

Rockaway Line Rehabilitation & Resiliency

Town Hall Presentation

November 14, 2024



Open communication with local stakeholders

The MTA is committed to helping you understand and prepare for service changes that affect your commute.

The Public Outreach Team has been briefing elected officials and community members across the peninsula about upcoming construction on the Rockaway line since August 2022.

- Dedicated 24/7 hotline (516) 331-4009 and email RockawayResiliency@mtacd.org
- Sign up for our project newsletter at mta.info/rockawayupdates



Project team presenting to Queens Community Board 10 in September 2024

Agenda

1. Context of Rockaway Investments

2. Project Scope of Work

- Portion to be completed during 17-week **A** train shutdown
- Remainder to be completed by 2026.

3. 17-Week Shutdown

- Why is a long-term outage necessary?
- Service replacements



A train travelling from South Channel Bridge towards Hammels Wye

Rockaway Line: Then

The Rockaway Line was built by the Long Island Rail Road in 1892.

After a fire destroyed a portion of the line in 1950, the City purchased the line and created islands with infill from the bay to adapt it for subway use.

Ridership fell and service had declined by the 1980s.



Broad Channel locomotive service in 1917

Rockaway Line: Now

Today, the Rockaway Line **A** **S** is a vital link between the Rockaway peninsula and the rest of New York City, and it serves over 9,000 daily passengers.

We're committed to improving the Rockaway line for future generations.

- Completed: Accessibility at Beach 67 St **A**
- Ongoing: Flood prevention at three substations at Broad Channel, Hamilton Beach, and Edgemere
- Coming soon: Beach 36 St **A** and Beach 90 St **A** ADA upgrades



Community members, advocates, and elected officials celebrate a newly-accessible Beach 67 St station in 2024

Rockaway Line Repairs Post-Sandy

Damage from Superstorm Sandy suspended **A** train service for seven months.

Thanks to nearly \$200 million in emergency restoration and resilience investments, we were able to address the most urgent repairs to restore service. But there is more work to do.

This project is the next phase of that work and **invests \$393 million** to safeguard the bridges and viaducts that provide critical connection for the next 50+ years.



