

“I am excited to see the YMCA come to its fruition in 2018 during my tenure,” said **Council Member Andy King, 12th District**. “For decades, community organizers and elected officials worked to make the dream of a full-service wellness facility in our community a reality. Today’s groundbreaking ceremony solidifies a commitment to strengthening our community and families by providing a site for activities for our children after school. It also comes with opportunities that include the creation of jobs, education, and fitness programs for our residents of all ages, all backgrounds, and income levels. The North Bronx Y building will embody the boldness of community strength, healthy living, and well-being.”

The YMCA is also committed to ensuring that membership is accessible to families at all income levels. YMCA membership dues vary by location and are determined by the economics of the area. In addition, the Y’s Financial Assistance Program ensures no one is turned away due to their inability to pay.

The site is in close proximity to two New York City Housing Authority developments, Edenwald and Baychester Houses, two of the largest public housing developments in the Bronx. Located at 1250 East 229th Street, the wellness facility will sit on the eastern portion of the city-owned site, which is under the jurisdiction of the New York City Administration for Children’s Services, and currently houses the Christopher School and two cottages for children with special needs.

CITY LAUNCHES BRONX METRO-NORTH STATION AREA STUDY; CONVENES WORKING GROUP TO HARNESS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF COMING RAIL SERVICE FOR THE BRONX

A Bronx Metro-North Working Group, which convened for the first time today, will engage local residents and businesses to optimize new commuter rail service that is in the works for the East and South Bronx. The group is led by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, New York City Economic Development Corporation President James Patchett and City Planning Director Marisa Lago.

This fall, the group will start work with the Hunts Point, Parkchester/Van Nest, Morris Park and Co-op City communities, where new stations are anticipated, to put plans into place that acknowledge the needs and priorities of each neighborhood. They will also plan holistically with local stakeholders for the economic development, job growth and housing opportunities the new service presents, including the infrastructure and quality of life investments needed to accommodate them in a way that best benefits Bronx communities.

City Planning Director **Marisa Lago**, co-chair of the Bronx Metro-North Working Group, said, “The Bronx is an exciting place — not only is it the state’s fastest growing county, but it is the only New York City borough where new rail service is coming. This presents big opportunities to grow jobs while building and protecting affordable housing and neighborhoods. This once-in-a-lifetime investment demands careful community planning to ensure that it is a positive force in the lives of Bronx residents and the borough’s economy.”

“Considering the great change that this new Metro-North station will bring the Hunts Point, Parkchester / Van Nest, Morris Park and Co-op City areas, I am glad to see that the Bronx Metro-North Working Group is opening a line of communication with the residents and businesses who will benefit most from this expansion of our rail services,” said Bronx Borough President **Ruben Diaz Jr.**, who also co-chairs the Working Group. “Expanding commuter rail service is a boon for our borough, and the East Bronx Metro-North expansion will open up new economic, recreational and residential opportunities for Bronx residents. I firmly believe that investing in infrastructure is important in order to nurture a robust economy. This Metro-North expansion will bring great transformative changes to these neighborhoods, which is why their input into the project is greatly welcomed.”

The stations are set to open shortly after completion of the Penn Station Access project, which will provide Metro-North riders with a one-seat ride into Penn Station, significantly reduce commuting times to and from the East Bronx, and add new rail transit options in the South Bronx.

Commuter rail service at the new Metro-North stations will enhance transit options for the East Bronx neighborhoods of Morris Park and Co-op City, which lack regional rail access and have higher car ownership than much of the borough. The Morris Park station presents a unique opportunity to strengthen a major economic center in Morris Park, home to 15,000 jobs – many of them in the growing health and science campuses at the Montefiore-Einstein and the Jacobi Medical Center.

The Parkchester and Hunts Point stations will provide much needed transit options and better connect surrounding neighborhoods both to Manhattan and to major jobs and population centers in Westchester and southeast Connecticut.

Shaping potential development and investments in consultation with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders will maximize the effectiveness of the new stations, ensuring that they are thoughtfully integrated into Bronx neighborhoods.

Among the priorities that preliminary conversations with communities have identified:

- Ensuring that people coming to and from the stations can safely and easily access them
- Providing transportation connections, improved sidewalks and enhanced amenities near the stations, which can all play a role in increasing their value to people who live and work in these areas

To address these and other priorities, the working group comprised of Bronx elected officials, community leaders and local institutions has been convened to help formulate a vision and priorities for each of the station areas, as well as the corridor as a whole, and help guide the work of city and state agencies for the benefit of Bronxites and Bronx businesses. The working group will drive outreach and public participation in the planning work. Public planning events will be held in each station area to address local needs with community stakeholders.

Agencies that will lead the [planning initiative](#) include the New York City Department of Transportation, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and the Department of City Planning. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will be a key advisor. Other city agencies, including the Department of Small Business Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Housing Preservation and Development, will support the planning work.

At the first working group meeting, held earlier today, the group heard an overview of the proposed new Bronx Metro-North stations, a summary of [previous planning](#) around the existing and proposed Bronx Metro-North stations, and a presentation on Bronx population, jobs, transportation and the City's *New York Works* initiative. The first public meeting of the working group is expected to be convened in the early fall.

To view the presentations, learn more about the station areas, to sign up to receive updates on the planning initiative and to get involved, please visit the Bronx Metro-North Study at <http://www.nyc.gov/BMNS> or email BMNS@planning.nyc.gov.

Upcoming events:

HOLD THE DATE - Tour de Bronx 2018 is Sunday October 28th, 2018

September 11th Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Friday September 14, 2018

12 noon -2:00pm

Lou Gehrig Plaza East 161st Street between Walton Avenue and the Grand Concourse

Borough President Diaz's Muslim School Holiday Celebration

Saturday September 15, 2018, 12 noon to 3:00pm

P.S. 83 - 950 Rhineland Avenue

RSVP – lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov or 718-590-3522

Borough President Diaz's Ecuadorian Heritage Celebration

September 20, 2018, 5:00pm-8:00pm

Bronx County Building – Veterans' Memorial Hall

851 Grand Concourse

RSVP 718-614-7112 or cisnevision@aol.com