

Welcome to the Metro-North Penn Station Access project quarterly newsletter. Penn Station Access will bolster equity, regional connectivity, and reliability by providing a new transit option. For past newsletter issues, [click here](#). For updates on specific areas along the project corridor where work will take place, [sign up here](#).

## PSA Progress

### *Long-Term Outage Overview*

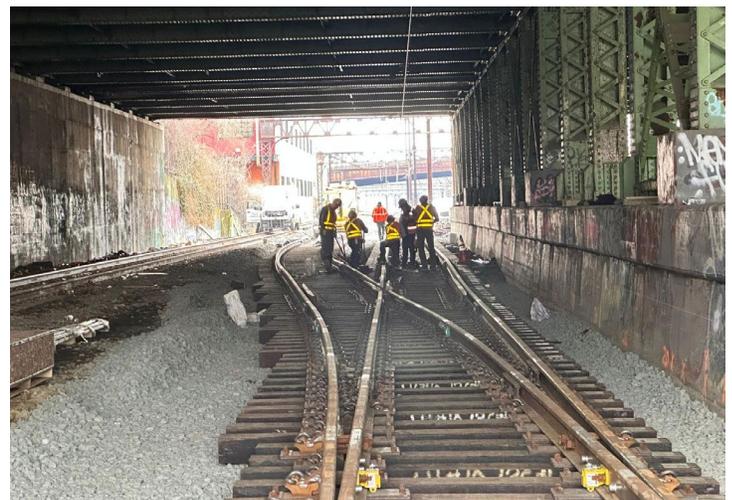
The Penn Station Access project has made significant progress in 2023. To improve construction efficiency and productivity, MTA coordinated with Amtrak to provide a single-track long-term outage (“LTO”) between March 6th and September 1st, 2023. Taking a track out of service provides the Design-Build team a larger window of time to advance work along the tracks that is critical to project phasing. This includes commencing trackwork, drainage, and overhead catenary system (OCS) foundations, station area site preparation, and more. For more information on Amtrak’s schedule adjustments and service changes to Acela and Northeast Regional service between New York and Boston, [click here](#).

### *Milestones Achieved*

The project team achieved two major milestones with the CSX-E Switch installation and Plate C OSC wire raise. The Plate C OSC wire raise involved increasing the vertical clearance, or distance between rail and OCS wires, in order to create room for freight operations to pass through the right-of-way on Track 2. The CSX-E Switch installation has enabled freight operations to be diverted from Track 5 to Track 2. Both the Plate C OCS wire raise and the diversion of freight operations through the CSX-E Switch installation are essential to project phasing, as these activities increase the design builder’s access to Amtrak’s right-of-way.



Above: Plate C OCS Wire Raise Inspection, March 2023



Above: CSX-E Switch Installation, March 2023

# Community Corner

## DCP Bronx Metro-North Station Area Plan

The team has continued engaging the public and keeping residents informed of construction activities. Here is a snapshot of the stakeholder groups who received a project update between March and May 2023:

- The Bronx-Westchester Community Council
- Bronx Community Boards 2, 9, 10, and 11
- The Center for Bronx Nonprofits
- The Hunts Point Economic Development/Corporation/Chamber of Commerce
- The Bronx Chamber of Commerce

To view the presentation slides from the meetings, [click here](#). Additionally, the project will be tabling at the Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation Spring Mingle on May 18th, 2023, from 12-2pm. For registration, [click here](#).

## Upcoming Work

The Penn Station Access project has a busy year ahead, developing design packages and commencing work on several major elements along the project corridor.

