

# Westchester and the New Transportation and Retail Economy

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# Transportation in Westchester County

- ▶ Many layers and modes
  - 3 Metro–North rail lines
  - Bee–Line bus system
  - Major roadways – Interstates, Parkways
  - Local roads
  - Cyclists and pedestrians
  - Transportation Network Companies (TNC's)
  - Private shuttles
  - Local taxis



# Bee-Line System



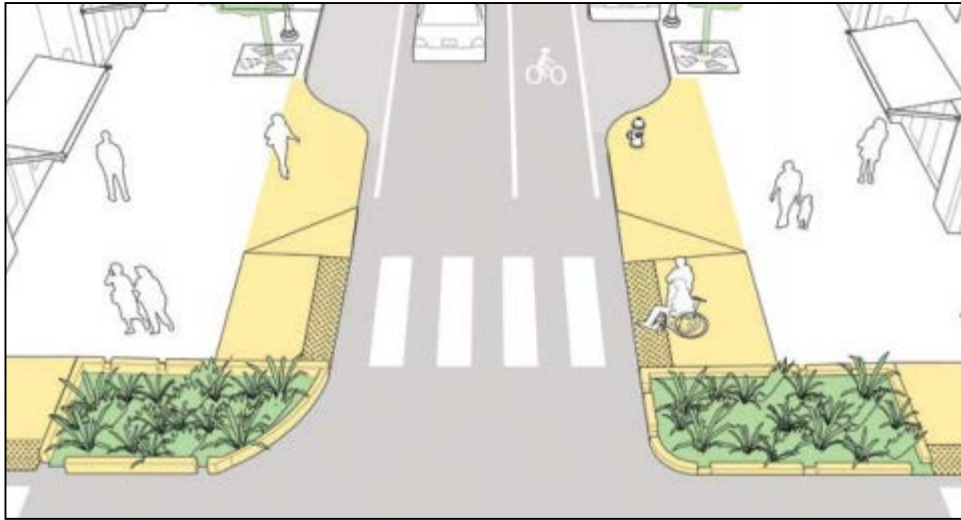
- ▶ Publicly owned, privately operated
- ▶ Began in 1970's, branded as Bee-Line in 1987: maps, fares and routes coordinated
- ▶ Utilize federal and state funds
- ▶ 325 buses
- ▶ Over 59 routes
- ▶ 3,300 bus stops with 300 shelters
- ▶ Annual passengers: 27.4 million in 2018
- ▶ Average daily ridership: 100,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in NYS)
- ▶ Service to Bronx subways and into Putnam Co.

# Current Mobility Trends

- ▶ Increase in Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.)
- ▶ Decline of traditional retail
- ▶ Relatively low gas prices
- ▶ Relatively low cost of owning a car
- ▶ Contributing to:
  - Nationwide decline in transit ridership
  - Increase in traffic

The Uber logo, consisting of the word "UBER" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a black rectangular background.

# Some local solutions





# First/Last Mile Strategies

- ▶ Improve access at the beginning or end of a trip to access a rail station or bus stop
- ▶ Increase transit use and reduce vehicle trips
- ▶ Reduce parking demands at rail stations
- ▶ Reduce car ownership
- ▶ Better use of valuable land at stations and in downtowns



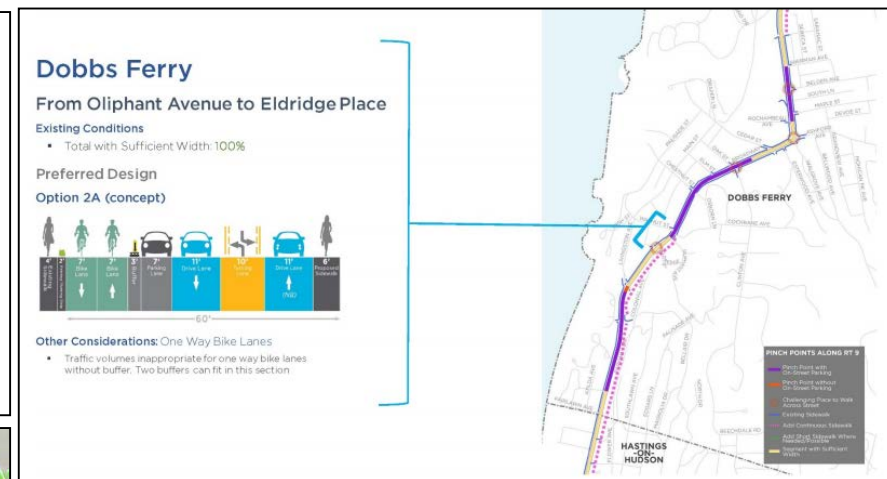
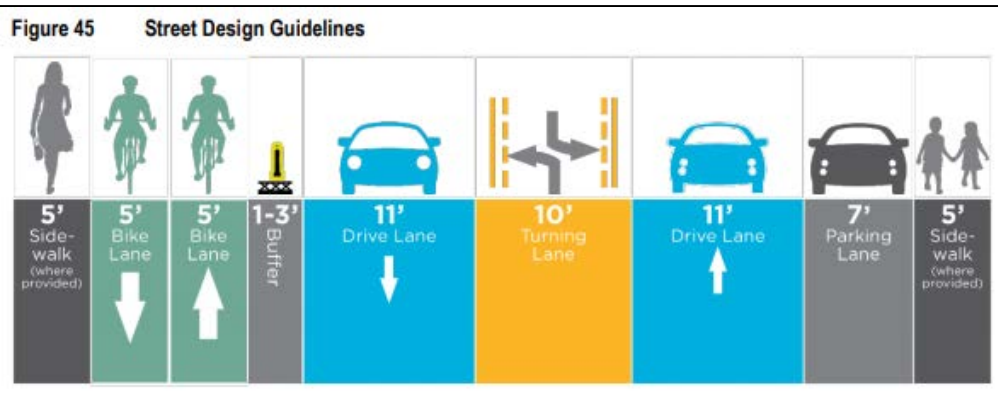
# Complete Streets

