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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### Groundbreaking for New MTA Staten Island Railway Arthur Kill Station in Tottenville

#### *Construction Begins on First New SIR Station in Decades*

MTA New York City Transit President Carmen Bianco, along with other MTA and elected officials participated today in the groundbreaking for the first new MTA Staten Island Railway station to be built since the MTA took over the private rail line in 1971. The 27-month construction project, the first such project to include a parking lot, is set to begin this fall. This ADA-compliant station will replace the existing Atlantic and Nassau Stations in the Tottenville section of the borough.

"We are pleased to finally get this project funded and off the shelf," said Bianco. "This new station will replace two outmoded facilities, finally offering our Staten Island Railway customers the kind of station and amenities that they deserve."

The Arthur Kill Station will feature ADA-compliant ramps, two concrete side platforms with canopies, windscreens and benches, and surveillance cameras and Customer Assistance Intercoms at platform off-hour waiting areas. The station will be able to accommodate a four-car train. In addition, a 150-car parking lot will be built across the street. The Arthur Kill Station is slated to open in late 2015. At that time, the old Nassau and Atlantic Stations will be demolished.

The original Nassau Station was only an 80-foot platform that was extended to 300 feet about 40 years ago funded, in part, by the Nassau Smelting Plant which no longer exists. That extension was closed in 2010 due to its deteriorated condition allowing for a single-door only operation at the station. The Atlantic Station was also built with an 80-foot platform that can only accommodate boarding through one door.

Neither of these stations had been included in previous station modernization projects because the plan, first proposed in the early 1990s, was to build the new Arthur Kill Station between the two. After suffering deferment over the past 20 years due to budget constraints, the project is now fully funded in the amended 2010-2014 Capital Program.

The Nassau and Atlantic stations are both lightly used serving up to 540 customers on an average weekday. "We know that this project will bring welcome relief to our riders," said MTA Staten Island Railway Vice President/Chief Officer Stephone Montgomery. "And eventually, we hope it will draw new customers from the South Shore to the railway."

The \$15.3 million construction contract of was awarded to John P. Picone Inc. on July 31, 2013.

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#### Quote Sheet

##### **Borough President James P. Molinaro**

"This new station for the Staten Island Railway will serve as a welcome change for commuters who currently use the Nassau and Atlantic stations. As we look forward to many exciting projects on Staten Island in the coming years, it is important that we maintain and upgrade our mass transit infrastructure to support the growing needs of commuters and residents."

##### **Congressman Michael Grimm**

"This project will provide greater public transportation options for the residents of Staten Island. I applaud the efforts of the NYCT for moving forward with construction of this new hub and welcome the news of today's groundbreaking of the Arthur Kill station."

##### **NY State Senator Andrew J. Lanza**

"For years, the MTA has had plans on the drawing board to replace Staten Island's antiquated Nassau and Atlantic stations with the long awaited Arthur Kill Station. Earlier this year, I voted to approve funding for this project which will provide parking, accommodate disabled passengers and bring greater convenience for our commuters. I'm happy to see the project finally becoming a reality."

##### **NY State Assemblyman Joseph C. Borelli**

"This new station, along with the eventual removal of the unsightly Atlantic and Nassau Stations, will really spearhead a beautification of Tottenville along Arthur Kill Road. Not to mention, this park and ride is critical for neighborhood commuters. All in all, it's a great day for Tottenville."

**City Councilmember Vincent Ignizio**

I am very happy attend the groundbreaking of Staten Island's first new train station in generations – Arthur Kill Station. This station will go a long way in providing a modern handicap accessible station with a 150 car park n ride that will serve the people of the South Shore. It will be a great mass transit improvement and the will accommodate our commuters as well as those that drive them to the station. I want to thank Governor Cuomo, MTA Chairman Prendergast and NYCT President Bianco for working with Staten Islands elected officials to make this day a reality.