

New mall beneath LIRR stop

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An MTA printing facility beneath Long Island Rail Road tracks in Queens will soon be transformed into a brand-new shopping area.

The Greater Jamaica Development Corp. has entered into a long-term lease with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to take over 12,000 square feet on Sutphin Boulevard under the LIRR's Jamaica station.

The \$12 million rehab is one of several infrastructure upgrades for the planned JFK-Corporate Square adjoining the AirTrain and LIRR stations in Jamaica.

The \$100 million project involves major renovations to streets and parks. Officials hope it will attract housing as well as hotels serving business people flying into Kennedy.

The project is expected to be finished in late 2009.

"We're thrilled to be working with the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation to revitalize a part of Jamaica that has been dormant too long," said Jeremy Soffin, a spokesman for the MTA.