

WHY ELEVATORS ARE NEEDED AT THE 125TH STATION OF THE #1 TRAIN

Escalators Are Not Enough

In December 2021, the MTA began a project to replace at least one of the escalators at the 125th Street station. The project is expected to be completed during 2022. This project is long overdue but even when the escalators are working, they are not readily accessible to many seniors, people who need the support of a cane or walker or people with strollers. As the escalators only reach the station's mezzanine, travelers must still use the stairs to get to and from the train platforms, as shown in the accompanying photo. This leaves the station not at all accessible to

wheelchair users. To serve both present and future transit riders the station needs modern elevators. There are currently no elevators at stations along the #1 train line from 96th Street to 231st Street. The MTA's 2020- 2025 Capital Budget provided for installing an elevator at the 137th Street Station but that project seems to be at a standstill. The nearby Morningside Gardens and NYCHA housing complexes have hundreds of residents 65 years of age or older.



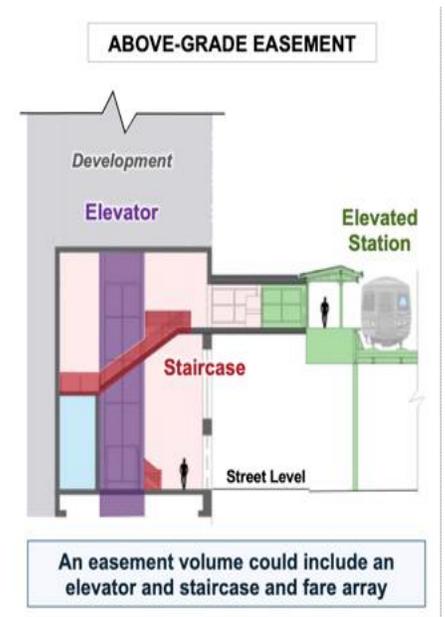
Enormous Growth in the Surrounding Neighborhood

The tremendous, institutional, residential, and commercial growth in the surrounding neighborhood will require full access to the 125th Street station. When Columbia University finishes its 17-acre, 6.8 million square foot Manhattanville Campus by the end of the decade 6,000 people will regularly work there. Thousands more will come to the Campus each day as students and visitors. Other new commercial buildings will add hundreds of thousands

of square feet of space, bringing more workers to the area. New apartment buildings adjacent to the two seminaries on Broadway, Columbia University's tower at 125th Street, and prospective new housing adjacent to Riverside Church, will put many additional residents and transit riders within reach of the station.

New Legislative Incentives for Access

A recent amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance - [*Zoning for Transit Accessibility*](#) - requires developers of sites adjacent to transit stations to consult with the MTA to determine whether it needs an easement to install elevators at the station. Two Broadway sites at the 125th Street station, [on the southwest](#) and southeast corners, appear to qualify for this review. If easements are required developers in the highest density districts may receive a zoning bonus. If consultation with the MTA fails to yield easements for elevators, free-standing elevators for both the uptown and downtown platforms of the #1 train will be needed. In addition, under the new federal Infrastructure Act the MTA will receive billions of dollars, some of which could be used to improve access at the 125th Street station.



THE ELEVATOR LOBBY: Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCCNYC.ORG) and Morningside Retirement and Health Services (MRHSNY.ORG). January 2022.