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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### MTA Opens Second Avenue Community Information Center

#### *Upper East Side Community Gets Interactive Facility*

In its continuing effort to work closely with neighbors affected by Second Avenue Subway construction, the MTA today opened the Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center (CIC).

Located at 1628 Second Avenue (between E. 84<sup>th</sup> and E. 85<sup>th</sup> Streets), the Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center was developed for those who live and work on Second Avenue, as well as the general public, as a one-stop shop to learn about the Second Avenue Subway, its construction and its long history.

The Community Information Center will be a place where visitors can find project staff, regular programming and activities, and biannual exhibits about different aspects of the Second Avenue Subway. Most importantly, the Community Information Center is a place to access any information needed about the project and bring issues of concern to the attention of project staff.

The center will be open through the completion of the project's first phase, which will bring the Q line from E. 63rd Street to E. 96th Street beginning in December 2016.

"The Community Information Center brings our aggressive community outreach initiatives to a whole new level," said MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodniceanu. While it provides a convenient way for the Upper East Side community to interact with project staff, it also serves as a community resource and educational facility where students and community organizations can learn about everything that goes into such a complex urban transportation project."

Horodniceanu's sentiments were echoed by a number of community leaders, who recognized the CIC as a vital community resource.

"When the Second Avenue Subway is completed it will be a game-changer for Manhattan and our city," said New York City Councilmember Jessica Lappin. "But construction has been challenging for our community, and I'm glad the MTA is opening this new center to keep the public updated on the project."

"When you live right above one of North America's largest construction projects, you want to know what's going on under your feet," said Council Member Dan Garodnick. "Upper East Siders have sacrificed a lot, and it will be good to be able to keep track of what they are getting back for it."

Assembly Member Micah Kellner said: "I welcome the opening of the MTA's new Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center. It will help keep residents, businesses, and visitors up-to-date on the progress of this vital project and offer valuable insight into its long history."

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Ploeger said: "The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is very excited about the opening of the Community Information Center and the ability for local businesses and residents to drop in and ask questions and find out timely information about the Second Avenue subway construction progress. We are also looking forward to working with the MTA to host educational seminars and networking opportunities for the small business owners and also to showcase the Second Avenue Art Project featuring art created by local students just this past month."

The CIC will feature multimedia exhibitions demonstrating what it takes to build a project of this magnitude.

The first of these exhibits is a timeline of the history of New York City's efforts to build the Second Avenue Subway. Using an iPad controller, visitors can scroll through the timeline at their own pace and tap dates to explore archival photos, videos, letters and maps illustrating our journey to today's construction – all on a widescreen TV monitor. It highlights the tremendous scope of what the MTA is doing today – in effect completing what has been in the works for more than 80 years.

Those who prefer to get their information the old fashioned way can browse a 2D graphic timeline of the history of the Second Avenue Subway suspended on the wall by cables.

Future exhibits will highlight the technologies and processes used in modern subway construction, what you'll find in the subterranean world of Second Avenue, and more.

The CIC will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway Project is currently under construction. The new subway will extend the Q line from an expanded station at Lexington Avenue and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street east to Second Avenue, then north to 96<sup>th</sup> Street. Three entirely new stations at 72<sup>nd</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Streets are in the

process of being built. All contracts to build the Second Avenue Subway have been awarded. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion in December 2016.

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