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Press Release

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NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit Launches Systemwide Inspection Of Platform Rubbing Boards

Due to concerns over the condition of platform edge rubbing boards in stations throughout the subway system, MTA New York City Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr. has ordered a comprehensive, line-by-line inspection beginning tomorrow.

Several teams are in the process of being created to perform visual and physical inspections of rubbing boards located at station platform edges. The rubbing boards, composed either of wood or fiberglass are affixed to the platform edges at all 469 stations to prevent the subway car body from coming into direct contact, and being damaged by, the platform.

The teams will be comprised of employees from System Safety, Maintenance of Way Engineering and Stations. Each team will be responsible for a full and thorough inspection, looking for loose, damaged and missing pieces of board and hardware. While repairs will be made immediately when and if problems are discovered, the information collected during these inspections will also be provided to the Inspector General of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Currently, if a platform edge rubbing board is found to be in disrepair during routine inspection, it is replaced. In 2007 NYC Transit's Station Maintenance Division replaced 9,599 lf (linear feet) of rubbing board along platform edges system-wide. In 2006 NYC Transit completed ADA platform edge replacements - which included replacement of rubbing boards at seven stations and completed 18 stations in 2007.

Clearly it is an issue NYC Transit takes very seriously, as we do with any other safety sensitive condition. Conversely, customers are reminded that standing or walking along the platform edge - whether in perfect condition or not - is behavior we consistently warn against as they could slip trip and fall on to the roadbed, or get brushed back or worse struck by a train entering the station.