



Welcome to the Penn Station Access Project quarterly newsletter. Penn Station Access will bolster equity, regional connectivity, and reliability by upgrading existing infrastructure and providing a new accessible transit option. Read on to learn more about recent progress, community engagement, and upcoming work. For past newsletter issues, [click here](#). For updates on specific areas along the project corridor where work will take place, sign up [here](#).





You can learn more about the Penn Station Access Project and its progress on our updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) fact [sheet](#).

## PSA Progress

The construction team is in the midst of the second long-term outage to support the construction of Leggett Interlocking. This work includes the demolition of existing track, construction of new track, partial completion of a new overhead catenary system (OCS), and the partial completion of a new signal system.

At the Morris Park Station location, a new gate was installed for access to perform work on the track, wall, and platform. In early June, the team relocated the barrier and fencing around the Parkchester/ Van Nest Station area and mobilized the construction yard to now commence constructing the new station. New electrical features on the OCS at Hunts Point Station, Parkchester/Van Nest Station, and Leggett Interlocking were installed to support bridge signals and train wiring.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

Long-Term Outage 2	Power System Upgrades	Station Sites	Bridges
 <p><b>LEGGETT INTERLOCKING SPECIAL TRACK 2 WORK COMPONENT</b> SWITCH MACHINE INSTALLATION COMMENCED</p> <hr/> <p><b>PARKCHESTER (ZONE 2) DRAINAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATION</b> 44% COMPLETE</p>	 <p><b>OCS - PORTALS INSTALLED</b> PARKCHESTER: 54% LEGGETT: 87%</p> <hr/> <p><b>OCS - COLUMNS INSTALLED</b> PARKCHESTER: 91% LEGGETT: 97%</p> <hr/> <p><b>SUBSTATIONS</b> HG-01 SUBSTATION: EXCAVATION AND DRAINAGE COMPLETE</p>	 <p><b>HUNTS POINT MICROPILES INSTALLED</b> NORTH ENTRANCE: 87% SOUTH ENTRANCE: 100%</p> <hr/> <p><b>MORRIS PARK MICROPILES INSTALLED</b> NORTH ENTRANCE: 69%</p> <hr/> <p><b>CO-OP CITY</b> FOUNDATION CONCRETE: 16% COMPLETE</p>	 <p><b>EASTCHESTER RD</b> NEW CENTER PIER COMPLETE</p> <hr/> <p><b>BRONXDALE AVE</b> NEW CENTER PIER COMPLETE</p> <hr/> <p><b>BRONX RIVER</b> DEMOLITION UNDERWAY</p> <hr/> <p><b>PELHAM LANE</b> PROGRESSED WALLS AND FOOTINGS</p>

## Disability Pride Month: Accessible Stations

In July we celebrated Disability Pride Month. Did you know that all four stations that are included in the Penn Station Access Project will be fully ADA-accessible? Equipped with accessibility compliant amenities, including new elevators, accessible boarding areas, improved wayfinding, and designated curbside drop-off and pick-up areas, the stations are designed to feel open, safe and accessible with minimal obstructions and inclusive sightlines so that all passengers can focus on getting to the platform safely. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – compliant crosswalks across from each of the station entrances with new crosswalk striping will also be in place. These are just a few of the additional features that will allow for access to both the train platforms and street at all of the new stations as the MTA continues to enhance accessibility system-wide.

# Railroad Safety and Security

As a part of transit industry safety and security standards, the project's design and operations must follow relevant federal and state regulations, industry codes, policies and guidelines, not to mention the internal guidelines set by Amtrak and Metro-North, which are intended to promote the safety and security of rail workers, customers and the general public. This year's safety convention with the design-build team HRJV and MTA's Construction and Design, focused on how to prevent falls and make sure every construction worker comes home safely. During the week-long event, there were demonstrations from different vendors who came to the East Tremont construction yard, in the Bronx, and hosted various presentations. Safety week began with a kick-off breakfast and ended with the wrap-up barbeque for all workers.



*PSA crews attend Safety Week BBQ event, May 2024.*

## Meet the Team

### Clarissa Fuller – Senior Principal Project Manager

Clarissa is a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP) who joined Amtrak in December 2019. Her career in construction management began in 1999 as a Field Secretary for HRH Construction. While working there and raising a family, and she pursued a degree in Construction Management. She later joined Long Island Railroad as a Project Manager, overseeing major capital projects such as Hillside Maintenance Facility and the Enhanced Stations Initiative. Clarissa values the collaboration and determination of Amtrak, MTA C&D and the design-builder and finds her role in constructing a historic infrastructure project to be rewarding. Clarissa served in the Navy Reserve for 8 years from 2001 to 2009 and aims to be a role model for her three children, demonstrating dedication, patience, and teamwork.



*Clarissa Fuller, Senior Principal Project Manager Penn Station Access, June 2024.*

### Mark Bencivengo – Senior Manager Capital Construction

Mark has proudly worked at Amtrak for over 32 years. Starting as a qualified Electric Traction Qualified Lineman (A-man), Mark performed maintenance, construction and protection services for Amtrak's Overhead Catenary System for more than nine years. He later became a Construction Manager, overseeing significant projects including the Moynihan Train Hall Project and the Platform Improvement Project at New York Penn Station. He is now the Senior Manager, Capital Construction for the Penn Station Access project where he is responsible for building Amtrak's construction management staff and providing the necessary support to deliver this monumental project, which to Mark is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve infrastructure in the greatest city in the world and offer train service to the area's underserved communities.



*Mark Bencivengo, Senior Manager Capital Construction Penn Station Access July 2024.*

# Community Corner

The outreach team is excited to share that steMTA launched in the Bronx at two elementary school locations: The Joseph S. Drake School (P.S. 48) in Hunts Point and St. Raymond's Elementary School in Parkchester. The outreach team works with local schools to showcase how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) drives projects like Penn Station Access. Students design model train cars and participate in a bridge building activity while learning about rail infrastructure and STEM concepts.

In June, MTA's Joseph O'Donnell provided a project update and answered questions from attendees at a New York City Council Land Use hearing. The MTA continues to work with local stakeholders to encourage a dialogue about the Penn Station Access project and its impacts within the community



Above: steMTA event at St. Raymond's Elementary School in Parkchester, May 2024.



Above: Community Outreach team at St. Raymond's Elementary School in Parkchester, May 2024.

# Upcoming Work

Mini pile installation for the Parkchester/Van Nest Station House is scheduled to commence in August 2024. Mini pile work at the Co-op City Station is anticipated to commence in August 2024, followed by preparations for concrete placement.



Above: Amtrak train passing through work zone near site of future Morris Park Station, July 2024



Above: New and preexisting OCS portals at site of future Parkchester/Van Nest Station, July 2024



## Contact Us

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