



NYPIRG
Straphangers
Campaign

PRESS RELEASE

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Straphangers Campaign Hosts Bus Lane Painting Party

Transit Advocates, Students, and Elected Officials Celebrate Mayor Adams, MTA, and DOT Plans for 20 Miles of New Bus Lanes and Busways This Year

With paint brushes in hand, college students, transit advocates, and elected officials celebrated Bus Lane Painting Season outside City Hall. The painters celebrated the details just released from Mayor Adams, the MTA, and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) around the neighborhoods that will see 20 new miles of bus lanes and busways in 2022.

The welcomed collaboration between the Mayor's Administration and transit agencies to start painting new bus lanes and busways will mean faster commutes, less wait times, and better transit access in underserved communities.

"Where new bus lane mileage lands at the end of the year is a critical litmus test on the Administration's commitment to meeting its 150 miles by 2025 goal. The new details for 20 miles of bus lanes and busways in 2022 mark a strong commitment by the Adams Administration, MTA, and DOT to improving the City's buses. We are excited for paint to start hitting the streets," said **Megan Ahearn, NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign.**

Bus lanes and busways speed up commute times, are critical transit improvements for communities underserved by the subway system, and can be installed quickly and affordably compared to subway expansions. They must be installed during warm weather months: The season is upon us.

As the event unfolded, large paper renderings of 21st Street in Astoria, Queens and Fordham Road and Gun Hill Road in the Bronx were rolled out and painted red to re-envision the streets with bus lanes and busways rather than congested with passenger cars. The painters were also joined by City Councilmember Gale Brewer and City Councilmember Sandy Nurse.

"We want to thank the Adams Administration for passing a budget that included \$904 million over 5 years for the Streets Master Plan. Riders need better buses now and we're glad to know the city feels the same way. Not only do bus lanes and busways get riders to their destinations more efficiently and effectively, they're also inexpensive and quick to install. Mayor Adams has

committed to giving us 150 miles of bus lanes by 2025 - to meet that goal, it's important to move quickly. So thank you for getting started now," **said Cecilia Ellis, NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign Coordinator.**

"For years bus riders have been put last on city streets," **said Jolyse Race, senior organizer at Riders Alliance.** "Today we are excited to see a plan to improve the slowest bus system in the country. These projects will change the lives of working class bus riders who keep the city's economy running everyday."

"There has never been a more urgent time for the city to prioritize public transit as traffic congestion exceeds pre-pandemic levels. INRIX now ranks New York City as the most congested city in the country," said **Liam Blank, Policy & Communications Manager for Tri-State Transportation Campaign.** "We cannot afford to have buses and the millions of New Yorkers who rely on them stuck in traffic. New York City bus riders are predominantly low income, people of color and immigrants. These are people with the longest commute times, and who are experiencing the worst effects of the post-pandemic financial crisis."