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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

FASTRACK A Success On The 1 2 3

Sixth Avenue Corridor up Next for Intensive Maintenance Effort

MTA New York City Transit wrapped up its second *FASTRACK* line segment closure successfully completing an ambitious schedule of work on the Seventh Avenue Line from 34 th Street-Penn Station to Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn. It remains clear that the *FASTRACK* program is both a safer and more efficient way to maintain and clean a 24/7 subway system.

Transit employees, inspected signals, replaced rails and ties, scraped roadbeds, cleaned stations and painted areas impossible to reach during normal train operation. Workers also took the opportunity to clean lighting fixtures, change bulbs and repair platform edges while performing intense levels of station cleaning—things that improve efficiency while also providing a visible improvement to the station environment.

Scores of Stations Division and Customer Service personnel were on hand at major transfer hubs this week directing customers to nearby trains while Seventh Avenue Line service was suspended between 34 th Street-Penn Station and Atlantic Avenue and South Ferry. Customers appeared to be getting accustomed to this new way of performing vital maintenance as passenger volumes thinned out about 30 minutes prior to the service suspension, with most taking advantage of alternate services, often available in the same station complexes.

"Looking at what we have accomplished during our first two rounds of *FASTRACK* makes me even more enthusiastic about this new way of conducting business. Workers can now perform tasks without being interrupted by passing trains and we are able to get to areas that would not be possible under normal train traffic," said NYC Transit President Thomas Prendergast. "One of the more visible things we are able to accomplish is the scraping and painting of station ceilings, something that cannot be done when trains are running."

During the four-night series of shutdowns, 800 maintenance workers each night completed more than 400 tasks, an effort that would have taken months under normal operations. Work included:

- 15,000 bags of rubbish removed;
- 17,000 pounds of scrap material removed;
- Muck and mud scraped from 19,000 feet of concrete roadbed;
- 2,500 light bulbs changed in subway tunnels and station platforms;
- Several stations received spot painting and the ceilings of others, including Nevins Street, were scraped and painted;
- Station drains cleaned;
- Maintenance and inspection of eight elevators and three escalators performed at Chambers Street, Clark Street and Borough Hall;
- Serviced and inspected smoke detectors and alarms;
- Serviced 17 track switches, 53 signals;
- Repaired 315 feet of platform edge and;
- Cleaned and tested 34 CCTV cameras and 20 monitors.

The area of operation stretched a distance of seven miles from Midtown Manhattan to Downtown Brooklyn and included nearly 20 miles of track. Senior Vice President of the Department of Subways Carmen Bianco noted *FASTRACK*'s twin benefits of safety and efficiency when discussing the effort.

"Prior to *FASTRACK*, workers would have to pick up their tools make certain the area was safe and then move out of the way every time a train moved through," Bianco noted. "Now, workers can continue performing their tasks in an uninterrupted manner."

Only subway line segments with substantial subway alternatives are selected for the overnight shutdowns. So, in addition to nearby lines, other lines that don't usually operate during the late night hours continued to operate in order to help accommodate customers. In order to avoid further inconvenience, other service diversions in the area affected by the closure were avoided.

The next two *FASTRACK* overnight closures will be on the Sixth Avenue BDF lines from February 27 to March 2 and on the Eighth Avenue ACE lines from 59 th Street-Columbus Circle to Jay Street-MetroTech for four consecutive nights beginning Monday, March 12.

System-wide, NYC Transit's weeknight ridership is approximately 250,000. The closures affect from 10% to 15% of those riders depending on the line segment.