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Press Release

February 14, 2008

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

7 Express Back On Track

Flushing Line customers, forced to endure local-only service between Times Square and Main Street for the past four weeks while major track and signal work was being performed will be rewarded Tuesday morning February 19th with the return of 7 express service. Full service will begin in time for the morning rush period.

"We realize that the express service is an important convenience for tens of thousands of customers who use the Flushing Line daily," said NYC Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr. "We are all gratified that through the hard work and dedication of our maintenance forces we were able to restore this service even more quickly than we had anticipated."

7 Express service was suspended on January 11th and was originally scheduled to resume on March 3rd but that date was moved up when, taking advantage of better than expected weather, in house track forces were able to complete the new switch and signal installation in three weekends.

The completed work was the second phase of a \$76 million capital program to improve and upgrade the subway infrastructure along the Flushing Line. The line's signal system is being modernized between Queensboro Plaza and 82nd Street. Part of the project included the reconfiguration of track switches in the vicinity of 74th Street-Broadway. The modernization of signals will allow faster and more efficient service while maintaining safe standards of operation. The new signal system and switches will allow trains to cross between tracks and serve 74th Street-Broadway in the event that track work is being performed in the vicinity, something trains couldn't due prior to this installation.

"This is all vital work that is required to keep the railroad running safely, efficiently and dependably," noted Senior Vice President of Subways Steve Feil. "We're happy that we are able to give the line back to our customers this quickly."

On an average weekday, 394,000 riders rely on the 7 line. When asked for their top areas for improvement on the Subway Rider Report Card, riders said they wanted adequate room on board during rush hour, minimal delays during trips and reasonable wait times for trains. In response, NYC Transit added 10 round trips to the 7 schedule this past December, including four morning trips – two rush hour and two local trips.