



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

May 27, 2015

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

### Queens A Train Suspension Caused by Massive Theft of Copper Cable

#### ***Cable Theft Near Howard Beach Disrupted Service for Hundreds of Thousands; NYPD Transit Bureau Investigating Crime While MTA Crews Make Repairs***

Hundreds of thousands of Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit subway customers were victimized this morning by a massive theft of copper cable from **A** line subway tracks near Howard Beach, Queens. Limited **A** train service is being restored at this moment but residual delays will persist throughout the day.

"This morning's service disruption was directly caused by the theft of cable from along the subway right of way. This led to delays and crowding along all 31 miles of the **A** train, and forced thousands of Rockaways customers to use shuttle buses to get to work," said MTA New York City Transit President Carmen Bianco. "We are working closely with the NYPD Transit Bureau to help them investigate this crime and identify the culprits responsible."

The loss of the subway power cables forced the MTA to suspend service between Rockaway Boulevard and Broad Channel stations and replace it with shuttle buses during the morning rush. While limited **A** train service is being restored, shuttle buses will continue until service fully resumes through the Rockaways. Service will be suspended and replaced by shuttle buses again tonight for more emergency repair work overnight.

This crime also disrupted service along the entire length of the **A** and **C** lines. Subway trains stored in the Rockaway Park yard are trapped there and cannot be used for service. Trains in service on the **A** line cannot use the terminals at Far Rockaway-Mott Av and Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St to turn around, further limiting capacity along the line. Some **A** trains are terminating at Euclid Av, where the **C** usually terminates, forcing a reduction in **C** service as well.

The **A** and **C** lines carry 775,000 approximately customers per day, including 100,000 in the morning rush hour. The majority of those customers experienced delays and/or crowding due to this crime. The **A** train carries about 40,000 customers to and from the Rockaways each day, including 3,700 to Manhattan during the morning rush, none of whom were able to use the subways.

The cable theft was discovered at 11:22 p.m. Tuesday night when a northbound **A** train lost power north of the Howard Beach station. Crews brought in another train behind it, and the estimated 150 customers on board were able to walk through the trains to get back to the Howard Beach station at 12:09 a.m.

The power cable was presumably stolen to be sold as scrap. At least 500 feet of the valuable cable was discovered stolen from roughly 12 locations along the **A** train tracks near Howard Beach, and some signal equipment and track components were damaged as well by electrical current that could not flow through the cable. Crews are working to rebuild the damaged infrastructure as quickly as possible.

The most up-to-date information on MTA service status is always available at <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).