

THE WHO IN THE Q!



The Q What? What is the Q train extension?

It's been almost **100 years** in the making, but on January 1, 2017 the new subway extension along Second Avenue opened to the public!

CUP collaborated with Teaching Artist Nora Rodriguez and public high school students from Life Sciences Secondary School to dig deep into the new Q train extension.

Students hit the streets to survey commuters in the neighborhood, speak with elected officials, and dive into the topic with a researcher. The group gathered what they learned and created a booklet that presents the scoop on subways and puts the WHO in the Q!



Current Q Line
 Planned 2nd Avenue Subway

Map of the Q train extension up to 96th street. The MTA plans to extend the train all the way up to 125th St. and down to Hanover Square.

The Q Where? Why extend the subway on Second Avenue?

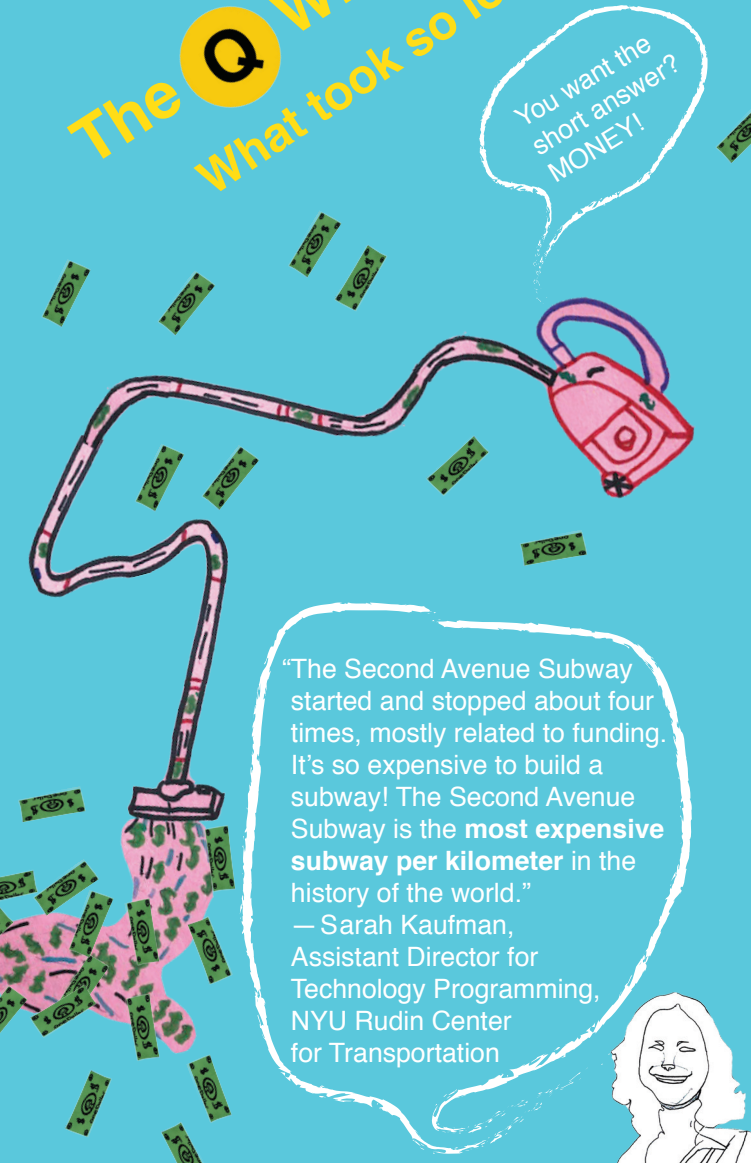
The MTA says that the Second Avenue Subway was meant to **reduce the extreme (and dangerous!) overcrowding** on the Lexington 4/5/6 lines.

"This is the densest [neighborhood] in America. There is nowhere denser, with more people living on top of each other!"
—Ben Kallos, City Council Member, District 5

The Q When? What took so long?!

"The Second Avenue Subway started and stopped about four times, mostly related to funding. It's so expensive to build a subway! The Second Avenue Subway is the **most expensive subway per kilometer** in the history of the world."
—Sarah Kaufman, Assistant Director for Technology Programming, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation

You want the short answer? MONEY!



The Q How? How has the Q train affected our lives?

"It's way faster to get to school. I used to wake up at 5:30 am. Now I wake up at 6:15!" —Hydia, Life Sciences student

"Transportation has been easier. I don't have to transfer trains as often." —Diamond, Life Sciences student



A Second Avenue subway was first proposed in 1920, back when the City's subways were owned by private companies. Plans to build a subway along Second Avenue were announced during the Great Depression. Unfortunately, no money meant no construction.

