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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Rehabilitation of Seven West End D Line Stations in Brooklyn Now Complete

Work Included Transformation of Bay Pkwy. Station to Provide Full ADA Accessibility

The completion of the work to rehabilitate seven stations along the West End D Line in Brooklyn was marked today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Bay Parkway Station attended by MTA leaders and local elected officials. This seven station, \$88 million stimulus project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 brought station elements at the elevated stations and segments of the elevated structure south of 62nd Street into a state of good repair.

Work included the transformation of the Bay Parkway Station into an ADA key station providing full vertical accessibility for the disabled through the installation of three elevators. One elevator provides access from the street to the unpaid side of the mezzanine and two elevators provide access from the paid side of the mezzanine to the northbound and southbound platforms. The Bay Parkway D Station is the 78th ADA key station in the subway system.

"I take great pride each time we are able to provide our customers with tangible results – modernized stations with updated amenities and the greater ability to serve the disabled," said MTA New York City Transit President Thomas F. Prendergast. "I would especially like to thank the 33,000 customers who use these stations every day for their patience and flexibility as we had to close these stations at times to make repairs."

Bay Parkway underwent a complete station rehabilitation including new lighting, new platform edges, rehabilitation of stairs, rehabilitation of the control area, and new platform windscreens. Bay Parkway also features new prototype free standing pedestal speakers to provide customers with real-time service information. Normally, speakers are integrated in the lighting system, however pedestals are now being used when a station's canopies do not extend the length of the platform. Bay Parkway is the first station to have these pedestals. The Bay Parkway Station, designated as a Landmark, was restored in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office requirements.

The other six stations: 71st Street, 79th Street, 18th Avenue, 20th Avenue, 25th Avenue and Bay 50th Street Stations all underwent component rehabilitation that included new rubbing boards and warning strips at all platform edges, new platform windscreens, rehabilitation of stairs, repaired concrete floors at mezzanines, canopy column base concrete repairs, new windows and doors, painting, new signage and Arts for Transit installations. During the design phase, Arts for Transit worked closely with the architects and engineers at NYC Transit to determine the parameters and sites for the artwork. Artists were chosen through a competitive process that used selection panels comprised of Brooklyn based visual arts professionals and community representatives to review artists' images of previous work to select finalists. (see art installation descriptions below).

The rehabilitation project also addressed the repair of a substantial amount of structural defects from 63rd Street to north of Coney Island-Stillwell Avenue. Work on the stations was substantially completed on July 10 with the elevators at Bay Parkway going into service this past Monday.

The contract was awarded to Citnalta Construction/Judlau Contracting, JV in August 2009. Rehabilitation work along the West End Line continues under a separate contract for the five stations from 9th Avenue to 62nd Street with completion slated for later this year.

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Additional quotes:

Representative Jerrold Nadler: "I am proud to have supported federal funds for this important project, which has provided much-needed investment in mass transit infrastructure in Southern Brooklyn. These repairs to D train stations will improve the quality of life for thousands of Brooklynites in Bensonhurst, Borough Park, and Gravesend who use this well-trafficked line on a daily basis. The project will help disabled commuters, improve safety, ensure the long-term viability of the D line, and has generated good construction and transit jobs."

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz: "I applaud the MTA for its continuing efforts to improve service in Brooklyn and for the multi-year, \$88 million capital project to restore and update the West End D train elevated line. Its completion is also due in no small part to President Obama and Congress—particularly our Democratic Brooklyn delegation—who authorized funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment (Stimulus) Act of 2009. In addition to the restored structures, new artwork and improved communications equipment along several stops on this line, the Bay Parkway Station in particular now has three new ADA-compliant elevators, making the service more accessible than ever for the thousands of Brooklynites who depend on the line every day."

State Senator Martin Golden: "This is a great day for the thousands of Brooklynites who start and end their travels in one of these newly renovated West End Line D train stations. I thank the Transit Authority for the work accomplished at these seven stations that has significantly improved the environment for our commuters."

Assemblyman William Colton: "There are many seniors and people with disabilities who use this station. I am pleased that the MTA has been able to provide them with better access to public transit."