## 2023 LOOK AHEAD



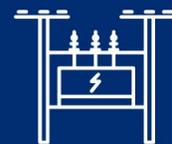
DEVELOP DESIGN  
PACKAGES TO 100%



CONSTRUCT  
RETAINING WALLS



COMMENCE TRACK  
AND DRAINAGE WORK



WORK ON VAN NEST,  
OAK, AND CO-OP CITY  
SUBSTATIONS



UPGRADE EXISTING  
OVERHEAD POWER  
SYSTEMS AND BUILD  
NEW STRUCTURES



WORK ON BRONXDALE  
AVE., EASTCHESTER RD.,  
BRONX RIVER, AND  
PELHAM LANE BRIDGES



INSTALL LEGGETT  
CROSSOVER SPECIAL  
TRACK WORK  
COMPONENTS



BEGIN WORK ON  
PASSENGER STATION  
AREAS



# Meet The Team: George Santana

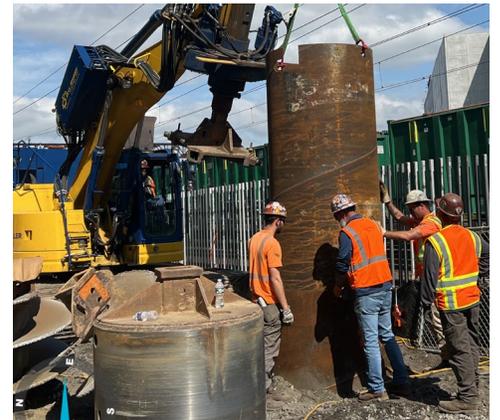


George Santana has over 25 years of experience in the Transportation industry, playing a key role in MTA C&D's development and the delivery of Design-Build projects in the New York region. Most notably, George worked on design and construction management for the Mario Cuomo Bridge Project (the first Design-Build mega project in New York State) and led the MTA C&D Construction Services Office during its formative years. Having grown up in the Hunts Point area of the Bronx, just one block from the proposed Hunts Point passenger station, George is honored to serve as the Design Compliance Manager for the Penn Station Access project and bring this transformative transit option to his childhood community.

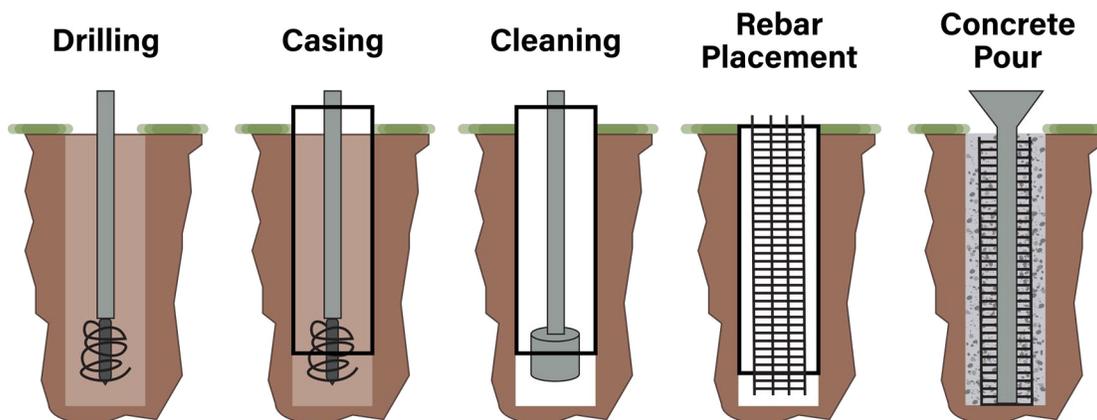
## Rail Term Roundup: Caisson

### What is a caisson?

In addition to bringing four new passenger stations to the East Bronx and Metro-North service to Penn Station, one of the project's main goals is to bring Amtrak's existing Hell Gate Line into a state of good repair. This includes upgrading the OCS structures along the project corridor to supply electricity for existing and future rail service. The first step of building the OCS is caisson installation. A caisson is a box-like structure that serves as the foundation for OCS. From April 2023 through Q1 2024, the project team is installing over 400 caissons, each spanning 4 feet in diameter and 20 feet in depth. To install the caissons, PSA construction workers will perform drilling, casing, cleaning, rebar placement, and pouring of concrete (see image below). This critical step marks a significant next milestone in the advancement of the project.



Above: PSA workers installing casing for OCS caisson, April 2023



Above: Caisson installation diagram



## Contact Us

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