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Press Release

December 3, 2009

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IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit's Holiday Nostalgia Shoppers' Special Rolls Again

Vintage IND train hits the tracks on Sundays during the holiday season

We all know that using the subway is the most efficient and economical way to get around town, but if you are looking for another great reason to ride the train on Sundays in December, try this: Hop on board the 1930s-era Nostalgia Shoppers' Special, which will run along the V Line between Long Island City, Queens and Lower Manhattan.

"With a little bit of luck and good timing, riders will be able to catch a ride on this classic subway train at stations along the V line between Queens Plaza and Second Avenue," said Steven Feil, MTA New York City Transit's Senior Vice President of the Department of Subways.

The Nostalgia Shoppers' Special is made up of subway cars in service from the 1930s to the 1970s, running along the lettered lines from the Grand Concourse to Coney Island. Ceiling fans, padded seats and incandescent light bulbs were state-of-the-art when these cars were first placed in service.

The cars were removed from service 30 years ago and replaced by the stainless steel, climate-controlled trains that our customers have become accustomed to. Many subway riders have never experienced the charm of wicker seats and ceiling fans, but they are back for four Sundays of service, beginning Sunday, December 6. The holiday "Nostalgia Shoppers' Special" will operate on Sundays only, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., on December 6, 13, 20 and 27.

New Yorkers bear fond memories of these cars, many of which are usually housed at the New York Transit Museum in Brooklyn Heights where they have honored positions as static displays reflecting a time before automated voice announcements, air conditioning or bright fluorescent lighting. Of course, you can always catch more vintage trains on display there.

And, don't forget, the Annual Holiday Train Show at the Museum's Gallery Annex at Grand Central Terminal featuring a working layout and a selection of vintage model trains dating from the 1800's. The layout, which this year features Lionel's brand new MTA LIRR's M7 cars, will be on view now through January 18, 2010. For hours and directions, please call 212-878-0106.

NOSTALGIA TRAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

Car No. 100 – Manufactured by American Car and Foundry, this R1-type car was the first car in the initial order of 300 cars placed in service for the opening of the IND subway.

Car No. 484 – Part of a 500-car order of R4 cars manufactured by American Car & Foundry. In 1946, this car received a retrofit of bulls-eye lighting and a public address system.

Car No. 1575 – Originally manufactured as an R7, this car was involved in a wreck in 1946. Sent to the American Car & Foundry factory the car was rebuilt as prototype of the next generation R10 subway car.