

# MTA/LIRR East Side Access



Overview of the site at Bellmouth under construction

**T**he \$5 billion East Side Access (ESA) program is one of the largest construction efforts ever undertaken by New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). It will provide Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) commuters their first-ever direct access to the East Side of Manhattan, and will increase LIRR's capacity by 170,000 rides a day. The route extends through nearly 4 miles of tunnels in old industrial and residential areas of Queens and under the East River and Manhattan's grandest blocks of Park Avenue to Grand Central Terminal (GTC) a historic landmark. Elements include more than 26,000 linear feet of new hard rock, soft-ground, and reconstructed tunnels; major reconfiguration of the lower level of GTC; and new trackwork, station, and yards. The complex construction program faces major environmental, community relations, safety, and historic preservation challenges.

## Location:

New York City, New York

## Client:

The New York Metropolitan  
Transportation Authority

## Scope of Services:

Program Management  
Engineering Services  
Construction Management

## Project Duration:

1998-2012

## Total Installed Cost (Est.):

\$5 billion