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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

NYC Transit Starting Subway Flood Protection Project in Rockaways Next Month

Fix&Fortify Storm Resiliency Work on Critical Subway Infrastructure to Be Performed in Two Phases – Impacting Only One Side of Peninsula at a Time – Starting April 9

Special Shuttle Train to Provide Alternative Service

MTA New York City Transit today announced a flood protection project in the Rockaways that will make critical subway infrastructure more resilient in the face of future storms and improve the overall reliability of subway service on the peninsula.

“As we have seen time and time again, our subway system is impacted by the forces of nature,” said New York City Transit President Andy Byford. “Just as our employees work around the clock to clean up after a storm, we must also proactively protect our infrastructure. We thank our customers for their patience while we perform this critical work to provide safe, resilient and reliable service not just today, but far into the future as well.”

New York City Transit houses rail operations facilities on the Rockaway Peninsula that are critical to the **A** line. The facilities include a power substation, a signal tower, signal compressor and hydraulic rooms, circuit breaker houses, and crew quarters.

The Rockaway Peninsula is in a flood zone that is vulnerable to the surges generated by a major storm, evident in the destruction brought by Superstorm Sandy. While smart engineering efforts left the substation and equipment undamaged during Sandy, New York City Transit believes taking a proactive approach to its resiliency efforts will ensure the long-term safety of these facilities against the devastating impacts of future extreme storms. In turn, customers along the Rockaways can be assured that their ability to move in and out of their homes will not be disrupted for long periods of time during a natural disaster.

During the project, crews will construct a perimeter flood wall and flood gates, as well as construct a new compressor building within the protected site. In order to minimize the impact on customers and the local community, and complete this necessary work in a timely fashion, the work will be conducted in two separate phases, impacting only one side of the Rockaways at a time.

Special **S** shuttle train service will be provided as an alternative while the post-Superstorm Sandy Fix&Fortify work is done on two separate parts of the **A** line in two separate phases: Phase 1 from Apr. 9 to May 18 on the Rockaway Park branch, and Phase 2 from July 2 to Sept. 3 on the Far Rockaway Branch. Shuttle trains will be lengthened as needed for capacity during Phase 2. To further assist customers, extra personnel will be posted at key stations including major transfer points.

As another, fully accessible alternative, customers may also use buses that run along the impacted routes: Q22, Q35, Q52-SBS, Q53-SBS, QM16 Express, and QM17 Express.

Phase 1: Apr. 9 to May 18, along the Rockaway Park Branch

During Phase 1, **A** service to the Rockaways will not operate between Broad Channel and Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St. **A** service will operate to and from Far Rockaway-Mott Av. **S** shuttle service will not operate at Broad Channel. **S** shuttle service will be re-routed to make all stops between Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St and Far Rockaway-Mott Av.

Travel Alternatives:

- Customers using stations between Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St and Beach 90 St may transfer between **A** trains and **S** shuttle trains at Beach 67 St.
- In addition to the shuttle, customers may also use the following buses: Q22, Q35, Q52-SBS, Q53-SBS, QM16 and QM17 express.

Phase 2: July 2 to Sept. 3, along the Far Rockaway Branch

During Phase 2, **A** service to the Rockaways will not operate between Broad Channel and Far Rockaway-Mott Av. **A** service will operate to and from Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St. **S** shuttle service will not operate at Broad Channel. **S** shuttle service will be re-routed to make all stops between Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St and Far Rockaway-Mott Av.

Travel Alternatives:

- Customers using stations between Far Rockaway-Mott Av and Beach 67 St may transfer between **A** trains and **S** shuttle trains at Beach 90 St.

- In addition to the shuttle, customers may also use the following buses: Q22, Q52-SBS, and QM17 express.

Community Board 14 and all local elected officials have been notified about the project scope and schedule. MTA NYC Transit will conduct an aggressive customer notification program in advance of the work, including signage, brochures and electronic messages.

The most up-to-date information on service status is always available at <http://www.mta.info>. For immediate notice of service changes, sign up for email or text alerts at <http://www.mymtaalerts.com>, or use Trip Planner+ to plan your trip accordingly.