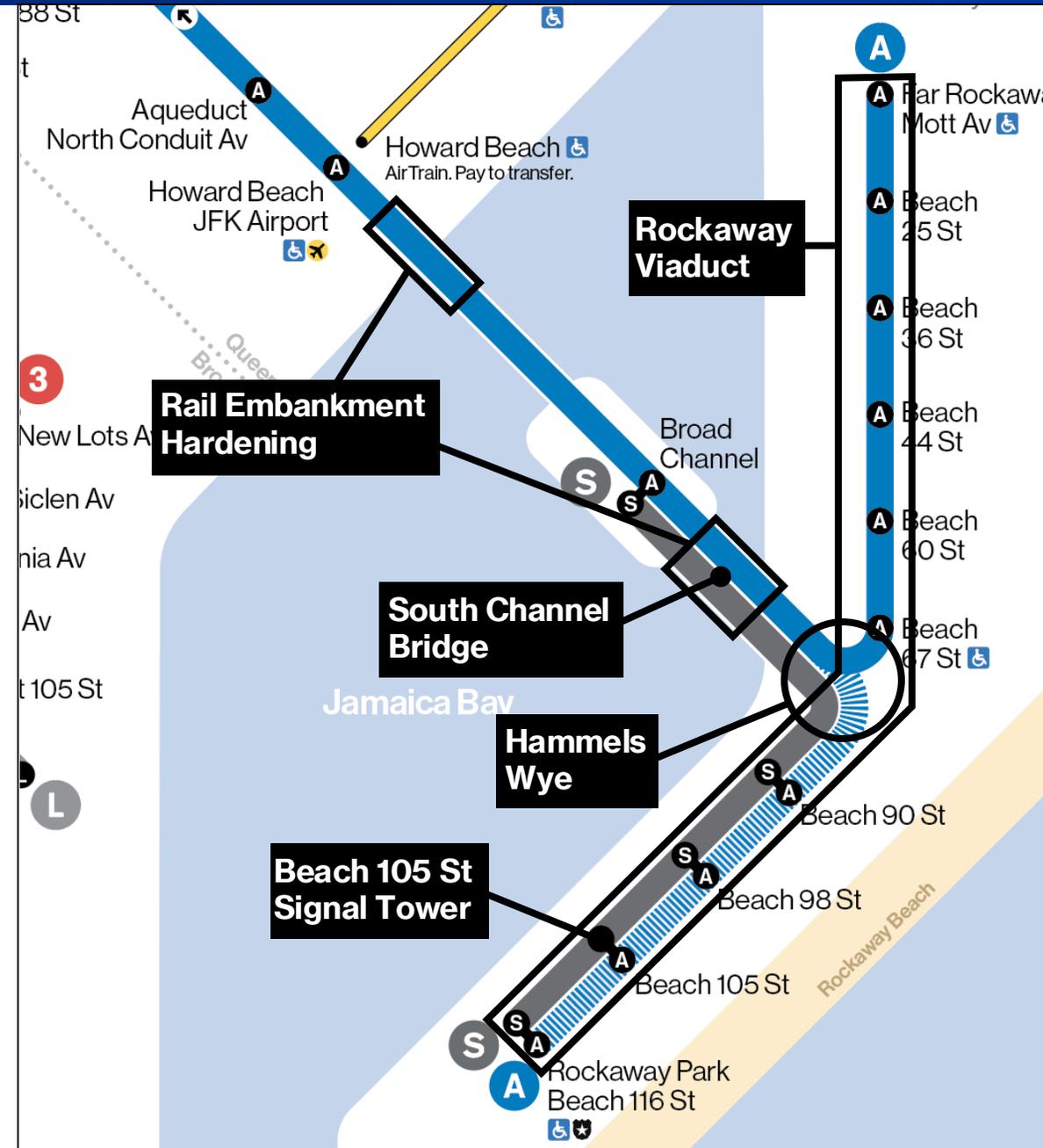
Project Scope of Work

1. Components to be completed during 17-week shutdown

- Hammels Wye reconstruction
- South Channel Bridge electrical and mechanical system rehabilitation

2. Other ongoing project elements

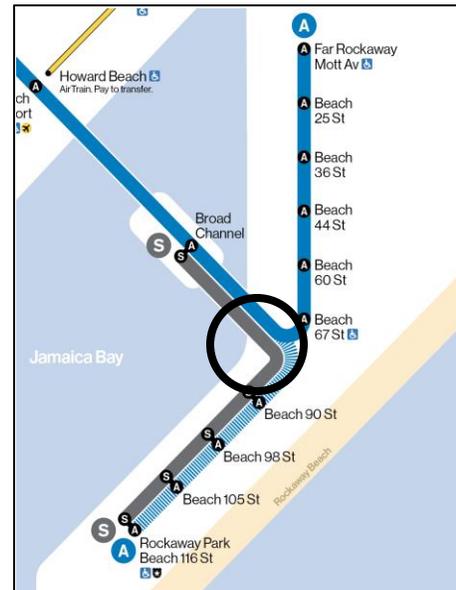
- Rockaway Viaduct concrete repairs
- Fortifying embankments
- Beach 105 St signal tower construction



Hammels Wye

The Hammels Wye is the elevated structure carrying the **A** line to the Rockaway Peninsula. It splits service between west-bound Rockaway Park service and the east-bound Far Rockaway service.

This is a critical piece of infrastructure. Every single train crosses this juncture to get to the peninsula.



Hammels Wye

Age and exposure to the elements have caused significant wear and tear.

Patchwork repairs are no longer adequate.

To ensure future service to the peninsula, the Hammels Wye must be fully reconstructed.

- New steel and concrete superstructure with new rail and signal equipment
- 1,600 feet long constructed from 250 tons of steel

