WHITE PLAINS ROAD EXTENSION OF SUBWAY OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

New Branch, Which Runs from 177th to 219th Street, Gives the Williamsbridge and Wakefield Sections of the East Bronx Rapid Transit for the First Time.

The White Plains Road extension of the West Farms branch of the subway as far north as 219th Street was opened to the public yesterday afternoon.

The first train left the 177th Street station at 2:30 P. M., carrying officials and members of various civic organizations. A celebration and luncheon followed.

The operation of the White Plains Road line gives the Williamsbridge and Wakefield sections of the Bronx rapid transit for the first time, as well as the section between Williamsbridge and West Farms immediately to the east of the Bronx River. Local real estate interests look for important realty developments as a result of the new facilities.

The first operation of the new line will be carried out by means of four-car trains, composed of the composite cars formerly operated on the underground portion of the first subway. The Interborough Company has made every effort to get ready for use on the White Plains Road extension the type of steel cars which it operates in the subway, but has found it impossible to do so at present, owing to inability to obtain from the manufacturers delivery of the necessary trucks with which to equip the steel car bodies. Many of these are awaiting equipment in several storage yards in Manhattan and the Bronx.

Passengers using the White Plains Road line leave trains of the West Farms branch at the 177th Street (West Farms) Station, and there board the four-car trains of the White Plains Road line. Power conditions prohibit through operation at present. No attempt will be made to operate an express service on the White Plains line for several months.

As soon as possible, service will be extended with one track in use for a shuttle service to the stations north of 219th Street. It is expected that such operation may be had within the next month or two. Inasmuch as certain reconstruction is necessary at or near 238th Street, it is not likely that operation will be had to the terminal station at 241st Street for some time.

The White Plains Road extension is a three-track elevated structure, branching off from the structure of the West Farms Division near 179th Street, crossing streets, private property, and the Bronx River to the eastward, and extending north along the east side of Bronx Park and on to 241st Street, otherwise known as Baychester Avenue, Wakefield. For about half a mile along the east side of Bronx Park the line is carried on an embankment.

The line is 14.6 track miles in length, or the equivalent of 4.8 linear miles. There are eleven stations on the line, as follows: East 180th Street-Morris Park Avenue, Bronx Park East, Pelham Parkway, Allerton Avenue, Burke Avenue, Gun Hill Road, East 219th Street, East 225th Street, East 233d Street, Nereid Avenue, (238th Street,) and East 241st Street.

Three are express stations, namely, those at 180th Street-Morris Park Avenue, Gun Hill Road, and the northern terminal station at 241st Street.

At Gun Hill Road the Webster Avenue extension of the Third Avenue elevated railroad will be connected with the White Plains Road structure, so that it will be possible to operate express and local elevated trains as well as express and local subway trains on the White Plains Road line north of that point. The connection between the Webster Avenue tracks and the White Plains Road tracks will be so made as to avoid a grade crossing and preclude the necessity of delays to service such as exist at several points in the first subway.

At the 180th Street-Morris Park Avenue station connection will be had by bridge with the 180th Street express station of the New York, Westchester & Boston high-speed electric railroad, which extends to White Plains and New Rochelle, and closely parallels the White Plains Road line at this point.

At 180th Street, adjoining the structure, the Public Service Commission is constructing a large yard for the storage of subway cars. Another yard, the largest of its kind in the city, is being constructed to the east of the line, between 239th Street and Baychester Avenue. This line will contain storage space for several hundred elevated and subway cars.

The White Plains Road extension has cost approximately $2,750,000 to construct, exclusive of the two yards mentioned and exclusive of the equipment which is being installed by the Interborough, the operating company. The storage yards will cost, with their approaches, approximately $650,000.

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