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Press Release

August 6, 2015

[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit: Trash Can Free Stations Pilot Yields Positive Results

Pilot to Continue for 6-12 Months to Conduct Further Analysis

Results of the ongoing MTA New York City Transit pilot removing trash cans from a total of 39 subway stations show a significant decrease in the amount of trash bags collected from these stations. The results show a 66% reduction in the number of bags collected at Phase 1 and Phase 2 stations, and a 36% reduction in the number of bags collected at Phase 3 stations.

The three phases of the pilot were effectively evaluated and the results support the pilot's originally stated goal to improve the customer experience in stations by minimizing the number of trash bags to be stored and collected, decreasing exposed trash bags and controlling the rodent population.

"This pilot appears counterintuitive but when we placed notices at the pilot stations indicating that the cans had been removed and asked the customers for their cooperation, it looks like they listened," New York City Transit President Carmen Bianco said. "Given these results, we'll continue the pilot and monitor and collect additional data at stations."

The pilot stations have seen a reduction in trash volumes, rodent activity, as well as several other benefits. While the number of track fires at the pilot stations have remained neutral, the rate of track fires at the pilot stations is currently lower than the rate at stations with trash cans.

Litter, measured by the percentage of stations with no or light litter in the morning and daytime, increased initially, but rebounded and improved later during the pilot and is currently on par with stations that have trash cans. Stations with cans with no or light litter stand at 85% while stations in the pilot without cans are hovering above 80%.

"The reduction in trash in these stations reduced the number of bags to be stored and, consequently, improved the customer experience by reducing the potential bags visible to customers as well as the potential food available to rodents," said Senior Vice President of Subways Joseph Leader. "Additionally, the significant reduction in trash reduced the need for trash pickups in the pilot stations, which freed up personnel for deployment to other stations."

The initial phase of the pilot began in two stations in October, 2011. Phase 2 added eight stations in September, 2012 and Phase 3 added 29 along the JMZ lines in July, 2014. Baseline conditions were established at each station, and station cleanliness and trash collection was monitored regularly.

The decision to remove the trash cans was made in an effort to encourage customers to take with them any disposables that they carry into the system. Trash collection and removal remains a tremendous undertaking. Each day, about 40 tons of trash is removed from the system, collected from more than 3,500 trash receptacles, and approximately 50% gets recycled.

Eleven refuse collection trains cover 359 out of the system's 469 stations with the remainder visited by refuse collection trucks. The refuse collection trains compete with passenger trains for space along the tracks and their overnight movements can be hampered by system maintenance which may require the closing of line segments.

New York City Transit will continue to report results of the current pilot program in a timely manner.

The stations in the pilot are listed below:

Bronx

- 238 St 
- E. 143 St 

Manhattan

- 57 St 
- Rector St 
- 8 St 

Brooklyn

- 7 Av  
- Brighton Beach  

- Cypress Hills **J**
- Crescent St **J Z**
- Norwood Av **J Z**
- Cleveland St **J**
- Van Siclen Av **J Z**
- Alabama Av **J**
- Broadway Junction **J Z**
- Chauncey St **J Z**
- Halsey St **J**
- Gates Av **J Z**
- Kosciuszko St **J**
- Flushing Av **J M**
- Lorimer St **J M**
- Hewes St **J M**
- Marcy Av **J M Z**
- Myrtle-Wyckoff Aves **M**
- Knickerbocker Av **M**
- Central Av **M**

Queens

- 111 St **A**
- 65 St **M R**
- 121 St **J Z**
- 111 St **J**
- 104 St **J Z**
- Woodhaven Blvd **J Z**
- 85 St-Forest Pkwy **J**
- 75 St-Elders Lane **J**
- Flushing – Main St **7**
- Myrtle Av **J M Z**
- Metropolitan Av **M**
- Fresh Pond Rd **M**
- Forest Av **M**
- Seneca Av **M**