

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](#).

2022 Year In Review

The Penn Station Access project has made significant progress in its first year! In December 2022, the project team welcomed New York Governor Kathy Hochul along with Senator Chuck Schumer and other representatives for the project's ceremonial groundbreaking at the future Parkchester/Van Nest station site. The groundbreaking was followed by a press event at THE POINT Community Development Organization in the Bronx. To read more about the event, [click here](#).



Above: Governor Kathy Hochul making remarks at THE POINT. Source: Marc Hermann / MTA



Above: Governor Kathy Hochul accompanied by elected officials and various agency leadership for groundbreaking. Source: Marc Hermann / MTA

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CO-LOCATED PROJECT OFFICE OPENED



SITE SURVEYS, GEOTECHNICAL BORINGS, TEST PITS 80% COMPLETE



45 DESIGN PACKAGES UNDER DEVELOPMENT (ADVANCED TO 60% - RFC)



CLEARING, UTILITY RELOCATIONS, AND ACCESS ROADS ADVANCED



SITE MOBILIZATION, LAYDOWN AREAS, AND PERMANENT FIELD TRAILERS



WORK ON BRONXDALE AVE. AND EASTCHESTER RD. BRIDGES COMMENCED



LEGGETT CROSSOVER SPECIAL TRACK WORK COMPONENTS PROCURED AND DELIVERED



NEW ROCHELLE YARD OPTION AWARDED DECEMBER 2022

Project Updates

DCP Bronx Metro-North Station Area Plan

The Penn Station Access project continues to be in close coordination with the Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study – a separate NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) initiative to ensure that Bronxites see the most benefit from the stations delivered by the MTA Project. In December, representatives from the MTA and project team presented at DCP’s Bronx-Metro North Public Info Sessions about the planning work for the Morris Park and Parkchester/Van Nest station areas. To read more about the DCP Bronx Metro-North Station Area Plan, [click here](#).









Capital Program Committee Meeting

On January 30, 2023, Project Executive Tom McGuinness presented at the MTA board Capital Program Committee meeting with a focus on project status, coordination with Amtrak, potential risks, and ongoing mitigation efforts. To watch the full presentation, [click here](#).

What's Next In 2023

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		WORK ON HUNTS POINT AND PARKCHESTER STATIONS TO BEGIN IN LATE 2023

MTA is coordinating closely with Amtrak and CSX on right-of-way access to keep construction on track (pun intended). Starting in March 2023, Amtrak will provide a long-term single-track outage for as long as 8 months, with no impacts to customers. Longer-term outages can significantly improve construction efficiency and productivity as they provide the Design-Builder larger windows to advance critical work along the tracks. It also provides an opportunity to install certain engineered controls to protect the work with less required Force Account support (see next page).

Meet the Deputy Project Executive: Luigi Rosa

Luigi Rosa has over 25 years of experience working on railroad megaprojects across New York City, Europe, and the Middle East including: MTA's East Side Access Project, the Italian High-Speed Railway program, and the Omani National Railway Project. Serving as a Deputy Project Executive of Penn Station Access since 2018, Luigi brings his robust industry experience, positive attitude, and unwavering determination to leading and empowering an integrated project team. Luigi is thrilled to be part of this transformative project for its profound positive impact on people's quality of life and transit equity in the region.



Luigi Rosa (left) shaking hands with MTA Chair & CEO Janno Lieber (right) at the project groundbreaking. Source: Marc Hermann / MTA

Rail Term Roundup: Force Account

What is a force account?

Force account is another term for a railroad's in-field staff, such as flaggers and supervisors, working to carry out a capital project. These crews are essential to maintaining safety during construction on an active rail corridor. At the start of the project, MTA entered into an agreement where Amtrak committed to providing track access and force account staffing to keep the project on schedule. Recently, Amtrak reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the project and is working with the MTA to provide the necessary extended track outages and force account resources while maintaining both passenger and freight service along the corridor. Collaborating with our railroad partners is the key to delivering this mutually beneficial project that will bring the Hell Gate Line into a state of good repair, improve reliability and on-time performance for intercity passengers, and prepare the line for future high-speed rail.



Above: Penn Station Access construction worker conducting test pit along the project right-of-way, 2022



Contact Us

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