



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

October 18, 2007

[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

NYC Transit Increases Service on 7 Flushing Line and Canarsie L Line

Service increases slated for mid-December

Subway riders who rely on the 7 Flushing Line in Queens and the Canarsie L Line in Brooklyn and Manhattan should notice more elbow room and more frequent service starting in December. Service is being increased during the weekdays on both lines, and in the case of the L on weekends as well. The increases correspond to unprecedented ridership growth on these lines and address one of the top priorities from the Rider Report Cards on each line. Ridership has increased by 48-percent on the L since 1998 and 26-percent on the 7 since 1998. When asked, riders on both lines who responded to the Rider Report Card rated "Adequate room on board at rush hour" as their top priority for improvement.

"The historic growth on these lines illustrates their vital importance to the communities they serve, especially because they serve areas with little or no other mass transit options," said MTA Executive Director and CEO Elliot G. Sander. "We have responded to this demand and listened to our riders by investing in significant service improvements on both lines, especially during peak periods when trains are the most crowded."

Riders on the 7 line will see more service during the morning rush hour period between Flushing-Main Street and Times Square-42nd Street. Rush hour service, when both local and express trains run every two to two-and-a-half minutes, will now begin at 7:10 a.m. and end at 9:05 a.m. Previously, rush hour service began at 7:20 a.m. and ended at 8:50 a.m. During the a.m. peak hours, service on the 7 will increase by 8-percent.

Between 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Main Street-bound 7 local and 7 express service will operate every four to five minutes apart, instead of the current five to six minutes, a 25-percent increase in service. The plan is partially in response to what subway riders who responded to the 7 Rider Report Card asked for, namely adequate room on board at rush hour and reasonable waits for trains. In all, 10 round trips are being added to the 7 weekday schedule.

"Riders on the 7 line who responded to the Rider Report Card made it quite clear where they want to see service improved, and we are able to respond to that request," said MTA NYC Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr. "We've heard a similar message from riders on other lines, and while we're looking at what we can do to alleviate congestion I can't promise we'll be able to add service on every line."

Service on the L line is being added across the board on weekdays and weekends to respond to a larger than anticipated growth in ridership on the line. During the weekday morning rush hour, L trains will run approximately 3.5 minutes apart, instead of every four minutes. Manhattan-bound train trips will increase from 15 train trips to 17 train trips, a 13.3-percent increase in service. In addition, two trains are being added to the schedule during the "shoulder hour" between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. During the midday time period, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., L trains will run every six minutes apart instead of every eight minutes. In the evening hours, between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, L trains will run every five to 10 minutes apart instead of every six to 12 minutes.

"The Canarsie Line has seen a substantial growth in ridership since 1998, but the old signal system prevented us from adding the amount of service necessary to meet demand," said Roberts. "With the addition of more equipment on the line in the form of new R160 cars, and the completion of Communications Based Train Control (CBTC) signal installation, we can finally provide relief for our riders - especially in Williamsburg and Greenpoint where ridership has grown the most."

Like riders on the 7, L riders who responded to the Rider Report Card also asked for more frequent service. On Saturday, Midday L service will operate every five minutes apart between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., at all other times service will run every six to 15 minutes apart. On Sunday, L trains will operate every six minutes apart between noon and 9:00 p.m., and every eight to 12 minutes apart at all other times. All totaled, 23 round trips will be added to the L on weekdays, 30 on Saturday and another 34 on Sunday - the most service added to a single line in recent years.

These schedule enhancements will cost \$2.6 million per year, and are scheduled to take effect in mid-December.