

LIRR Heads Toward Transformation

BY KARLENE HAMILTON

The core of the transportation hub in downtown Jamaica will soon be transformed, as the Long Island Railroad Station undergoes a massive \$12 million renovation late spring 2007.

The renovation includes 5,600 square feet of commercial space on the east side of Sutphin Boulevard, between Archer and 94th Avenues.

A well-lit glittery ceiling similar to that of Grand Central, and convenience retail stores for commuters are part of the planned project according to the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation.

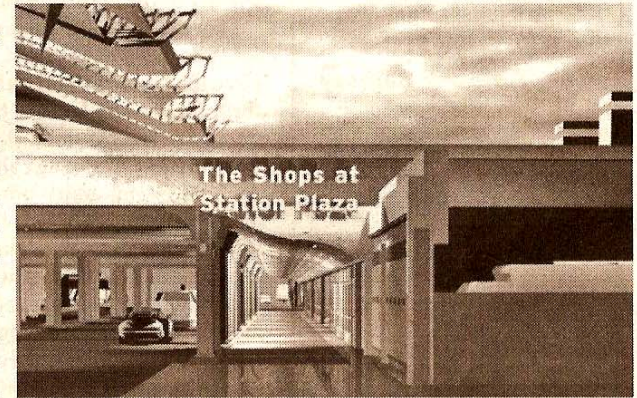
"We will be lighting the underpass and creating retail space on the eastern part of the underpass and we will also include a decorative lit ceiling over the new side walk," said Director of Design Planning and Capital Projects Peter Engelbrecht. "The level of lighting of the underpass will be significantly increased. We will also create reflective surfaces to maximize the amount of light in there."

The entire project should take approximately 12 to 14 months, Engelbrecht told *PRESS*.

Funding will come from Congressman Gregory Meeks' (D-Jamaica), Councilmember Tom White, Jr. (D-Jamaica), Federal Transit Administration

Funds and the MTA.

"This is something that the Congressman has been working on for years in terms of providing funding for the GJDC," said Spokesperson Mike McKay. "This money is part of the Congressman's plan to revitalize and redevelop the downtown Jamaica area with a strong mixture of business and retail to clean up the whole area."



Rendering of underpass where potential retail shops will open.