- ▶ Safe access for all
- ▶ Transit enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian connections



# Complete Streets

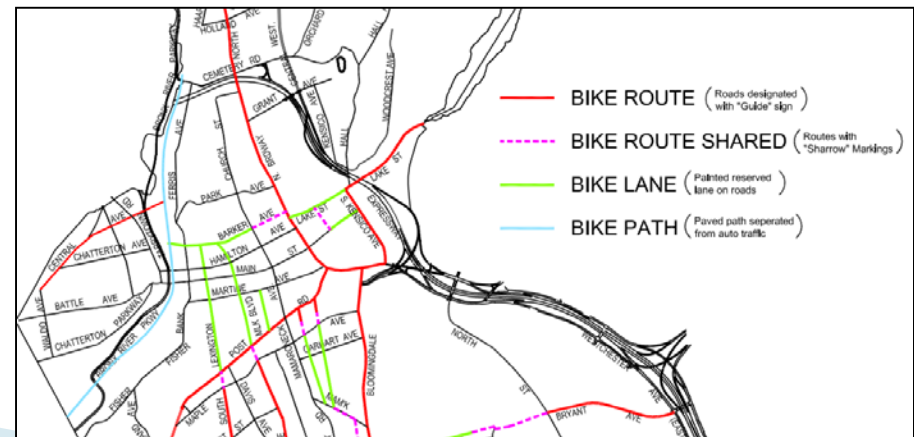
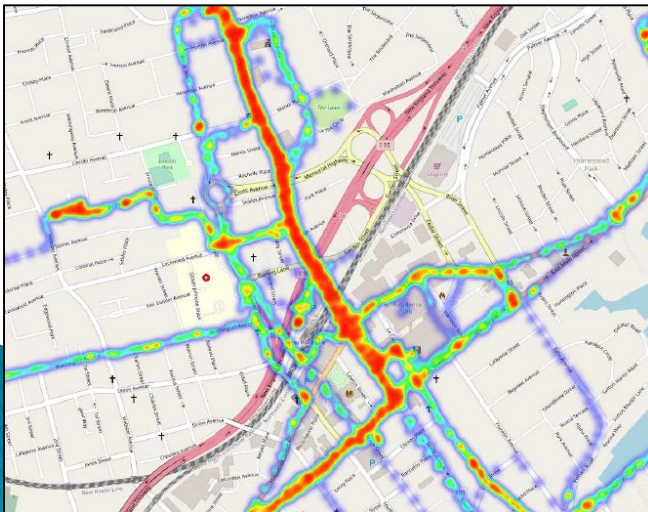
- ▶ Route 9 Active Transportation Conceptual Design Plan, 2018
- ▶ Hastings-on-Hudson to Sleepy Hollow





# Bike Sharing

- ▶ Use smart phone apps – payment and tracking
- ▶ New Rochelle, White Plains and Yonkers
- ▶ Docking Stations or Dockless
- ▶ E-bikes
- ▶ Scooters???



# Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) – Definition

- ▶ A person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other entity that is licensed and operating in New York state exclusively using a digital network to connect transportation network company passengers to transportation network company drivers who provide TNC prearranged trips. (*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law § 1691*)



UBER

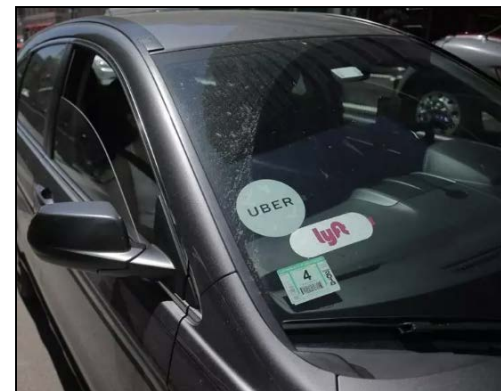
uberPOOL



LYFT LINE

# Possible help for transit?

- ▶ Connections to train stations and bus stops (“First/Last Mile” connections)
- ▶ Replacement of under-utilized fixed route bus service
- ▶ Off-peak jobs access
- ▶ Market expansion – beyond fixed routes
- ▶ Paratransit solutions



