
NYC Rolls Out Free WiFi in All Subway Stations

BY RACHEL DOVEY | JANUARY 9, 2017



(Credit: MTA)

New Yorkers can now stream Netflix and engage in Twitter fights at every subway station in the city. As of Jan. 9, WiFi is available at all stations two years ahead of schedule, according to a [release](#) from Governor Andrew Cuomo's office. Cell service for those subscribed to AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile or Verizon Wireless is also available a year ahead of schedule.

The increased connectivity is the goal of a 27-year partnership between Transit Wireless and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The former has so far invested \$300 million in the project, which also includes a public safety broadband network and 3,000 Help Point Intercoms.

"This will better connect New Yorkers who are on-the-go and build on our vision to reimagine the country's busiest transportation network for the future," Cuomo [said](#) in the release.

While the increased connectivity is no doubt appreciated by those waiting to ride, amenities like WiFi and cell service aren't always priorities for the average rider. A report [released last year](#) by TransitCenter, an NYC policy and advocacy nonprofit, found that most riders rank service

improvements of the functional kind highest — things like faster trips, more frequent service and smaller fares — while power outlets and WiFi fall to the bottom of the list.

It's also worth pointing out the obvious: Staring at our screens is probably a **giant helping of missed opportunity**. Researchers who have studied the effects of “alone-together” time have found that we would enjoy interacting with our fellow commuters more than we think.

Still, whether they'd enjoy more rapid service and social interaction more in the long run, the people also want “Game of Thrones” reruns. Now they can have them.

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