

The Bulletin



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ALL-NIGHT SUBWAY SERVICE RESTORED

The return of 24-hour subway service commenced starting at 2 AM on Monday, May 17 as New York State continued its economic and social reopening. The subway system was closed overnight for the first time in the agency's 116 years on May 6, 2020, to allow the Transit Authority to undertake an unprecedented cleaning regimen to protect employees and customers from COVID-19. When it began, the closure covered 1 AM to 5 AM; on February 15 a partial resumption of overnight service occurred, reducing the overnight closure in half, from 2 AM to 4 AM.

The resumption of overnight subway service comes as subway ridership is trending upward towards a recovery. On Friday, March 12 subway ridership hit the 1.9 million mark for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago. On April 9, subway ridership surpassed the 2 million mark, and on Monday, May 10 surpassed 2.2 million riders, a new single-day record. The news comes on the heels of the Authority's multifaceted communications and marketing #TakeTheTrain and #TakeTheBus campaigns aimed at bringing customers back to the system, which was introduced on May 17.

Prior to the pandemic, average weekday ridership totals on subways routinely exceeded 5.5 million. That figure fell by more than 90% to a low of roughly 300,000 daily trips last April as the number of COVID-19 cases peaked in the New York City area. The low

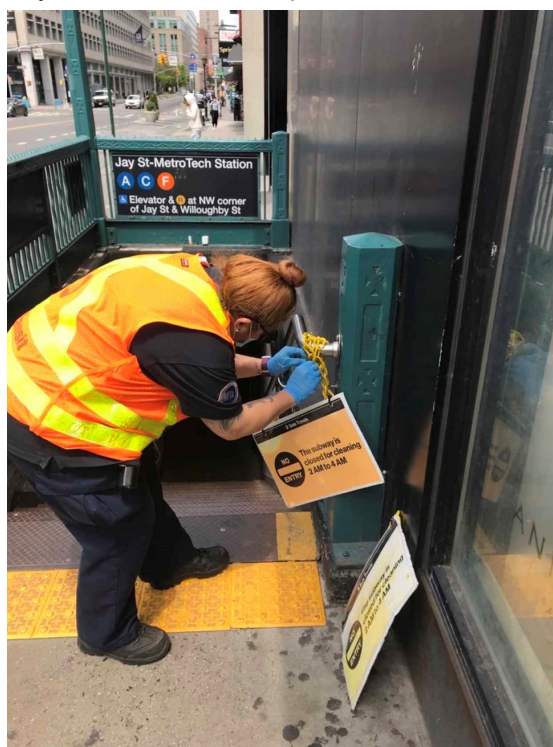
point of bus ridership was 278,067 on Sunday, April 12, 2020. Average weekday ridership in April, 2020 was 463,763.

The unprecedented cleaning regimen on subways, buses, paratransit and commuter rails will continue. Stations will be disinfected at least twice daily and rolling stock at least once daily. Since the May 6 closure a year ago the MTA has piloted disinfecting methods such as ultraviolet light and antimicrobial sprays which will allow the disinfecting to remain at high levels. Masks are still required while riding mass transit; mask compliance on subways and buses has

been nearly universal with 98% compliance on subways and 99% on buses.

In an effort to get New York fully vaccinated and reopened the MTA partnered with SOMOS Community Care, Northwell Health and Westchester Medical Center on eight pop-up

(Continued on page 2)



Removing the midnight hours closure signs.
MTA photograph

This Month's Cover Photo:

SFMR Peter Witt 1845 (Carminati & Toselli, 1928) has just left the stop at Beach & Mason and is heading to the Castro. Jeff Erlitz photograph, 4/25/2010

In This Issue:
IRT Yard Connections...
Page 19