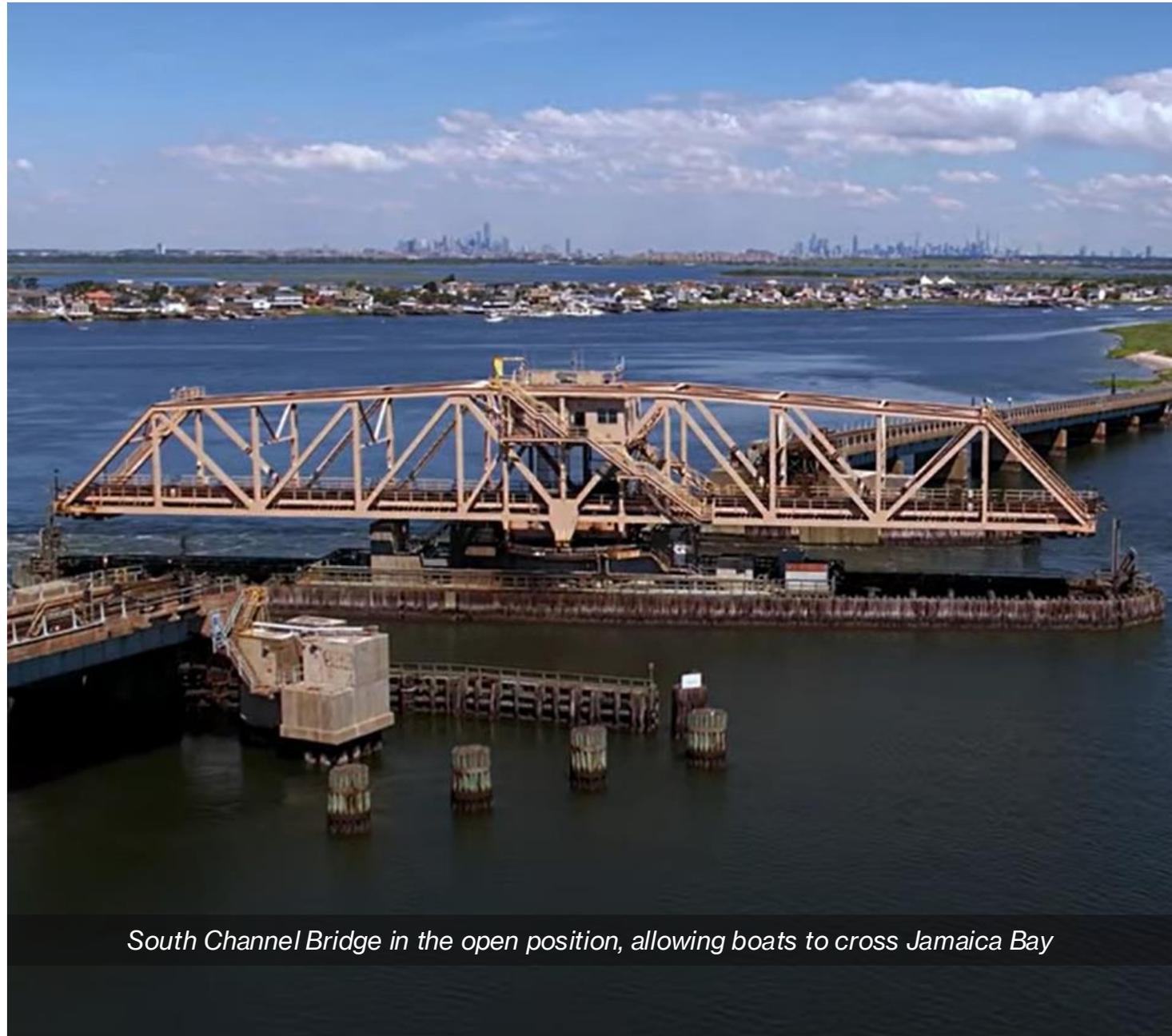


South Channel Bridge

The South Channel Bridge swings open to allow boats to cross Jamaica Bay.

When its aging mechanics fail and the bridge gets stuck, the Coast Guard mandates that maritime traffic get right of way.

We're using the 17-week outage to gut renovate the bridge's mechanical and electrical components to ensure more reliable **A** train service.



