

## ON track

SOME OF THIS WEEKEND'S CHANGES

- 1** 242nd St. bound trains skip 79th and 86th streets between midnight and 5 a.m. Friday through Monday.
- 2** 241st St.-bound trains skip 79th and 86th sts. between midnight and 5 a.m. Saturday through Monday.
- 3** Shuttle buses replace trains between Franklin and Utica aves. from 11:30 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday.
- 4** No trains between Atlantic and Utica aves. between midnight and 5 a.m. Friday through Monday.
- 5** No trains between Bowling Green and E. 180th St. between midnight and 5 a.m. Saturday through Monday.
- 7** No trains between Times Square and Queensboro Plaza between 11:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. Friday through Monday.
- A** Far Rockaway/Lefferts Blvd.-bound trains skip 50th, 23rd and Spring sts. from 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- C** No trains running between midnight and 5 a.m. Saturday through Monday.
- F** 179th St.-bound trains skip Fort Hamilton Pkwy., 15th St.-Prospect Park and Fourth Ave. between midnight and 5 a.m. Friday through Monday.
- G** No trains between 71-Continental aves. and Court Square between 8:30 p.m. Friday and 5 a.m. Monday.
- J** Jamaica Center-bound trains skip Hewes St., Lorimer St. and Flushing Ave. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

# Waiting on the weekend

## Disruptions close to double in past year

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The weekend subway shuffle has gotten a lot worse — and don't expect the time-consuming tie-ups to end any time soon.

The number of route changes on weekends nearly doubled between this January and last, according to an amNewYork analysis of MTA service advisories.

Straphangers hopscotched through an average of 32 system changes on weekends last month, up from 17 in January 2008.

"You're looking at a wall full of [signs saying] 'don't take this train, take that train,'" said commuter Sabrina Chapman, 26, of East Harlem. "It's like trying to decipher another language ... How do I even get anywhere?"

Taking the No. 2 downtown from the Bronx, for example, required catching a No. 5 train instead, then switching to a shuttle bus at 149th Street. Those looking to go to the World Trade Center station had to swap the E for the A.



Wanda Richardson, of the Bronx, waits for a train at 34th Street.

(PHOTOS BY RYAN THATCHER)

### NUMBER OF WEEKEND DIVERSIONS

2008:	2009:
Jan. 5-7: 18	Jan. 3-5: 26
Jan. 12-14: 16	Jan. 10-12: 27
Jan. 19-21: 14	Jan. 17-19: 35
Jan. 26-28: 18	Jan. 24-26: 40
(SOURCE: MTA)	Jan. 31 - Feb. 2: 32

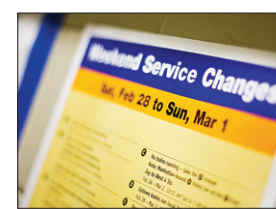
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board President Howard Roberts Jr. admitted that the MTA should do more to ensure passengers know the hurdles that await them.

"We don't always get [the advisories] right," Roberts admitted at a board meeting this week.

The MTA is cramming in weekend work to spend its allotted \$10 billion under its 2005-10 capital plan.

The MTA believes it will take until 2030 — at the earliest — to bring the system into good repair. With weekends the preferred time for work, expect diversions for years to come.

"There is a tremendous



These signs are all too familiar to straphangers.

amount of work to do," said Larry Gold, the MTA coordinator for service diversions. "Almost every train route has some disruptions on it."

Slowing the pace of work is undesirable, Gold said,

### TRAIN PAIN

#### Some of the worst weekend service disruptions this year:

- No. 7 trains** not running between Times Square and Queensboro Plaza for eight straight weekends starting Jan. 9. Riders must take the N or Q, or a shuttle bus.
- No L trains** between Eighth Avenue and Union Square for four straight weekends starting Jan. 9. Riders had to take the M14 bus instead.
- Downtown Nos. 4 and 6 trains** ran local from Jan. 17-19 from 125th Street to Brooklyn Bridge.
- No G trains** between Forest Hills-71st Avenue and Court Square from Jan. 16-19.

(JASON FINK)

because the MTA gets more bang out of its diversion buck by stringing projects together. Crews will work at several stations on a line once its power is cut.

Still, some transit advocates fear all the work could turn people off from the subways at a time when ridership is declining.

"When a passenger walks into a station and sees walls of diversion, they turn off," said Andrew Albert, a non-voting MTA board member. "It's bewildering."

Casey Feldman contributed to this story.



**Art Expo opens** Former Life magazine photographer Lawrence Schiller holds a photo he shot of Marilyn Monroe during the 2009 Art Expo, which continues through the weekend at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. (GETTY)

## Yanks to A-Rod cuz: Stay away from team

The Yankees told Alex Rodriguez to keep his cousin, Yuri Sucart, away from the team.

Sucart, identified as the man who provided Rodriguez with performance-enhancing drugs, reportedly picked up the Yankees star in an SUV after the team's first spring game on Wednesday in Florida.

The warning was given to the star third baseman

Thursday, said a person familiar with the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity. The message applied both to spring training and the regular season.

Rodriguez, 33, also was told the cousin should not be anywhere the team congregates, which presumably includes the hotel and the ballpark.

Speaking at Stein-



Rodriguez

brenner Field in Tampa, Fla., general manager Brian Cashman said that the matter "has been handled."

Rodriguez took a similar tone following the Yankees' 5-1 victory over Tampa Bay on Thursday.

"It's been addressed," he said. "And, no further comment."

Rodriguez admitted using performance-enhancing drugs while playing for Texas from 2001-03. (AP)

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