The Second Avenue Subway (SAS) project is New York City’s first major expansion of the subway system in over 60 years. The first phase of the SAS project will provide service from 96th Street to 63rd Street as an extension of the existing 63rd Street Line service will divert west along the 63rd Street line, stopping at the Lexington Av/63rd Street Station where riders can continue on the 4 Line to Midtown/Brooklyn, or transfer to the 6 Line.

This first phase of the project, when operational in December 2016, will provide the following benefits:

- Improved subway access for Manhattan’s East Side, bringing transit service closer to those who walk a long distance to the Lexington Avenue 6 Line.
- Reduced overcrowding and improved reliability on the Lexington Avenue Line, the city’s most heavily used subway line.
- Improved subway access for people with disabilities, as all new stations will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The future 86th Street Station will have two new entrances including 10 escalators and one street-level ADA accessible elevator at the southeast corner of 86th Street and Second Avenue. Work in this area is to construct the station cavern, entrances and ancillary spaces for the future station. This includes mining of the station cavern in bedrock, lining the cavern with structural concrete, and construction of the station entrances, ancillary facilities and elevator shafts up to street level. This contract’s work is scheduled to be completed in September 2014.

A follow-on contract will be awarded for construction of the station facilities and architectural finishes, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, construction of the ancillary buildings and entrances above street level; and restoration of the street and sidewalks in the station area.
Preparatory work for the demolition of the building at 1601 Second Avenue (northwest corner of 83rd Street and Second Avenue) continues. Scaffolding has been erected around the perimeter of the building. The building will be dismantled floor by floor over a period of several weeks.

The contractor is completing preconstruction building condition surveys and the installation of building and ground monitoring instrumentation.

The contractor is replacing timber barrier fencing with new chain-link fencing. Fence screening wrap along the street and sidewalk sides of work zones will be installed in the coming months. Stores will have their information prominently displayed on the street side screening wrap and a metal way finding sign listing store information will be installed at each corner of blocks with adjacent work zones.

On the east side of Second Avenue, between 87th and 88th Streets, a future two-story trailer facility to accommodate a changing station for tunnel workers will be constructed in March 2012.

Installation of foundations for the muck conveyance systems at the north and south shafts for future mining operations continues. Steelwork erection for the muck conveyance and shaft hoisting systems is scheduled to begin late February 2012.

A 19th-century sewer line is being replaced in the center work zone on 86th Street, east of Second Avenue. Utility work will continue in this center zone until the spring, after which the work zone will be moved to the south side of 86th Street for further utility work, which will require about seven months to complete.

Drilling and blasting excavation of the 78th Street Pump Room, under Second Avenue between 78th and 79th Streets will restart shortly after a temporary suspension to complete concrete work in adjacent sections of the west tunnel. Excavation of the remaining Pump Room is expected to be completed in February 2012.

Q: When will blasting and mining operations begin in the 86th Street Station area?
A: Controlled blasting and mining operations at 86th Street (North Access Shaft) and 83rd Street (South Access Shaft) are scheduled to start in the spring of 2012. Daily pre-blast notifications are now emailed to SAS stakeholders. To sign up, contact claudia.wilson@2avesubway.com.

Q: What is the MTA doing about street lighting in the area?
A: The contractor is required to maintain adequate street lighting, as required by the MTA project team. Project inspectors periodically walk the site in the evening and work with the construction manager to resolve any areas that might not have sufficient lighting.

Q: What is being done to solve sanitation and cleanliness issues along the corridor?
A: The MTA meets regularly with relevant City agencies to address quality of life issues on Second Avenue, including coordination and regular site visits with the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Business Integrity Commission, and the Mayor's Office. In consultation with these entities, MTA is working with businesses, residential buildings, and its contractors to identify and maintain specific areas for garbage placement and will continue to monitor ongoing efforts for improving sanitation.

Q: As a business owner on Second Avenue, I was told by City officials to label my garbage bags when I put them out on the curb. Why?
A: Labeling your garbage bags with your carter’s name will help the carter identify which bags to pick up. If you need labels/stickers for your bags, please contact your carter who will provide them free of charge. As a reminder, putting your trash out earlier than an hour before closing time could result in fines from the DSNY.

Contact Us
If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter via email and/or have any feedback, please contact Claudia Wilson at claudia.wilson@2avesubway.com or (212) 792-9716. Follow the SAS project on the MTA website at http://mta.info/capital/future/

Work Hours
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7:00AM TO 10:00PM
SATURDAY: 10:00AM TO 7:00PM
Work is permitted underground 24 hours.