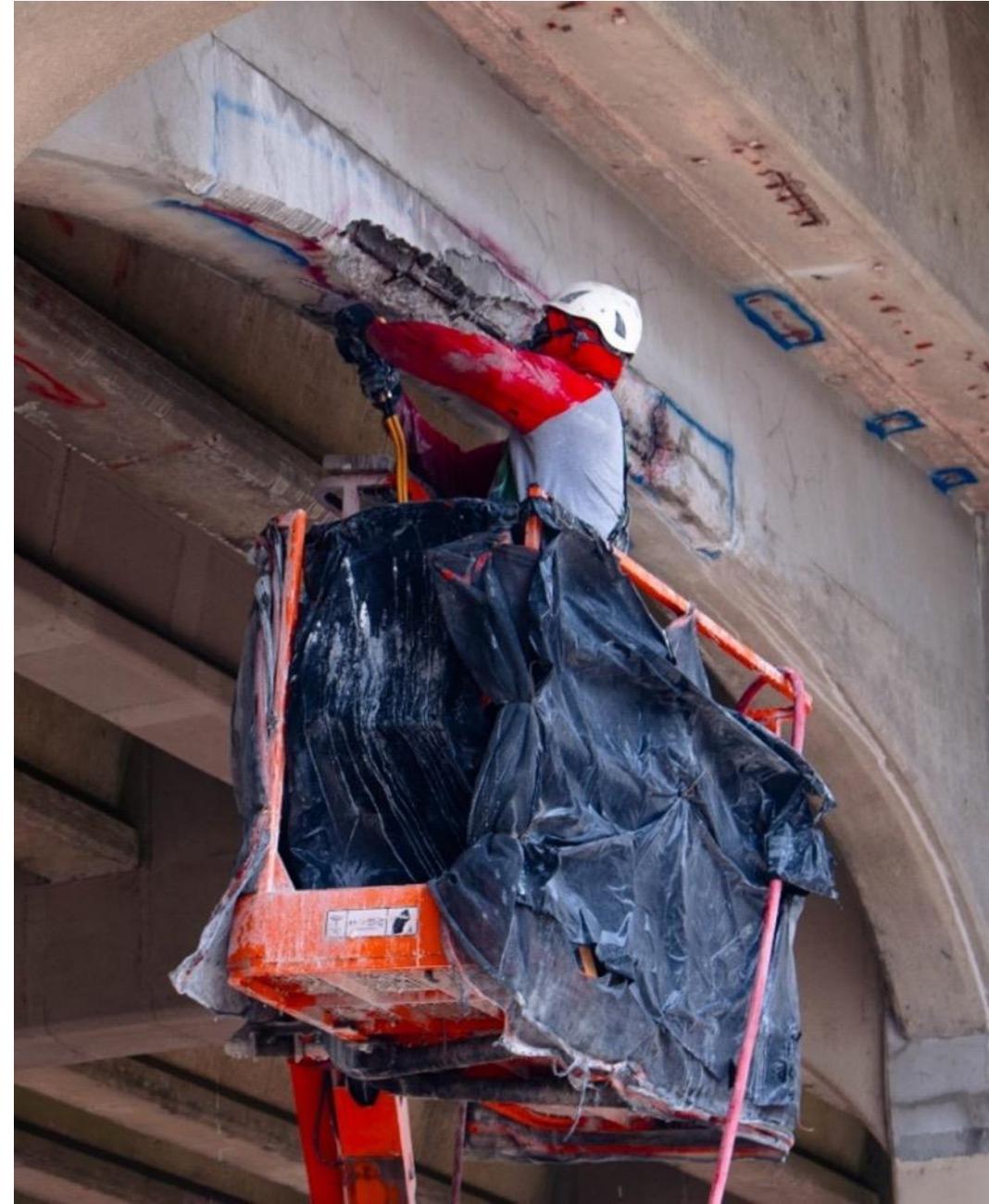
South Channel Bridge in the open position, allowing boats to cross Jamaica Bay

Rockaway Viaduct

The Rockaway Viaduct carries **A** and **S** service from Far Rockaway-Mott Avenue to Rockaway Park-Beach 116 St.

We're repairing the concrete shell that encases and protects the viaduct's steel skeleton.

This work is ongoing and it will continue throughout the duration of the project.



