



Canarsie Tunnel Repairs: Planning Ahead for the Crisis

Beginning in April 2019, the Canarsie Tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan will close for 15 months, affecting over **400,000 daily riders** of the L train, including 225,000 of who take the train through the tunnel, which will undergo necessary post-Sandy repairs. Another 50,000 riders right now use the L only in Manhattan.

New Yorkers will face major disruption, with an impact – including increased ridership on alternative routes – that will be felt far beyond the immediate corridors now served by the train. It will reach into Central Brooklyn, up and down the East River waterfront and crosstown in Manhattan.

Commuters will need to adjust their travel patterns. Seventy to eighty percent of L train riders are expected to replace their trips in part by using other subway lines, where service is being bolstered to accommodate the additional ridership. The MTA NYC Transit and NYC DOT have also jointly developed robust plans for L-Alternative bus routes (expected to carry 15 percent of L riders) and will also expand access to ferries (five percent), bicycles (1-2 percent), and for-hire vehicles.

The Canarsie Tunnel work will begin in approximately 16 months. The NYC DOT and MTA are closely collaborating on surface and subway transportation improvements to prepare for the crisis. The first stage of planning has identified the specific corridors and related transportation modes on which mitigating the disruption will rely. The next step will determine the timing and scope of each individual restriction and improvement.

1. About the Project

The Canarsie Tunnel was inundated with saltwater during Superstorm Sandy, causing the corrosion of cabling, power infrastructure and track equipment. While minor and emergency repairs were conducted at the time, a complete overhaul is needed to bring the tunnel back to a state of good repair.

As part of an extensive community outreach process, the surveyed public along the route preferred a shorter, full closure. After negotiating a better arrangement for its customers, the MTA announced the award of a contract for a 15-month full closure of the Canarsie Tunnel, including a \$400,000-per-day penalty for project delays.

MTA will take advantage of the Tunnel closure to perform critical maintenance, repairs and upgrades along the L line. This work includes:

- 1st Avenue & Bedford Avenue stations will become fully accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with elevators and additional stairs.
- Union Square station will receive station capacity enhancements, in design now.
- 3rd Avenue and 6th Avenue stations will receive platform repairs, ADA boarding areas, and track wall, column and floor repairs, in design now.

More information about the work being performed during the Canarsie Tunnel closure, including video of the affected area, is available at <http://web.mta.info/sandy/rebuildingCanarsieTunnel.html>.

2. Mitigation Approaches

Additional subway service and capacity

With most L train riders expected to seek other train lines during the Canarsie Tunnel repair work, the core of the mitigation plan is additional subway and bus service and capacity, to best deliver service on alternative subway options. The subway plan includes:

- Increased service on the G and JMZ lines; additional station turnstile, stair and control area capacity at numerous stations on the G, JMZ and L lines
- Longer G and C trains to increase capacity (C train lengthening is also part of the broader Subway Action Plan)
- Weekends and overnights, M will run to 96 St/2 Av
- Free MetroCard transfers between Broadway G and Lorimer-Hewes JMZ
- Free MetroCard transfers between 3 train at Junius St and L train at Livonia Av

Williamsburg Bridge: HOV3 and L-Alternative Buses

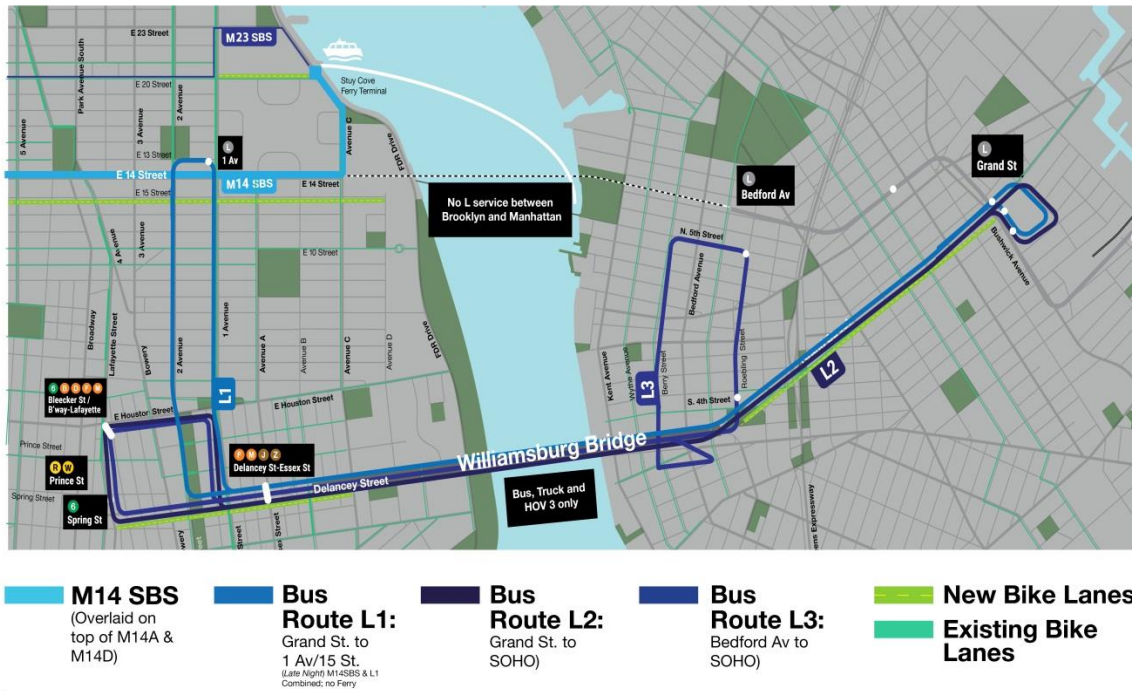
The Williamsburg Bridge will serve as the major connection for L-Alternative buses. In order to move buses quickly and not add to congestion, the City will implement measures to ensure reliable service. These include bus lanes that connect from the Grand Street Station in Bushwick and along the Brooklyn shuttle bus routes, over the Williamsburg Bridge, to and from Delancey Street and other key Manhattan connection points.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV3) restrictions will be added to the Williamsburg Bridge during rush hours at minimum, allowing more efficient movement over the bridge. HOV lanes were successfully used after 9/11, the 2005 subway strike and Superstorm Sandy. HOV-3 lanes, rather than HOV-2, are vital to both maintain viable bus speeds across the East River and to prevent an outsized shift of transit riders to for-hire vehicles that would lead to massive congestion at crossings.

