

Real Estate Journal

THE LARGEST WEEKLY COMMERCIAL/INVESTMENT NEWSPAPER COVERING THE STATE

Greater Jamaica Development Corp. breaks ground on \$12m Sutphin Blvd. project



Shown are Queens Borough president Helen Marshall (left), Lamont Bailey, chairman of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (center), Seth Pinsky, president of the NYC EDC (right) with ceremony guests.

The revitalization of Downtown Jamaica continued with an improvement that will transform a series of garbage loading docks into inviting retail space got underway. Located on Sutphin Blvd. directly across from the AirTrain/Long Island Rail Road Jamaica Station entrance, redevelopment of the highly visible site is an economic and perceptual boost for the area.

Congressman Gregory Meeks secured funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), for the \$12 million project, which is being undertaken by Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC). In addition, funding was provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the NYC Economic Development Corp. NYC councilman Thomas White secured funds from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Assemblywoman Vivian Cook secured funding for LIRR's work in the project.

Once completed, the underpass will offer a safe and well lit pedestrian experience by adding overhead lighting, replacing dark spaces with vibrant store fronts and installing a new sidewalk and roadbed.

"I am greatly pleased with the progress of the revitalization project in Downtown Jamaica. One of my greatest concerns has been making sure that the Sixth Congressional District receives new growth and development," said Congressman Meeks. "The Greater Jamaica Development Corp. has taken progressive steps to create new jobs, housing, retail and office space that will benefit citizens in my district and throughout New York as well as be an essential boost to our economy. I am confident that the current transformation that Downtown Jamaica is undergoing will be a great asset to the constituents of New York and be a positive step for the greater financial future of the Sixth Congressional District."

"Projects like this go a long way toward making the City's neighborhoods more attractive and livable," said NYCEDC President Seth Pinsky. "I am pleased that EDC is participating in this project and will be participating in future Downtown Jamaica projects such as the extension of Atlantic Ave. and the realignment of Archer Ave. and Sutphin Blvd. These projects will spur Jamaica's continued resurgence, ensuring that it remains a

vital center of commerce with inviting residential neighborhoods and a growing cultural district."

The Sutphin Blvd. project is the first in a series of three intermodal-related projects totaling \$98 million that will help transform Downtown Jamaica into a vibrant, commercial center.