Fortifying Embankments

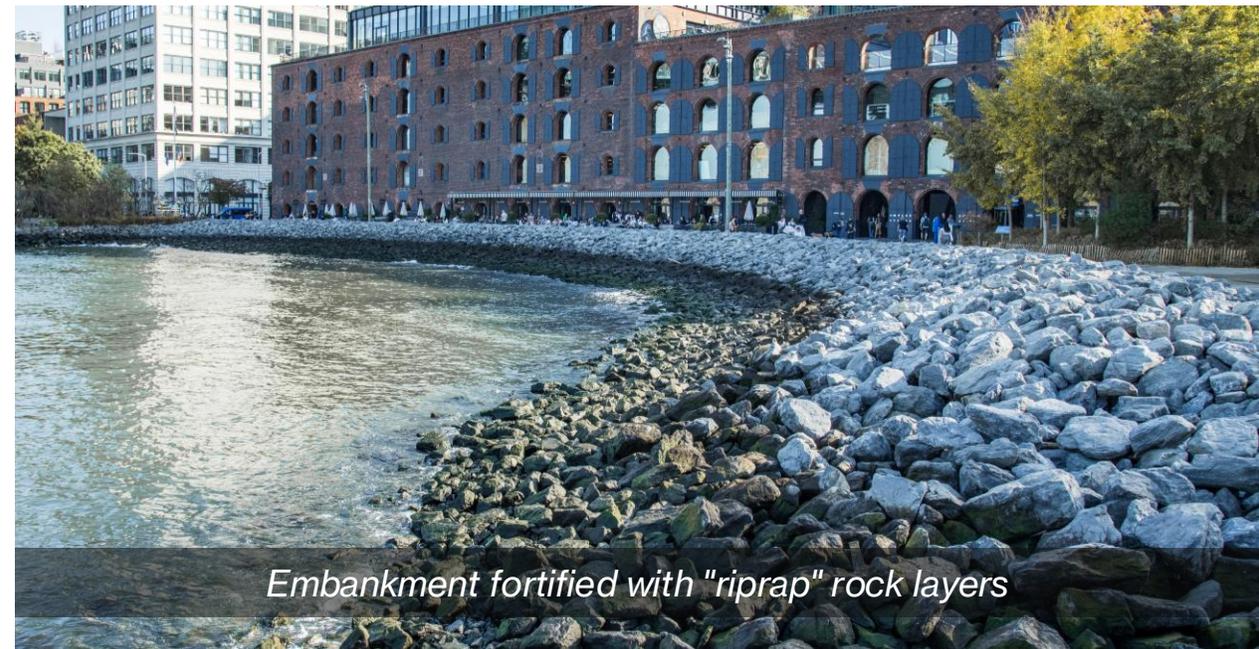
Large waves from Superstorm Sandy washed out the embankments that support the track beds on top.

These embankments sit on the shoreline and are very vulnerable to erosion from storm surges.

We are fortifying these low-lying areas with layers of rock to strengthen the line's resiliency.



Embankment vulnerable to erosion



Embankment fortified with "riprap" rock layers

Beach 105 St Signal Tower

Constructing a new elevated signal tower at Beach 105 St will make the system more resilient in the event of another storm surge.



Beach 105 St September 2024



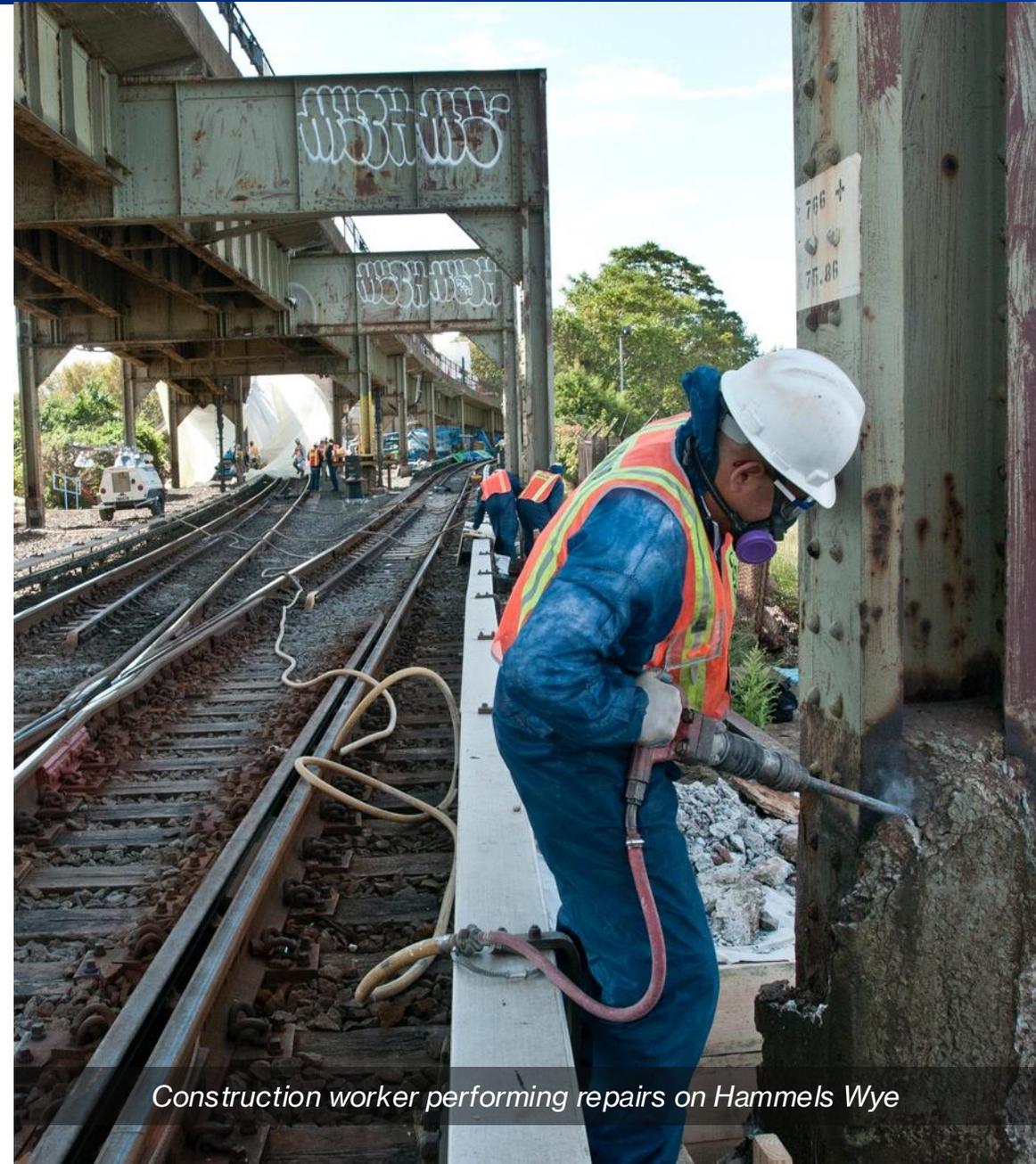
Illustrative rendering of the future Beach 105 St Signal Tower