Understanding concerns about traffic shifts to other East River Crossings, DOT will continue to analyze the impact of the Williamsburg Bridge restrictions on other crossings.

L Train Mitigation

Cross-River Transit Operations



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Mayor

NEW YORK CITY
DOT
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Commissioner

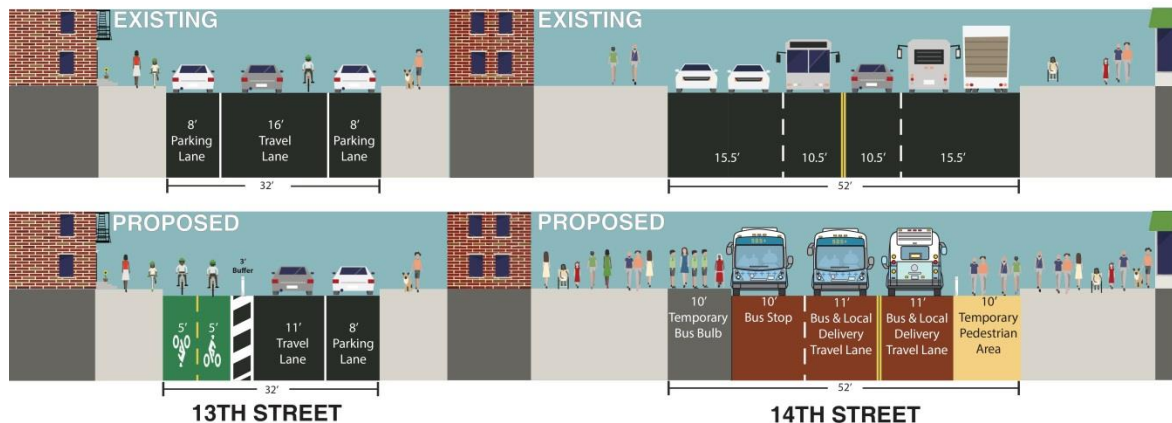
3. 14th Street Corridor Changes

No street will be more affected by the L Train disruption than [14th Street](#), and changes expanding access to pedestrians, bus riders, and cyclists will play a major role in moving L train riders quickly and efficiently.

“Busway” : *The core of 14th Street (3rd to 9th Avenues eastbound and 3rd to 8th Avenues westbound) will serve as an exclusive “busway” with rush hour restriction, with bus lanes and Select Bus Service (SBS) added there in the next year. An upgraded Select Bus Service treatment on [14th Street](#) will bring temporary bus bulbs, offset bus lines, sidewalk expansion and tens of thousands of square feet in new pedestrian space.*

L Train Mitigation: Bus & Bike Improvements

13th Street & 14th Street



Cycling: With the L closed in Manhattan, daily cycling volume is expected to double, and *DOT will add Manhattan's first two-way protected crosstown bike lane to 13th Street*. DOT will also create brand new pedestrian space on Union Square West from 14th to 15th Streets and 16th to 17th Streets and a pedestrianized street that features a new bike parking hub on University Place from 13th to 14th Streets.

4. Other connections and changes

Ferries, Citi Bike: The MTA will start a new ferry route connecting North Williamsburg to Stuyvesant Cove, which will be the terminus of the M14 SBS. DOT will also improve cycling connections to the Stuyvesant Cove ferry landing and East River Greenway, as well as a protected bike link this spring on Delancey Street between Allen Street and the Williamsburg Bridge. DOT will work with Motivate on its Citi Bike capacity to help service inconvenienced subway users, such as increased bike inventories and valet services to help move riders.

Grand Street, Brooklyn: DOT is looking to make major changes to a street that will serve as a major bus and bicycle corridor to the Williamsburg Bridge.

Subway Enhancements: DOT will also add new crosswalks, bike parking and pedestrian space to the Myrtle and Broadway corridors near the J/M/Z subway lines. With G train ridership expected to grow dramatically, DOT will improve crossings around the Nassau Avenue G train stop.

DOT and MTA will bring other safety and operational improvements to the affected areas that will benefit New Yorkers long after the Canarsie Tunnel reopens in 2020.

5. Next Steps – Further Public Outreach

About 40 public meetings have already been held to discuss the Canarsie Tunnel project and related mitigation plans, and more will continue as the planning continues to move forward. Elected officials are being briefed now, and further community meetings to present plans and receive more input from the public will be held starting next month.