

**RECONSTRUCTION OF GRAND CONCOURSE OVER E. 161ST STREET,
AND GRAND CONCOURSE FROM E. 161ST TO E. 166TH STREET**

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Borough of Bronx

July 2007

Community Board #4

SUMMER OF RECONSTRUCTION

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Dust and Noise

As with all major reconstruction projects, NYCDOT is aware of the unavoidable impact the Grand Concourse and E. 161st Street reconstruction projects have on the surrounding community. We continue to strive to keep any and all inconveniences to a minimum.

- Dust is a constant concern. The Grand Concourse Project Team uses two methods of dust mitigation. One method is the application of calcium chloride to the exposed sub-grade in order to create more tension between the soil particles on the surface. The other method is less technical: on a consistent basis, the surface area is wet down to prevent dust from rising.
- Noise levels are being monitored and are in conformance with New York City noise regulations. In addition, reconstruction work is governed by the schedule noted below.

Reconstruction Work Schedule

Workers may mobilize prior to the start of the work day, however reconstruction work will usually be performed during the following schedule:

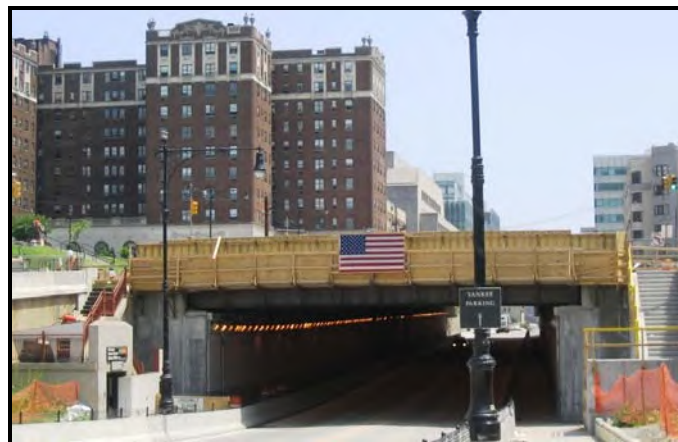
- 7:00am – 5:00pm Weekdays
- 9:00am – 5:00pm Saturdays
- Sunday Notification will be provided if required

The Contractor may elect to perform off-hour reconstruction work which will expedite the reconstruction progress. Weekend work and extended hours will be performed on an as-needed basis depending on the construction progress and weather conditions. Prior detailed notification of such work will be provided when applicable.

Traffic Safety Reminder



Motorists, for your safety and the safety of others, please adhere to the construction zone speed limit of 20mph.



E. 161ST STREET UNDERPASS

RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

E. 161st Street Underpass Reconstruction Work

In order to alleviate local community traffic concerns, the E. 161st Street Underpass reconstruction work was progressed to 80% completion. The remainder of the work will be completed during off peak hours (subject to OCMC concurrence) and without the major underpass closure seen last year.

E. 161st Street North Service Road Reconstruction

Work continues on the north service road of E.161st Street from Gerard Avenue to Sheridan Avenue, and is expected to be completed on or about August 31, 2007.

Reconstruction of the Grand Concourse Roadway

Reconstruction of the east side of the Grand Concourse roadway will continue this summer from E. 161st Street to E. 166th Street. Following this roadway work, sidewalk reconstruction will begin along the east side of the Grand Concourse and is expected to be completed this summer. After completion of each side of the Grand Concourse, work will begin on reconstructing the mid-section of the roadway.

UTILITIES INFORMATION

Con Edison: Utility work to rebuild Con Edison ducts and manholes will continue along the north service road of E. 161st Street from Sheridan to Gerard Avenue through this summer.

FREQUENTLY ASKED COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

How will sidewalk reconstruction affect pedestrians and building access? Access to buildings will be maintained with temporary ramps. A six foot-wide walkway will be provided for pedestrians while the sidewalks are being replaced.

Why are barrels still located in areas where work has been completed? While work may appear to be completed, in fact, it may only be near completion. For safety reasons and in order to avoid tripping hazards, barrels are placed in certain areas where work will continue.

Sewer and water main replacement - what does this mean to me? The sewer and water lines being replaced will provide safe, efficient, and consistent service to you and your community. While no water shutdowns are anticipated during the summer, in the event they are necessary, you will receive prior notice.

What can we expect to be restored now or in the near future?

- Bus Stop Shelters in the south bound lanes of the Grand Concourse at E. 163rd Street and E. 165th Street were recently restored in June.
- North wall and sidewalk of the E. 161st Street Underpass will be restored this summer.

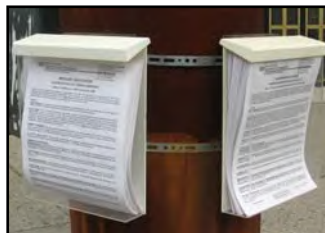
How can I find out more about the project?

Project updates are available through the NYCDOT website at www.nyc.gov/dot. Questions regarding the project and/or requests to be placed on the email distribution list for project updates may be addressed to the **Community Liaison, Maureen French, at (347) 386-9375**, via fax at **(718) 410-0568** or via e-mail at mfrench@zetlin.com.

In addition, Notices and Newsletters are available via our Outdoor Literature Box program at the following locations:

- Grand Concourse at E. 161st St., northeast corner
- Grand Concourse at E. 161st St., southwest corner
- Grand Concourse at E. 165th St., southwest corner

By keeping the community informed, we hope to minimize any inconvenience that may occur as a result of construction activities at the bridge site. NYCDOT will continue to issue newsletters, travel advisories and project updates during the course of the project. If there is a concern during non-construction hours, please call the New York City Government Services and Information Hotline at 311.



E. 161st STREET UNDERPASS INTERIOR

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

In the spring of 2006, the NYCDOT started reconstruction of the Grand Concourse over E. 161st Street, the E. 161st Street Underpass, E. 161st Street from Sheridan Avenue to Gerard Avenue, and the Grand Concourse from E. 161st to E. 166th Street. These projects are expected to be completed in September 2009.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Grand Concourse: There are at least 2 through traffic lanes in each direction on the Grand Concourse with parking at designated areas.

E. 161st Street: The E. 161st Street Underpass returned to service on April 1, 2007. The north service road at E. 161st Street will remain closed from Gerard Avenue to Sheridan Avenue until August 15, 2007. Access to the south service road will be maintained throughout reconstruction of the north service road.

TRAFFIC MITIGATION

NYPD Traffic Agents are deployed at key intersections to facilitate the flow of traffic in and around the construction area. Variable Message Boards and Construction Signage are in place within the construction area and also at strategic locations in the surrounding area.

DID YOU KNOW...

- As a green initiative, the Grand Concourse Project Team uses ultra low sulfur diesel fuel to minimize the release of harmful pollutants.
- The Grand Concourse Project Team documents the historical changes being made to the E. 161st Street Underpass and the Grand Concourse Roadway during reconstruction with a monthly progression photography project for the Bronx Borough President's Office and the Bronx Historical Society.