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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

A Station Grows in Brooklyn New Myrtle - Wyckoff Avenue Complex Opens

\$50 Million Transit Hub for L & M LINES

For the past four years, there's been a gradual yet dramatic change in the landscape at the busy intersection of Myrtle and Wyckoff Avenues. Where a dated entrance to the L and M subway lines once stood, a new three story state-of-the-art transit hub has taken its place. With construction nearing completion, Elliot G. Sander, Executive Director & CEO of the MTA and NYC Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr. joined elected and community officials today to officially open the new station headhouse located on Wyckoff Avenue.

"This marvelous new station complex is truly a shining example of the MTA's Capital Rebuilding Program in action," said MTA Executive Director & CEO Elliot Sander. "With its beautiful mosaic ceiling and domed top, the Myrtle - Wyckoff Avenue transit hub will be a catalyst for economic activity and development in both the Bushwick and Ridgewood communities and provide the 14,000 daily riders who use this complex with a first class transportation hub."

Unlike many station rehabilitations, the Myrtle - Wyckoff complex is a brand new expanded station facility, constructed on newly acquired property which replaces a cramped and dark structure first opened in 1927. With its large and open spaces the new complex is more inviting. Improved stairway reconfiguration and sight lines throughout, provide for easier way finding and transfers between the elevated M platform and the L station below. The rotunda roof, which sits atop the three story building, allows light to fill the station mezzanine and shine down three stories, bathing riders in natural daylight. The complex also features natural ventilation provided by louvers so the building is essentially self climate controlled.

"I am truly impressed by the design and construction of this new facility," said Howard H. Roberts, Jr, President of NYC Transit. "It shows our riders that we take their comfort, safety and security seriously and I'm looking forward to seeing their reaction as they make their way through the complex."

Thick green bands separate each of the brick building's three stories and a canopy at street level protects riders from the elements. Lighting has been upgraded throughout the station complex, and the station features new communication systems and new interior finishes throughout. The elevated island M platform, originally built in 1917 has been reconfigured. The middle track has been eliminated and two side stairwells consolidated and made wider and more gradual. While many construction elements have been completed, construction will be on going in several parts of the station for several months.

The \$50 million project also features the incorporation of three new ADA elevators to provide handicap access to all platforms, mezzanine and street level. Those elevators will be installed and up and running by the fall.

Funding for the construction of the new Myrtle -Wyckoff Avenue station complex was provided by the Federal Transit Administration. In addition to the station complex, an intermodal facility that will provide weather protected waiting areas for riders as they make connections to various bus lines in the area will be built. The Project is currently in design, with a construction award planned for September. Construction is expected to take 17 months to complete.

Partial funding for the intermodal facility was secured by U.S. Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez (\$500,000) and NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (\$4 million) who represents the Ridgewood section of Queens. "We are thrilled to have this newly modernized transit hub which will give the people of our community access to school, work and Manhattan," said Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan. "The facility complements the economic development zone and will have positive long term effects. I served as the Assembly representative for the MTA Capital Program Review Board, advocating long and hard for money for this project and I am pleased to see it completed."

"The new design and accessibility improvements at the Myrtle-Wyckoff station are a direct benefit to the vibrant Bushwick community -proving, along with recently upgraded showplace facilities like the Flatbush Avenue and Stillwell Avenue terminals, that when it comes to building the public transit system of tomorrow, the MTA, New York City Transit and Brooklyn are moving us toward a safer, cleaner, faster future," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.