Assemblyman Peter Abbate, Jr.: "I am happy to see the completion of this station improvement project at these seven elevated stations and look forward to the upcoming completion of the remaining stations along the West End Line."

NYC Councilman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.: "The rehabilitation of the Bay Parkway Station has been a long time coming and I am thrilled to know that it finally has been completed. New York City residents rely heavily on public transportation and it's wonderful to know that the MTA was able to accommodate the travel of so many individuals. Many components of this restoration are incredibly crucial to the flow of transit, especially the addition of ADA elevators. I could not be more proud to be a part of this ceremony and would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the MTA for expediting this rehabilitation."

West End Line Arts for Transit Installations **Total: 7 projects (Medium: Laminated glass on platform windscreens)**

Station: 71st Street

Artist: **Joan Linder**

Joan Linder's artwork provides an elegant and dynamic tribute to the natural landscape in Bensonhurst. Linder's work includes flora taken from the actual wild vegetation from the streets and lots in the neighborhood. The botanical images flow in the direction of the train as the visual indication of departure and arrival. The work was installed in the windows above the stairways that can be seen from the platform and the street level. In the medium of glass, the work is aided by the strong light available to this particular station.

Station: 79th Street

Artist: **Susanna Starr**

Entitled "A Continuous Thread," Susanna Starr was inspired by the lace doily that has particular significance to the predominant Italian-American community in the neighborhood. These colorful laces also reference other traditional handcrafts and cultures in the neighborhood such as Chinese paper cuts and Latin American textiles. The work was fabricated in layers to provide physical dimension and depth. Aided by the strong light available to this particular station, each composition can be viewed from both sides in vibrant colors.

Station: 18th Avenue

Artist: **Francesco Simeti**

Simeti's work, entitled "Bensonhurst Gardens," depicts a selection of plants that are culturally meaningful to the various ethnicities found in Bensonhurst such as the Rose and the Lilly which reference the Santa Rosalia festival celebrated in the community specifically at 18th Avenue. His work also addresses the environment and our relationship with it.

Station: 20th Avenue

Artist: **Donald Odili Odita**

Donald Odili Odita's work is a series of intricate and interlocking geometric patterns in a range of saturated to pastel colors that create a vibrant and bold rainbow of tones in the midst of the station windscreens. There are two separate patterns, one for the east facing elevation and the other, which is a more horizontally-oriented composition, is oriented to the west. Odita selected the colors and tonalities based upon the specific location of each windscreen as well as the degree of natural light each elevation receives. Aided by the strong light available in this area, each composition can be viewed from both sides in vibrant colors.

Station: Bay Parkway

Artist: **Xin Song**

Song's work is a combination of contemporary photo collage and traditional Chinese paper cuts to evoke the historic status of the Bay Parkway Station. Her work features colorful imagery, intricate patterns, and symmetry. The work can be viewed from two sides. A black silhouette seen from the outside of the window creates a graphic filigree reminiscent of Brooklyn's historic iron work; while from the mezzanine, the same design will be cut from Song's photographs of contemporary life in the neighborhood. The work is sure to become the center of attention upon entering this particular station, and echo the surrounding Asian-American community that has blossomed in recent years.

Station: 25th Avenue

Artist: **Amy Cheng**

Cheng's work, entitled "A Journey of Rediscovery," depicts an imaginary land and skylscapes referring to the largeness of life and wonders and mystery of the natural world. Her art addresses the immigrant experience in an immigrant-rich community and represents a paean to the human longing for discovery, adventure, and spiritual quests.

Station: Bay 50th Street

Artist: **Daniel Zeller**

Bay 50th station is adjacent to John Dewey High School and is one station away from Coney Island, which provide a natural setting for Zeller's abstract drawings to address the connectedness of lives in an urban environment. Zeller studied satellite imagery and biological systems along the West End Line and interpreted them into abstract patterns. These colorful images provide an organic quality that is in concert with the green space next to the station and the nearby bay area. Due to the surrounding low rise buildings, the art benefits from the strong light, and since there is no specific imagery to interpret, it can be visible and enjoyed by those on the platform or two blocks away.