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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Opens New Entrance at 1 Av L Station, Announces Early Completion of Street Restoration on 14th Street

New Station Entrances are Part of L Project Capacity Improvements

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced two L project milestones with the 1 Av station entrance at Avenue A south now open to the public and the majority of work on the 14th Street sidewalk restoration expected to be completed more than six months ahead of schedule.









"The  Project started as a post-Sandy resiliency project, but it has now grown to include much more, with capacity and accessibility improvements along the  and other subway lines. We hit yet another positive milestone today with the opening of the first of two new station entrances at 1 Av," said MTA Chief Development Officer Janno Lieber. "We're ahead of schedule for the entire project, and it's satisfying when customers can reap the benefits as the job advances. And thanks to the revised construction approach, we're getting all this work done without impacting service for the vast majority of the L Train's 300,000 daily riders."


"The opening of this new entrance will ensure speedier commutes for residents of the East Village and StuyTown," said Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. "I commend the MTA for their work on this and especially look forward to the opening of the elevators at this station, which will make the station accessible to even more Manhattanites."


"I want to thank the MTA for their diligent work to get the first of the Avenue A entrances to the 1st Ave. L train station open six months earlier than expected. The East Village and Lower East Side are some of the biggest transit deserts in Manhattan, and these new entrances are going to make a big difference for the thousands of residents who have to walk up to half a mile to reach this station. These accomplishments are helping to restore faith in our city and state's ability to get big successful projects done right, and I can't wait for the rest of the entrances, elevators, and the L train project to be completed," said Councilwoman Carlina Rivera.

"In 2018, more than 6 million subway rides began at the First Avenue L station. It's a vital part of the East Village's transportation network, which is why I'm thrilled it is reopening more than six months ahead of schedule," said Senator Brad Hoylman. "I congratulate Governor Andrew Cuomo, MTA Chair Pat Foye and NYCT President Andy Byford on this achievement and for listening to me and my elected colleagues' ongoing concerns during the construction phase. Plus, now that the New York State Legislature has passed congestion pricing, I'm hopeful New Yorkers can look forward to additional improvements on our subways and buses funded through this important initiative."

"I am so glad the new L train entrance at 14th Street and 1st Avenue is now open to the public, months ahead of schedule! I want to thank the MTA for improving train capacity and also for addressing accessibility concerns at this station and along the L train line," said COngresswoman Carolyn Maloney. "This is great news for the L train's 300,000 daily riders, and especially for the 21,000 weekday riders who will benefit from the increased capacity at 1st Ave."


The  Project encompasses the rehabilitation of the Canarsie  Tube, which carries  trains between Brooklyn and Manhattan and was severely damaged during Superstorm Sandy. The project also includes new power infrastructure to support  train service, several station improvement projects to increase public space and accessibility at stations on the  line and several  lines that provide alternate subway service during the project. The tunnel rehabilitation, which began in April 2019 using a modified 15- to 18-month construction plan that preserves regular subway service for 90 percent of  riders, is currently months ahead of schedule and set to finish in 12 months. In addition to an early construction timeline for the tunnel work, several related construction projects are also ahead of schedule, including the capacity improvement projects at 1 Av  and sidewalk restoration on 14th Street.

Nearly 21,000 weekday customers will benefit from the increased capacity at 1 Av, which has seen significant ridership growth of 60 percent from 2000 to 2018. The  Project [improvements at 1 Av](#) include:

- Two new platform-to-street ADA elevators, one on either side of 14th Street near Avenue A. They are estimated to open summer 2020, also ahead of schedule
- Four new street entrances, two on either side of 14th Street near Avenue A, each 7.5 feet wide
- Two new turnstile areas, adding 600 square feet of public space
- Reconstructed infrastructure of the original entrances on First Avenue
- New wall tiles, energy-efficient lighting, and new turnstiles
- New substation near Avenue B to power more trains along the whole  line, one of three for the project

The revised construction schedule at 1 Av was designed to open the new entrances with temporary finishes as soon as they are ready, then close the original entrances for reconstruction in a phased schedule. Two entrances will be open at all times at the 1 Av station. With the opening of the new entrance at Avenue A south, the First Avenue south entrance will close for reconstruction next week. The phasing schedule is as follows:

- Nov 4, 2019: New permanent Avenue A south entrance opens with temporary finishes
- Nov 11, 2019: Existing First Avenue south entrance closes for structural reconstruction
- Upcoming, timing to be announced: New Avenue A north entrance to open with temporary finishes
- Upcoming, timing scheduled for one week after Avenue A north entrance opening: First Avenue north entrance to close for structural construction
- April 2020: Avenue A south and north entrances to close for final finishes while First Avenue south and north entrances to reopen

While the First Avenue south entrance is closed, Brooklyn-bound  customers are advised to:

During Weekdays:

- Enter at Avenue A between 5 a.m. and approximately 9:45 p.m.
- Enter at First Avenue north side between approximately 9:45 p.m. and 5 a.m.

During Weekends: At all times, enter at First Avenue north side

Once the Avenue A north entrance is opened and the First Ave north entrance is closed, customers are advised to use both the Avenue A entrances as alternatives.

Schedule for 14th Street restoration:

Under the original plan, street restoration was expected to be completed in May 2020. Under the early timeline, the majority of street restoration activities will be completed at Avenue A by January 2020 and work zones reduced to limited areas like the elevators and First Ave entrances.

Phasing schedule for 14th Street restoration includes:

Work zone 1 (north side of 14th Street, east of First Avenue): Sidewalk restoration completed by mid-August 2019; street restoration currently underway and on track to be completed by January 2020.

Work zone 2 (northwest corner of 14th Street and Avenue A): New entrance and new elevator



- Phase 1: Sidewalk restoration to be completed mid-November 2019.
- Phase 2: Temporary laydown area constructed from mid-Nov to mid-December 2019, with 30 parking spaces to be restored in spring 2020.
- Phase 3: Work zone area reduced to area around new elevator from mid-December 2019 through summer 2020.

Work zone 3 (southwest corner of 14th Street and Avenue A): New entrance and new elevator

- Phase 1: Sidewalk restoration was completed in September 2019.
- Phase 2: Opening of the Avenue A south entrance on Nov. 4 with temporary finishes, will close again in April 2020 for final finishes. Barricade around new elevator will remain through summer 2020.

Work zone 4 (northwest corner of 14th St and Avenue B): New substation

- Phase 1: Sidewalk restoration is currently underway; street restoration will be completed in spring 2020. Approximately 15 parking spaces will be restored at that time.

Customer and pedestrian signage will be available on-site ahead of this work. For more information about the  Project and the work planned for the 1 Av  station, visit <https://new.mta.info/l-project>.