



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

September 14, 2018

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

### New York City Transit to Perform Critical Track Work Along N/W Line, Some Street Level Disruptions Expected For Motorists

***Track Replacement Work Will Replace Worn Down Rail on Critical Curve; Motorists are Urged to Avoid the Northern Boulevard Approach to the Queensboro Bridge***

New York City Transit will be performing essential track replacement work on a stretch of the **N/R** corridor in Queens this weekend. The work will result in improved service along the line for thousands of commuters. More than half of the trains delayed due to signal and track issues on the Astoria line over the past year have been in the 39AV – Queensboro Plaza segment. This weekend's work builds on work done over a three weekend stretch in July and August as well as last weekend. In the month prior to beginning that work, a segment of track just north of the track now under construction experienced five track and signal incidents that resulted in significant effects to service. Similar closures will take place again next weekend also, as workers prepare to complete their activities in the area. Workers are expected to return to the area one final time during the first weekend in December.

The track panel replacement work will take place between Queensboro Plaza and 39 Av. Due to the need for street-based cranes to work on the elevated tracks, motorists who drive in this area should expect significant traffic disruptions. Drivers entering Manhattan using the approaches to the Queensboro on Northern and Queens Boulevard will be impacted and may experience traffic delays. They are encouraged to use alternate routes to the Queensboro Bridge and into Manhattan including the Queens Midtown Tunnel, the RFK Bridge, the Williamsburg Bridge, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Manhattan Bridge.

New York City Transit, in coordination with the NYPD and the Department of Transportation, will deploy a series of aggressive traffic mitigation measures. NYPD will have traffic agents at key intersections and areas to help facilitate the smooth flow of traffic. Variable Message Signage will be placed in key locations in both Manhattan and Queens to encourage drivers to take alternate and optimized routes and signage along other routes will inform drivers of the ongoing work and diversions. Staff from New York City Transit are speaking directly to the impacted communities and community boards and will be launching a social media campaign to maintain awareness of the work through the weekend.

The location of the work necessitates a series of street closures in the area and motorists are strongly encouraged to avoid the impacted areas.

#### MITIGATION SPECIFICS FROM 10 PM FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 5 AM MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

- Access to Northern Blvd. from the Queensboro Bridge will be completely closed
- Access from Queens Blvd. to the Queensboro Bridge will be completely closed.
- There will be no bicycle access to the Queensboro Bridge from the Queens Blvd. side
- Trucks coming from Van Dam Street will continue on Van Dam Street (instead of going onto Queens Blvd.), Skillman Avenue, Honeywell Street to Northern Blvd. to access the bridge.
- Trucks on WB Queens Blvd. will be diverted to 35<sup>th</sup> Street to Northern Blvd. to access the bridge.
- There will be no parking on the west curb of Van Dam Street between Queens Blvd and Skillman Avenue
- Daylighting of east curb of 35<sup>th</sup> Street north of Queens Blvd.

Broader track and signal repair and replacement work along this corridor began in May as part of the Subway Action Plan. While this weekend work is being conducted, train service will be suspended in both directions between Ditmars Blvd and Times Square, and free shuttle buses will provide alternate service between Ditmars Blvd and Queensboro Plaza, where 7 train service is available.

From 9:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14 to 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 17, free shuttle buses replace **N** trains between Ditmars Blvd and Queensboro Plaza due to track replacement south of the 39 Av station. service will operate between Queensboro Plaza and Coney Island-Stillwell Av. Free shuttle buses will make all line station stops between Ditmars Blvd and Queensboro Plaza. Transfer between trains and buses at Queensboro Plaza. As a reminder, trains skip Broadway and 39 Av in both directions until Feb. 2019 due to station renovations.