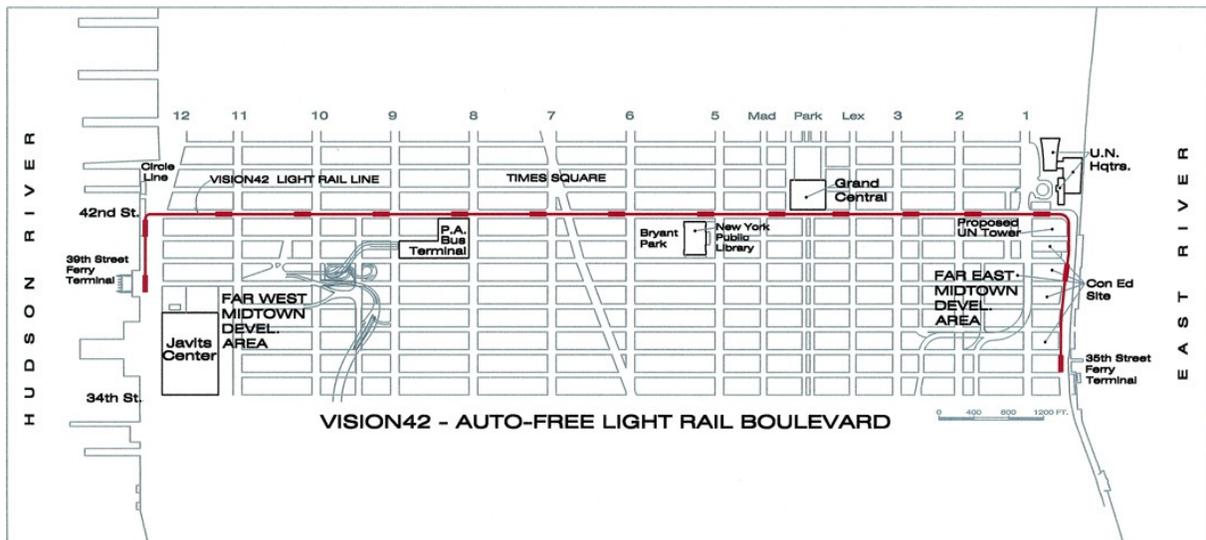


## Statement at September 21, 2015 NY City Council hearing on Citywide Ferry System George Haikalis, President, Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc.



The Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc. (IRUM) is a NYC-based non-profit concerned with reducing motor vehicular congestion and improving the livability of dense urban places.

IRUM urges the NY City Council to seriously consider including a 42<sup>nd</sup> Street light rail line – river-to-river, ferry dock-to-ferry dock, as an integral part of a plan for a citywide ferry system. A map of this proposal – **vision42** - is shown above.

The Manhattan Central Business District (CBD), by far the nation's largest, is an important economic engine for NYC and the entire the NY-NJ-CT region and is a key generator of public transit trips. Clearly good access to the core of the CBD is an important element in a successful ferry system. The Staten Island Ferry owes its utility to the valuable subway and bus connections at South Ferry.

A crosstown surface light rail on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street would allow passengers using ferries to reach important destinations that are a long walk from the city-owned waterfront ferry terminals at 39<sup>th</sup> Street on the Hudson River, and at 35<sup>th</sup> Street on the East River. While the Hudson River ferry terminal is an imposing new facility, the East River terminal clearly needs a major expansion.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street light rail line is estimated to cost a half billion dollars. It will greatly improve access to the many developments that line this renowned thoroughfare, boosting commercial and residential property values in the corridor by an estimated four billion dollars. Capturing a fraction of this gain would pay for the light rail investment, not even counting the enhanced value to a citywide ferry system.

As a second phase, the light rail line could be extending across 34<sup>th</sup> Street, creating a loop that would conveniently distribute ferry riders to much of Midtown.

IRUM urges the City Council to seriously consider this inland connection as an integral part of a citywide ferry system.