



## MTA Press Releases

Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center Welcomes 10,000th Visitor

MTA Capital Construction welcomed its 10,000th visitor to the Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center (CIC) on April 1st. Alisa Becker, who lives in the 96th Street station area was greeted by MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodniceanu as she walked in the door. Horodniceanu presented her with a plaque containing a piece of Manhattan Schist attached. The rock was excavated from below Second Avenue where the tunnels and caverns were excavated to construct the subway. She was also guaranteed a spot on a future community tour of the cavern.

Since opening in July 2013, the CIC has become a hub for the community most impacted by construction as a “one stop shop” for all of their Second Avenue Subway-related information. It also serves other New York City residents and tourists who are fascinated by the first new subway line construction project in over 80 years. Visitors can learn about the history and construction of the project, express complaints and concerns, or ask questions to project staff.

The center runs monthly programming, including: Transit Talks, where a project expert speaks to a topic of interest; children’s events, where NYC children can learn about subway construction, try on safety equipment, and participate in an art project; and community tours, which take dozens of community members underground each month to see the progress first hand. Those who participate in CIC programming often become ambassadors for the project and the positive impact it will have on the Upper East Side community.

To date, the CIC has hosted over 50 presentations for area school groups on engineering, construction and the Second Avenue Subway; hosted 48 community tours showing more than 1,500 residents the caverns, tunnels, and stations at various stages of construction, and welcomed foreign governments, trade associations, and real estate professionals to learn about the project.

“We are thrilled at the success that the Community Information Center has had in keeping the community engaged in and informed about such a massive infrastructure project. Building in the most densely populated area in the country is a challenge, and we value the community’s feedback on how we can do it in a way that has the least amount of impact on them,” said Horodniceanu. “We welcome their suggestions on how to make the center even more valuable as we look forward to welcoming our 20,000th visitor.”

The 10,000th visitor comes shortly after the CIC unveiled its newest exhibit, Above and Below: Designing the Second Avenue Subway. It will be displayed at the CIC until the fall of 2015. The exhibit highlights the art, architecture, engineering and streetscape that the community will see when the project opens in December 2016. The two previous exhibits, 80 Years in the Making: The History of the Second Avenue Subway and En Route: The Techniques and Technologies Used to Build the Second Avenue Subway, are archived in the interactive exhibit so visitors can still access the wealth of information they offer. A virtual tour of the 86th Street Station and tunnel connecting to the 72nd Street during construction also is available for viewing.

The CIC, located at 1628 Second Avenue, is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will remain open through the duration of Phase 1 of Second Avenue Subway construction.

#### About the Second Avenue Subway

Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway will serve more than 200,000 people per day, reducing overcrowding on the Lexington Avenue Line and restoring a transit link to a neighborhood that lost the Second Avenue Elevated in 1940. It will also reduce travel times by up to 10 minutes or more (up to 27 percent) for those on the far east side or those traveling from the east side to west midtown.

The line is being built in four phases, with the first phase providing service from 96th Street to 63rd Street as an extension of the train. Passengers can stay on the train to travel to the West Side, Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn via the Broadway line. Three new ADA-accessible stations are being built along Second Avenue at 96th, 86th and 72nd Streets, as well as new entrances to the existing Lexington Av/63 Street Station at 63rd Street and Third Avenue. Further phases of the project will extend the line from 125th Street in Harlem to Hanover Square in the Financial District.