# Challenges?

- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act
- ▶ Equity Concerns
- ▶ Operating arrangements/vehicle constraints
- ▶ Data sharing
- ▶ Labor union issues
- ▶ Potential negative externalities
  - Increase in traffic
  - Decline in transit ridership





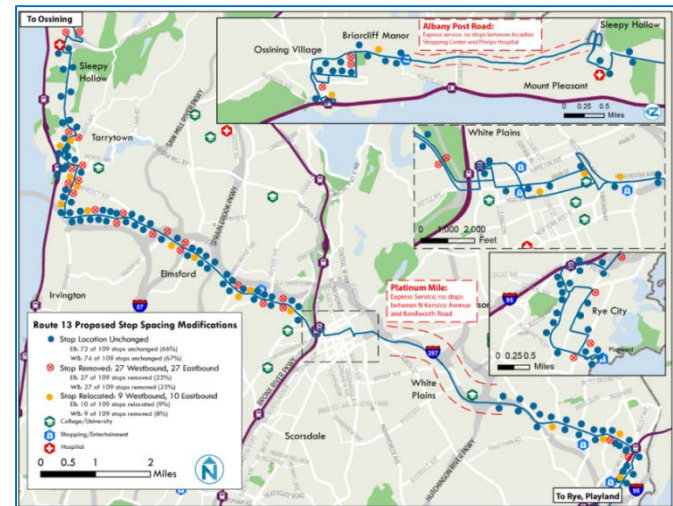
# Lessons Learned from other TNC Partnerships

- ▶ Can complement current transit service
- ▶ No “one size fits all model” exists; best practices continue to evolve
- ▶ Close coordination with municipalities is essential



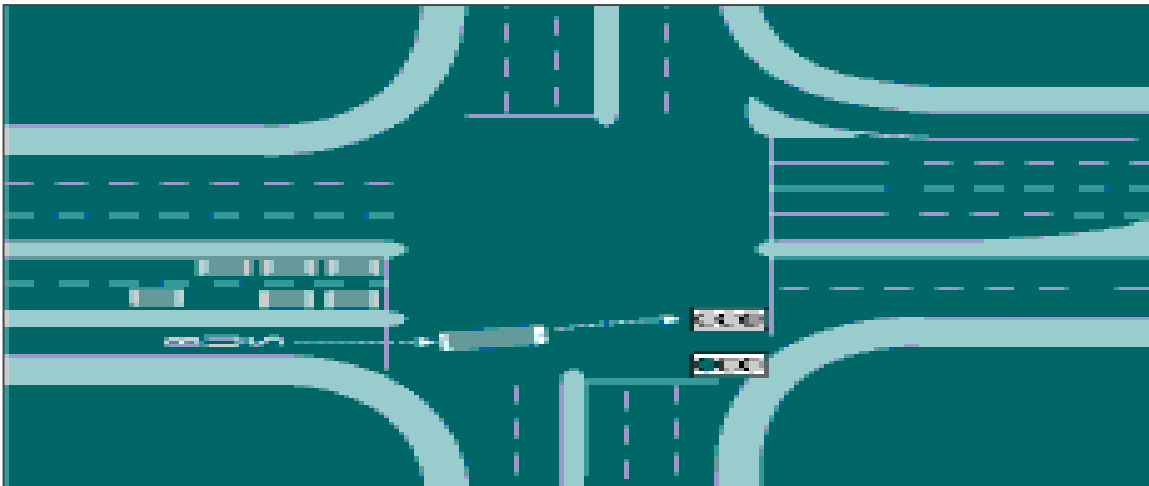
# Making Our Transit Work Better

- ▶ Recent Studies
  - Route 7
  - Route 13
  - Getty Square/Bronx
- ▶ Bus stop consolidations, relocations and removals
- ▶ Rerouting buses, changes in service patterns
- ▶ Improved wayfinding



# Transit Signal Priority

- ▶ Central Avenue Corridor
- ▶ Gives buses a time advantage over other traffic



# County Mobility and Bus Redesign Study (2019–2020)

- ▶ “Clean Slate” approach to identifying mobility needs
- ▶ Analysis of alternatives to fixed route transit
  - Demand responsive
  - Deviated service (non–fixed routing)
  - TNC partnerships
  - Bike sharing, car sharing
  - Micro–transit (partnership with local transit providers)





# Sustainability and Resiliency

- ▶ Hybrid and electric buses
- ▶ EV charging stations
- ▶ Smart Growth & Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- ▶ Hazard mitigation planning



# Electric Vehicles – local issues and opportunities

- ▶ Charging stations at train stations, parking facilities
- ▶ Partnerships with Utilities – NYSERDA
- ▶ Adjusting Codes
  - Required or Incentives
  - Permitted Use in Zoning
- ▶ Streamlining of Permitting
- ▶ Design recommendations
  - Signage
  - Location



Thank you!

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