Fast forward 70 years!

Who decided to extend the Q train?

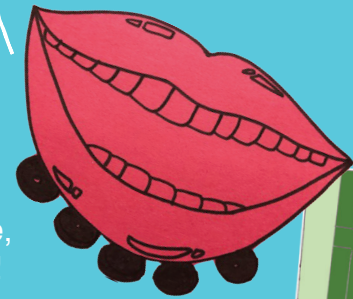
How does public transportation affect a neighborhood?

The Q Who?

Who made it happen?

All Aboard!
It all starts locally. Residents, community-based organizations, advocacy groups and others identify a problem and recommend solutions—in this case, better subway access! The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the NYC Department of Transportation play a major role in proposing and planning big construction projects, like the Q extension. Local groups pressure their elected officials, such as City Council Members, the Mayor, and the Governor. Meanwhile, New York's State Representatives take the fight to Washington, D.C.

It's a loooong ride!



Pay Up!

Congress has to approve money for the project. New York's Representative, Carolyn Maloney, fought for money for the Q extension to be included in the federal budget. Congress finally got on board to fund the Q extension in 2004. Next stop, construction!

Wait a second! Where does all this money even come from?!

It comes from us! (Duh.) The budget comes from OUR taxes. WE'RE the ones who elected Ben Kallos, the President, and everyone in between!

The Q Me!

How did the Q impact the neighborhood?

"I see more police around the train station. It's definitely tighter security." —Shinelle, Life Sciences student



Full Steam Ahead!

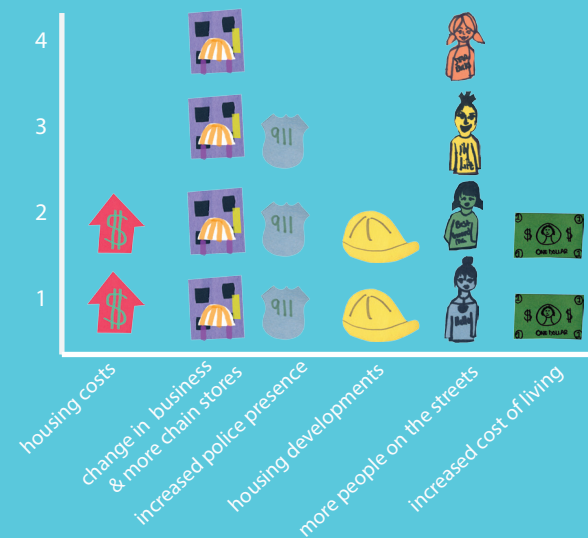
All that money flows into the MTA. The MTA creates the design and then lets it rip! It took **10 years** and cost **\$4.5 billion** to build two miles of new subway! To make sure things stay on track, New York's Governor appoints board members to the MTA and oversees the budget and timeline for mega projects, like the Q extension.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) oversees public transportation like subways and busses in the state of New York. MTA Capital Construction does the digging!

Hold the Door!
Though the MTA steers the major planning and construction, some key decisions are also made by city departments. For example, the City Department of Transportation oversees how new subway stations may affect the design of streets and may make changes to subway entrances.



We surveyed the neighborhood and asked: "What changes have you seen since the Q train extension opened?"



"Rents have gone up significantly in the areas surrounding the subway entrances."
— Sarah Kaufman

"A lot of businesses went out of business during the construction. Now that the construction is done, a lot of landlords feel they can charge more, so they've started to put other businesses out."
— Ben Kallos

Now Arriving at Your Destination!

Community Boards, made up of people from the neighborhood, make recommendations to the MTA and City Department of Transportation based on how construction impacts the neighborhood. City Council Member Kallos formed a task force of local residents to address concerns about noise, safety, and disruptions to business. Where to next? It's up to you!

The Q You!

How does public transportation impact our lives?

"Living close to the subway station results in a higher rent, [but also] gives you more access to **more jobs, better schools, and other resources** that you might not have otherwise."
— Sarah Kaufman



"There's more drug spots than train stations in my neighborhood. If it's harder to get to school, it's less likely that kids go. Longer train rides equal lower school attendance."
— Kiah, Life Sciences student

Get on board and get involved in our transit system! Go to a Community Board meeting or MTA community meeting. Make sure your voice is heard!



The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities.

This project is one of CUP's **Urban Investigations**—project-based afterschool programs in which high school students explore fundamental questions about how the city works. Students collaborate with CUP and Teaching Artists to create multimedia teaching tools that reach audiences in the fields of arts and social justice. To learn more about CUP, visit welcometoCUP.org.

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