

# History of the Shuttle

The Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) 42nd Street Shuttle, also known as the Grand Central/Times Square Shuttle, connects these two stations at all times on what is now the shortest route in the entire system. It opened on October 27, 1904, as part of the IRT's original subway route. When the Seventh and Lexington Avenue lines were each expanded north and southward in 1918, the Shuttle's function shifted; it still conjoined these trunk lines, but with limited track. Today, its three tracks serve to connect Grand Central and Times Square stations.



Grand Central Shuttle platform in 1962.  
Photo courtesy of the New York Transit Museum.

**#42StShuttle**

**[new.mta.info/42StShuttle](http://new.mta.info/42StShuttle)**

# Building a better

## 42 St Shuttle

# S

### Accessible

Wider, accessible platform compliant with ADA standards.

### Easier

One redesigned platform with access to two tracks.

### Faster

Larger capacity trains and new signaling equipment.

# Modernizing the 42 St Shuttle

The 42 St Shuttle is part of the original subway system that opened in 1904. It operates on tracks and in stations built as part of New York City's first subway line. Today, more than 100,000 customers ride the 42 St Shuttle every day. Up to 10,000 customers ride per hour during peak times.

To modernize the Shuttle including making it fully accessible and in compliance with ADA standards, we are transforming all aspects of it, including the track operations and terminals at Times Square and Grand Central stations.

## Travel Options

The **S** will still operate during the hours it does today, but service will be reduced during construction. Expect it to get crowded at times on trains and platforms throughout the duration of the project. Arrival tracks will also change as work progresses.

You may want to consider other options for getting across town, like the **7** or **M42** bus. If you're heading north and east from Times Square, the **E** **N** **Q** **R** or **W** are additional alternatives.

# About the Project

## We will modernize every aspect of the 42 St Shuttle

### Two tracks

Going from three tracks to two will make it easier for customers to get to the next arriving train.

### Longer trains

In addition to consolidating the tracks, we are straightening them. This will allow longer trains to enter the terminal.

We are expanding the current 4-car train length to 6-car trains, increasing capacity by 20% during peak times.

### ADA-compliant features

Straightening the tracks will also eliminate platform gaps, making the Shuttle fully accessible for mobility-impaired customers, including wheelchair users.

### New signals

Replacing the current signal system, which dates back to the 1930s, with new modern signals.