also known as 'bridging documents' to specify design and construction requirements
Outreach, including agency, elected official, and public engagement, to continue throughout process
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!