Why does this work require a long-term service outage?

To complete this work safely, service disruption is unavoidable.

Critical construction on the South Channel Bridge and Hammels Wye cannot be completed in piecemeal outages.

- Hammels Wye reconstruction requires rebuilding the structure the tracks themselves are running on
- South Channel Bridge must be kept in the open position during gut renovation



Construction worker performing repairs on Hammels Wye

Why does this work require a long-term service outage?

After careful consideration, we concluded that a 17-week shutdown is the most time- and cost-efficient option

An external panel of industry experts on the Major Construction Review Unit studied our proposal and agreed with this conclusion



How will we keep the project on track?

We have a detailed plan to keep construction on schedule and manage our contractors.

- Large liquidated damage penalties should the design-build contractor fail to deliver on-time
- Planning far in advance to secure specialized materials prior to shutdown
- Contingency planning for winter weather
- Local hiring plans and DBE subcontractor goals



Project Lead on **A** Train 17-Week Shutdown

Innovative project management approach that proved successful in similar service outage on the **G**

Shuttle bus operations

- Monitoring deployment and performance
- Adjusting schedules when needed

Customer communications

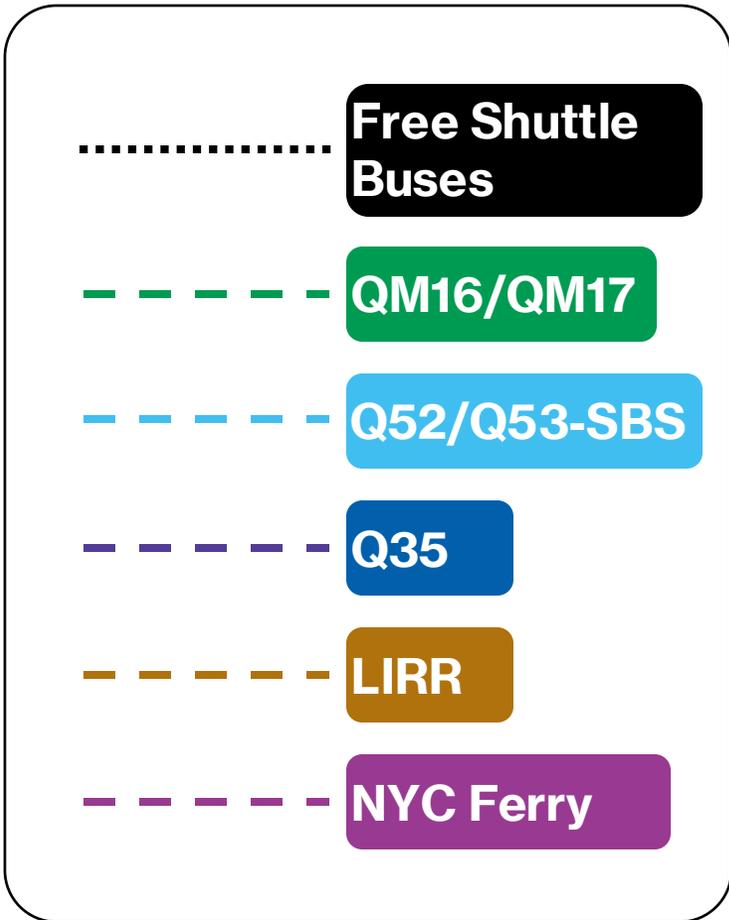
- Maintaining proper signage
- Deploying customer service staff
- Communicating service changes



