

= Kew Gardens ? Union Turnpike (IND Queens Boulevard Line) =

Kew Gardens ? Union Turnpike is an express station on the IND Queens Boulevard Line of the New York City Subway . Located at Union Turnpike and Queens Boulevard on the border of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills , Queens , it is served by the E and F trains at all times . Despite the station 's name , Union Turnpike forms the border between Kew Gardens and Forest Hills , and the station straddles that border , with multiple entrances located in each neighborhood .

= = History = =

The Queens Boulevard Line was one of the first lines built by the city @-@ owned Independent Subway System (IND) , and stretches between the IND Eighth Avenue Line in Manhattan and 179th Street and Hillside Avenue in Jamaica , Queens . The Queens Boulevard Line was in part financed by a Public Works Administration (PWA) loan and grant of \$ 25 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 . One of the proposed stations would have been located at Union Turnpike . A map from June 1925 shows a proposed alternate routing for the Queens Boulevard Line , that would have had the line turn via Kew Gardens Road after the Union Turnpike station instead of continuing via Queens Boulevard . After proceeding via Kew Gardens Road the line would have turned via Hillside Avenue . If this route were used , then Kew Gardens Road would have had to been widened to accommodate the four track line . This alternate routing would have provided for better access to Richmond Hill . In 1930 , in anticipation of growth due to the building of the Queens Boulevard Line , several blocks of land along Queens Boulevard were rezoned so that fifteen @-@ story apartment buildings could be built .

On December 31 , 1936 , the IND Queens Boulevard Line was extended by eight stops , and 3 @. @ 5 miles (5 @. @ 6 km) , from its previous terminus at Roosevelt Avenue to Union Turnpike . The construction of the extension to Kew Gardens brought significant growth to Queens , specifically in Forest Hills and Kew Gardens . New apartment buildings were being built as a result of the subway line , and it transformed both Forest Hills and Kew Gardens from quiet residential communities of one @-@ family houses to active population centers . Following the line 's completion , there was an increase in the property values of buildings around Queens Boulevard . On April 24 , 1937 , the IND Queens Boulevard Line was extended four stops to 169th Street , with 169th Street and Parsons Boulevard serving as terminals .

On November 23 , 1941 , the Q37 bus operated by Green Bus Lines was extended to the station to provide a transfer to the subway .

In the 1970s , when the New York City Subway was at an all @-@ time low , following the general trend of a decrease in ridership , the amount of passengers using the Union Turnpike station decreased by 2 @, @ 700 @, @ 000 passengers .

As part of the MTA 's 1975 ? 1981 transit program , station lighting at Kew Gardens was improved .

= = Station layout = =

This express station has four tracks and two island platforms . The F train stops on the outer local tracks at all times while the E stops on the center express tracks weekdays (Manhattan @-@ bound from approximately 6 : 00 a.m. to 6 : 00 p.m. , Jamaica @-@ bound from 7 : 30 a.m. to 7 : 45 p.m.) and on the outer tracks at all other times . During weekdays this is the easternmost transfer point between the E and F trains before they branch off toward their eastern terminals .

The platforms have teal blue columns , with yellow and black borders , as well as " Union Turnpike " text posted underneath on the platform walls .

The station is near the Queens Borough Hall , the Queens Criminal Court , and the Kew @-@ Forest School . It is also close to the Forest Hills Tower , which has housed Plaza College since 2014 and also contains administrative offices for FEMA ; it formerly housed the headquarters of JetBlue Airways and a public relations office for Con Edison , but the JetBlue office has since moved to the Brewster Building in Long Island City . At the east end of Queens Borough Hall on 82nd

Avenue , a retired IRT redbird , R33 car # 9075 , is on display with its rollsign set as the 7 train 's . The Redbird car was formerly a visitor center for the Queens Borough Hall , but the visitor center closed in 2015 due to low patronage , and the car is now used as a landmark and for movie shoots .

= = = Mezzanines = = =

This station is unusual in that its mezzanine is split in two halves . This is because at this location , Union Turnpike and the Jackie Robinson Parkway cross under Queens Boulevard but over the Queens Boulevard Line tracks ; the mezzanine is at the level of Union Turnpike , one half on either side , with no connection between the two outside of fare control .

Previously a grade @-@ level intersection , the underpass was constructed simultaneously with the subway station costing \$ 250 @, @ 000 . The construction of the underpass with a subway station underneath was a massive undertaking . Three levels were required in order for the underpass and the subway station to be built . The upper level that was built was Queens Boulevard , which carries traffic east and west . The second level is an underpass that carries four lanes of Union Turnpike (and now also the Jackie Robinson Parkway) under the Boulevard . The tunnel is in between the two mezzanines and it would rest atop the roof of the subway station platform .

Several stairs lead down from sidewalk level to walkways on either side of the turnpike , which themselves lead to one of the mezzanines . Automobiles and buses were formerly allowed to drop off and pick up passengers along those walkways (similar to stations on the IND Concourse Line) , but car access is currently blocked . This was stopped because the cars caused traffic backups . The underpass is graded east to allow for natural drainage . The lower level contains the subway tracks , which are located about 20 feet (6 @. @ 1 m) below the underpass that carries the turnpike .

The eastern (railroad north) half of the mezzanine contains the station 's full @-@ time token booth . In the late 2000s , the MTA undertook a \$ 13 @. @ 9 million refurbishment of the station , which was completed in July 2008 ; during that time , the station was upgraded with cube @-@ glass walls , as well as an elevator and ramp in this part of the mezzanine , which serves riders of the Q10 and Q37 buses . The elevator and ramp make the station wheelchair @-@ accessible and compliant with the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 . Other improvements that were part of the project included the addition of station agent booths that catered to wheelchair users , as well as new railings , station signs , station payphones , tactile yellow strips along the platforms , and platform fillings to reduce gaps between trains and platforms .

However , the western (railroad south) half , which serves riders of the heavily used Q46 bus line that runs along Union Turnpike , had its token booth closed and removed (with signage indicating asbestos condemnation) . A piece of artwork , Underground Skies @-@ Cloud Forest , that was designed by artist Krystyna Spisak @-@ Madejczyk and architect Anna Chmura was installed in this half of the station mezzanine . This was a project of the Polish American Artist Society , and it was sponsored by the MTA Arts for Transit / Creative Stations Program .

= = Track layout = =

A signal and switch tower is located at the north end of the northbound platform and is active only on weekdays .

There are two diamond crossovers near this station : one is located at the eastern end , for eastbound trains , and the other is located at the western end , for westbound trains . Each switch allow trains to cross @-@ over between the local and express tracks in the same direction . There is a punch box located at the eastern end of the Jamaica @-@ bound platform , allowing trains to continue along the Queens Boulevard line to 179th Street or to switch to the IND Archer Avenue Line .

East of the station there is a flying junction that connects to the Jamaica Yard via a wye that curves east from the yard towards Briarwood . A second side of the wye curves west to become a lower

level of the subway just west of the station . The yard itself is situated just north of the station in the southern portion of Flushing Meadows ? Corona Park , between the Grand Central Parkway and the Van Wyck Expressway .