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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

New York Transit Museum Presents Women's Roles in Public Transportation

The second program in the MTA 40th Anniversary Series

On Monday March 24 at 6:00 pm, the New York Transit Museum will present four women transportation executives in a panel discussion on women's roles in the traditionally male dominated transportation industry. The program is co-sponsored by The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, and takes place in Cooper's Albert Nerken School of Engineering, 51 Astor Place, in the Wollman Lounge. This is the second in a series of four programs commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Three female executives from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will discuss their experiences working in the transportation field, highlighting their rise to leadership roles and their perspective on the MTA's future plans. The program will be moderated by Rachel Weinberger, Assistant Professor of City & Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of expertise include land use/transportation interactions, travel demand forecasting, urban economics and analysis for transportation planning. She has worked on a wide range of transportation planning projects including master plans, parking policy studies, mobility and access plans, and adapting strategies of travelers after 9/11. Her degrees include Master of Urban Planning (Hunter College), Master of Transportation Engineering and Doctor of Urban and Regional Planning (University of California, Berkeley).

Of the panelists, Cosema Crawford is Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer for Capital Program Management at MTA New York City Transit. Ms. Crawford joined the MTA in 2001, where she oversees approximately 1,600 engineers and other professionals involved in Transit's \$2 billion annual capital program for subway and bus infrastructure. Ms. Crawford has been Chief Engineer for NYC Department of Transportation, and a senior manager at Parsons Transportation Group. She holds masters and bachelors degrees in engineering from Princeton University.

Veronique Hakim is Acting President and General Counsel for MTA Capital Construction, overseeing and developing the MTA's mega projects including the Second Avenue Subway, the Fulton Transit Center, the extension of the 7 line and East Side Access, which will bring Long Island Rail Road trains into Grand Central Terminal. Ms. Hakim has worked on various large construction and technology projects, including the development and implementation of the MetroCard System. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester (B.A.) and Pace University School of Law (J.D.).

Linda Kleinbaum is the MTA's Deputy Executive Director for Administration. Her responsibilities include capital program budgets and management, construction oversight, real estate, procurement, facilities operation, information technology and the policy division. Prior to the MTA, Linda held senior positions in New York City government, including Chief of Staff to Stanley Brezenoff, the First Deputy Mayor of the City of New York.

Using Cooper Union's Nerken School of Engineering as a venue for this program is fitting. Nerken's Dean of Engineering, Dr. Eleanor Baum, provides a role model for young women whose enrollment is slowly increasing, from 33% five years ago to 37% today. The program will discuss how opportunities for women have changed in professions that not long ago were dominated by men. Does the "glass ceiling" exist in this field? Have women executives in transportation found equal opportunity in their careers? Have women encountered challenges managing their organizations, or "managing up" within the larger transportation industry? What is their perspective on the MTA's future projects and their impact on New York City's growth and development? Will the experiences of Nerken's female students differ in 2008 and beyond? These topics and more will be discussed during this 90-minute program.

The remaining programs in this series include:

The MTA's Sustainability Agenda, Monday April 14, 2008, 6:00 pm, Nerken School of Engineering, Wollman Lounge

A talk by MTA Director of Policy and Media Relations, Ernest Tollerson, discusses the MTA's efforts to "green" its operations.

Subway Moon, Wednesday May 21, 2008, 6:00 pm
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, The Great Hall

A concert by Roy Nathanson, The Jazz Passengers joined by students from the Institute for Collaborative Education in New York and students from the suburbs of Paris to perform a collection of stories inspired by the subway and told through music, image and words.