

MANHATTAN

2nd Avenue Subway Breaks Ground

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority signed the first contract for construction of the new Second Avenue Subway. The contract, awarded to a joint venture of construction companies called S3 Tunnel Constructors, is worth \$337,025,000, authority officials said. The groundbreaking ceremony, took place on April 12th and construction has begun.

First proposed more than 80 years ago, the Second Avenue Subway was dubbed "the most famous project never built." It will be the city's first new subway line in 60 years.

The first part is expected to be finished in 2013 and will connect East 96th Street and East 63rd Street. By 2020, the line should run from 125th Street to Hanover Square in the Financial District.

"I think it will be a significant event because of the history of the project," MTA President Elliot Sander, said of the groundbreaking. "It will be a real groundbreaking. We have the funding; we have the contract. We are looking forward to getting it going. It will be a historic moment for New York."

At the groundbreaking Mayor Bloomberg said: "We need to grow capacity and improve service to meet the challenges of the future and get people out of cars and onto mass transit. This is an investment in our future that we can't afford not to make."

mta.info, nytimes.com, amNY.com, nypost.com

LONG ISLAND

State Tries to Make LI More Bike-Friendly



The state Department of Transportation has completed Long Island's first long-distance signed bike route, a winding course from the Cold Spring Harbor Long Island Rail Road station to the Orient Point ferry terminal. Green signs featuring a bicycle image identify the route. The signs are posted every half-mile and include distances to towns along the way.

The route follows existing roads with wide shoulders and low traffic volumes. It is uninterrupted except for a 1.5-mile gap in Smith-

town, where transportation planners could not find a safe route because of heavy car traffic and street parking, said NY State DOT spokeswoman Eileen Peters. "We're really trying to improve the facilities and opportunities for ... people who would like to bicycle on Long Island but otherwise can't," Peters said. "We want to encourage more people to get involved so that they feel...that this is their section of road that's there for them to use."

Though the route does not feature a separate bike path or lane, Peters hopes that the signs will remind drivers to be alert for cyclists.

newsday.com

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Legislature considers Speed Camera Pilot Program on Rt. 44



The Connecticut Legislature's transportation committee is considering a new bill that would allow the towns of Avon

and West Hartford to launch a pilot program to use automated-speed camera enforcement on a three-mile stretch of Route 44. The bill, which is a narrower version of one that failed in 2005, calls for signs before each speed camera to warn drivers that they may be photographed. Cars caught speeding by the cameras will pay a fine not to exceed \$100 and will not be subject to points or other penalties. The bill is on its way to the Committee on Planning and Development and is supported by the Connecticut Citizens Transportation Lobby as a vital safety measure. In order to be passed, however, the bill will need the support of Avon residents, who currently are evenly divided in their sentiments for and against speed cameras

tstc.org, courant.com

Bond Issue Being Advanced to Complete Greenway in Connecticut



A bill to establish state funding to complete the East Coast Greenway in Connecticut was

introduced in the Connecticut House of Representatives by Representative David

McCluskey. These funds would include critically-needed state matches for federal transportation dollars already committed to the Greenway in Connecticut. The bill was developed by Representative McCluskey, Sandy Frye, Principal Transportation Planner with the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the East Coast Greenway Alliance (EGCA). Many groups spoke in favor of the bill at the hearing or submitted letters of support, including the ECGA, Farmington Canal Rails-to-Trails Association, Plainville Greenway Alliance, Farmington Valley Trails Council, Windham Council of Governments and the Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, the Air Line Trail North, the Hop River Trail, the Charter Oak Greenway and other trails around Connecticut are likely to benefit from the funding as well.

greenway.org

QUEENS

Mets Urge, Don't Bring Your Car to the BallPark



Before the umpire yelled "Play ball!" on opening day, New York Mets management was asking fans to consider leaving their cars and SUVs home when they come to Shea Stadium. With team popularity higher than ever and construction underway on the new ballpark, CitiField, getting to Shea will be particularly challenging this season. With the new stadium construction, the ballpark has lost about 100 parking spaces.

"Mass transit is the way," said Dave Howard, executive vice president of Mets business operations. "It's probably not as well utilized as it could be."

In 2006, the Mets sold 3.5 million tickets, and this year the team expects to sell 3.8 million to four million tickets. Howard said the Mets want fans to respect their Flushing and Corona neighbors by keeping the traffic low, and so the Mets suggest that ticketholders bike, walk or take the train, ferry or bus to reach the stadium.

nydailynews.com