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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

### Planned Service Changes for the 7 Line For Five Fall Weekends

MTA New York City Transit announces this coming weekend will be the first of five planned service suspensions on the **7** line between Queensboro Plaza and Times Square this fall, due to the continued installation of CBTC (Communications-Based Train Control) and the replacement of critical track panels along the Flushing Line.

This weekend, October 18-20 and the weekend of October 25-27, **7** trains will be suspended between Times Square-42 St and Queensboro Plaza in both directions from 2:00 a.m. Saturday, through 5 a.m. Monday. During the weekends of November 8-10, November 15-17, and November 22-24, **7** trains will be suspended between Times Square-42 St and Queensboro Plaza in both directions from 11:30 p.m. Fridays through 5:00 a.m. Mondays. The **E F N Q S** and free shuttle buses will provide alternate service.

During the service suspensions, customers should use the **E F N** or **Q** to travel between Manhattan and Queens. Transfer between the **7** and **E F R** trains at 74 St-Roosevelt Av. **Q** service will be extended to and from Astoria-Ditmars Boulevard on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free shuttle buses will operate between Vernon Boulevard-Jackson Avenue and Queensboro Plaza, making stops at Hunters Point Av, Court Sq, and Queens Plaza. In Manhattan, the 42 St **S** shuttle will also operate throughout the weekend from 12:01 a.m. Saturday night, to 6:00 a.m. Monday morning.

As another alternate, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) will cross honor and will accept displayed MetroCards from customers traveling in both directions between Penn Station and Woodside.

"The ongoing work on the **7** remains absolutely critical to the line's reliability, safety and longevity. We understand that these service disruptions are inconvenient to the customers who depend on the **7** train and we appreciate their patience," said MTA NYC Transit President Carmen Bianco. "When completed, this work will result in a more reliable subway line with the ability to run more trains and improve performance for growing neighborhoods in Queens."

A multi-year, \$550 million capital improvement project to replace the antiquated 50 to 90 year-old signaling system on the **7** line with state-of-the-art CBTC technology will continue into 2017. Upon completion, CBTC technology will interface with subway cars and countdown clocks to increase operational flexibility and reliability, and allow NYC Transit to run more trains per hour. These improvements will reduce crowding, prevent signal problems associated with old equipment, and further accommodate the population growth in Queens.

NYC Transit is also addressing critical track conditions that require the removal and replacement of elevated track panels that have reached the end of their useful lifespan and could impact operational capacity. If old track panels are not replaced, they become subject to mandatory speed reductions, which result in fewer trains operating per hour and more crowding. In all, NYC Transit expects to renew and replace approximately 2,980 feet of old track representing a \$15 million investment.

NYC Transit will continue its work bringing the 120 year-old Steinway Tube back to a state of good repair. Work in 2014 includes \$33 million in component replacement and upgrades, including demolishing and reconstructing collapsed ducts. The new ducts will house critical electrical and communication lines. Work also includes rehabilitating the tube's pump room and discharge lines, which were damaged during Sandy.

For a complete schedule of work on the **7** line, visit <http://web.mta.info/nyct/service/7Line2014/MakingProgressin2014.htm>

Announcements will be made in stations and onboard trains. The most up-to-date information on MTA service status is always available at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info). For immediate notice of service changes, sign up for email or text alerts at [www.mymtaalerts.com](http://www.mymtaalerts.com). For weekend subway service changes, visit [www.mta.info/weekender](http://www.mta.info/weekender).