Robust **A** Train Service Replacement Plan

- **A** trains terminate at Howard Beach
- **Free shuttle bus service**
 - Q97 Howard Beach – Far Rockaway via Nassau Expressway
 - Q109 Howard Beach – Beach 67 St via Broad Channel and Beach 90 St
- **Rerouted **S** subway shuttle – free during 17-week outage:** serves all stations on peninsula between Far Rockaway and Rockaway Park-Beach 116 Street
- **Q52/Q53 SBS:** Connection to **A** train at Rockaway Blvd
- **Q35:** Connection to Flatbush Av-Brooklyn College **2** **5**
- **QM16/QM17:** Express bus to Manhattan
- **Discounted Long Island Rail Road at Far Rockaway:** \$2.75 one-way fare to/from Far Rockaway LIRR Station
- **NYC Ferry:** Existing ferry service can accommodate additional riders

Travel alternatives informed by community dialogue



17-Week Outage Train and Shuttle Bus Schedules

Service Name	Route	Frequency
 Shuttle Train	Far Rockaway – Rockaway Park	Every 15 minutes
Q97 Shuttle Bus	Howard Beach – Far Rockaway via Nassau Expy	Peak: Every 6-8 minutes Midday: Every 10 minutes Weekend: Every 10 minutes
Q109 Shuttle Bus	Howard Beach – Beach 67 St via Broad Channel	Peak: Every 4-5 minutes Midday: Every 8-9 minutes Weekend: Every 10 minutes

MTA is coordinating with DOT to install new bus stop signs and update existing signage to include the Q97 and Q109 routes.

Removing and restoring power to the third rail

Bookend weekend outages on 1/17-1/20 and 5/16-5/19 11:30 PM Friday to 5:00 AM Monday

- Turning off electricity to complete work safely, then returning power at the end of the 17-week shutdown.
- **A** terminates at Howard Beach.
- No **S** shuttle train service.
- Three shuttle bus routes, serving all Rockaways stations, running between Howard Beach and:
 - Far Rockaway (non-stop)
 - Far Rockaway, via Broad Channel
 - Rockaway Park, via Broad Channel



Additional Planned Service Diversions – Fall 2024

We're making repairs to the track level of the elevated Rockaway Viaduct.

Weeknight Outages

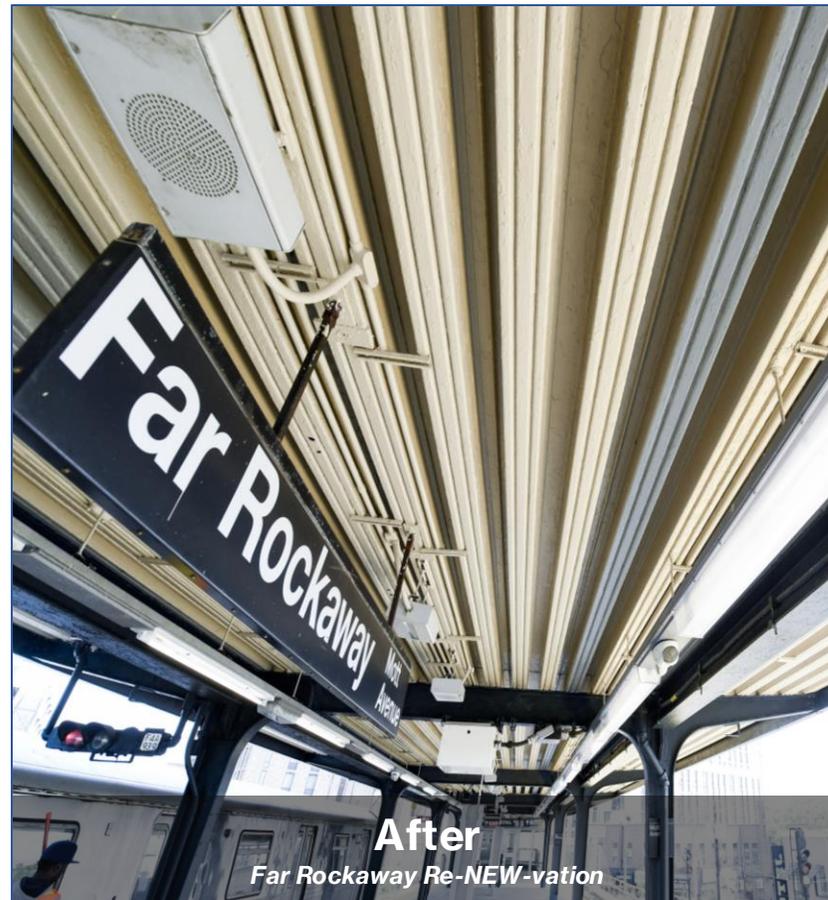
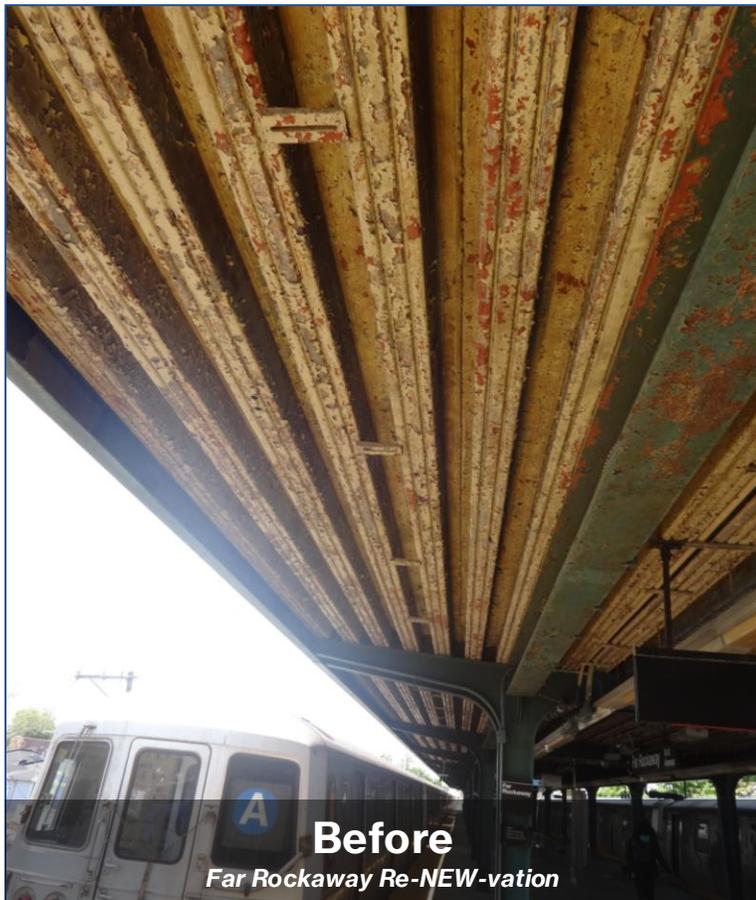
- **9:30pm Thursday to 5am Friday 11/21-11/22**
A terminates at Howard Beach. S shuttle train rerouted, operates between Far Rockaway and Rockaway Park. Shuttle bus operates between Howard Beach and Beach 67 St stopping at Broad Channel.

Weekend Outages

- **11:30pm Friday to 5am Monday, 11/15-11/18, 11/22-11/25**
Rockaway Park S suspended. A operates to Far Rockaway as normal. Shuttle bus operates between Beach 67 St and Rockaway Park.

Maximizing Station Improvements During Service Outage

We're making the most of this service outage by deep cleaning each station on the Rockaway Line.



In addition, we're renovating at least two stations on the Rockaway Line during the last weekend of the service outage.

Contact Us



Project hotline: (516) 331-4009



RockawayResiliency@mtacd.org



mta.info/rockawayupdates



Thank you!
Comments & Questions