



## Spring 2026 Proposed Subway Schedule Changes

**Sarah Wyss**, Acting Chief, Operations Planning, NYCT

### **Service Issue**

NYCT regularly reviews, evaluates, and revises subway schedules in order to provide passengers with efficient and effective service. Minor changes are recommended on the weekday **2 3 4 5** line timetables to better align scheduled service with ridership by time of day, in response to shifts in passenger demand, as well as to improve operational reliability.

### **Recommendation**

Modify weekday schedules on the **2 3 4 5** lines to better match hourly demand and to improve operational performance.


### **Budget Impact**

The proposed adjustments are expected to be cost neutral.

### **Proposed Implementation Date**

These proposed minor subway schedule changes would be implemented in May 2026.

# Staff Summary

Subject	Spring 2026 Proposed Subway Schedule Changes
Department	Operations Planning
Department Head Name	Sarah Wyss
Department Head Signature	
Project Manager Name	Allyson Bechtel

Date	January 15, 2026
Vendor Name	N/A
Contract Number	N/A
Contract Manager Name	N/A
Table of Contents Ref #	N/A

Board Action					
Order	To	Date	Approval	Info	Other
1	President		X		
2	NYCT/MTA Bus Comm.			X	
3	Board			X	

Internal Approvals			
Order	Approval	Order	Approval
		4	Chief Customer Officer
7	President	3	General Counsel
6	CFO	2	Sr. Dir., External Relations
5	SVP Subways	1	Acting Chief, OP

## Purpose

To obtain Presidential approval, and to inform the NYC Transit and MTA Bus Committee, of weekday schedule adjustments on the **(2)(3)(4)(5)** to address shifts in demand, to provide improved service to customers, and to make service more reliable.

## Discussion

NYCT routinely reviews and revises schedules in order to provide passengers with efficient, reliable and effective service. We are proposing minor schedule changes to improve service and operations on the **(2)(3)(4)(5)** on weekdays. Basic information about these proposed adjustments is outlined below, and additional details are shown in Attachment 1.

On both the Seventh Avenue **(2)(3)** and Lexington Avenue **(4)(5)** express lines, shifts in the times that passengers are traveling on the subway suggest a need to change weekday schedules. Train trips would be reallocated to better match changes in ridership by time of day, as well as to improve reliability, by shifting trips earlier or later across all four lines. These changes would generally spread peak service out, resulting in more even headways in the AM and PM peak hours and reducing the potential for delays through the Nostrand Junction bottleneck. The cumulative impact of these schedule changes would be more reliable

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service and more even passenger loads. These trips shifts would result in a net decrease of one round trip on the ④ line and a net increase of one round trip on the ③ line.

- On the northbound ② line, we propose adding one trip each to the 6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 5:00 PM hours, removing one trip each from the 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM hours, and removing two trips from the 6:00 PM hour.
- On the northbound ③ line, we propose adding one trip each to the 7:00 AM, 7:00 PM, and 9:00 PM hours and removing one trip each from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM hours.
- On the southbound ③ line, we propose adding one trip each to the 5:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM, and 7:00 PM hours and removing one trip each from the 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 4:00 PM hours.
- On the northbound ④ line, we propose moving one trip from the 9:00 AM hour to the 7:00 AM hour, moving two trips from the 6:00 PM hour to the 7:00 PM hour, and removing one trip from the 10:00 AM hour.
- On the southbound ④ line, we propose moving one trip from the 8:00 AM to the 5:00 AM hour, moving one trip from the 4:00 PM to hour to the 3:00 PM hour, and removing one trip from the 9:00 AM hour.
- On the northbound ⑤ line, we propose adding two trips each to the 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 6:00 PM hours, adding one trip to the 7:00 PM hour, removing two trips each from the 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM hours, and removing one trip each from the 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM, and 8:00 PM hours.
- On the southbound ⑤ line, we propose moving one trip each from the 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM hours to the 6:00 AM hour.

The updated schedules also include additional changes to reduce the possibility that ②③ trains will delay one another:

- On the ② line, we propose operating five southbound (downtown) trips local between Times Sq-42 St and Chambers St between approximately 11:15 PM and 12:15 AM to reduce delays caused by ③ trains terminating at 34 St-Penn Station on the downtown express track.

## **Recommendation**

Modify the schedules of weekday trips on the ②③④⑤ lines to accommodate changes in ridership trends and to improve operations.

## **Alternative to the Proposed Service Changes**

*Do nothing.* NYCT would not make these service adjustments.

## **Budget Impact**

The proposed adjustments are expected to be cost neutral.

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## **Proposed Implementation Date**

The proposed subway schedule changes would be implemented in May 2026.

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## Attachment 1

### Summary of Proposed ② and ③ Line Weekday Trip Changes as of May 2026

Line	Direction	Hour beginning	Current average headway (minutes)	Proposed average headway (minutes)	Proposed change (trips)	Current % of guideline load	Proposed % of guideline load	Current trains per hour	Proposed trains per hour
②	Northbound - 14 St (AM), Times Square-42 St (PM)	5:00 AM	15.0	20.0	-1	45%	60%	4	3
		6:00 AM	15.0	12.0	1	71%	54%	4	5
		7:00 AM	10.0	8.6	1	58%	50%	6	7
		8:00 AM	6.7	6.0	1	45%	40%	9	10
		9:00 AM	6.0	6.7	-1	27%	31%	10	9
		5:00 PM	6.7	6.0	1	76%	69%	9	10
		6:00 PM	5.5	6.7	-2	45%	55%	11	9
③	Northbound - 14 St (AM), Times Square-42 St (PM)	7:00 AM	10.0	8.6	1	42%	36%	6	7
		10:00 AM	7.5	8.6	-1	25%	28%	8	7
		6:00 PM	6.0	6.7	-1	29%	32%	10	9
		7:00 PM	8.6	7.5	1	33%	29%	7	8
		9:00 PM	8.6	7.5	1	43%	38%	7	8
	Southbound - 72 St	5:00 AM	20.0	15.0	1	29%	21%	3	4
		7:00 AM	6.7	6.0	1	43%	39%	9	10
		8:00 AM	5.5	6.0	-1	46%	51%	11	10
		9:00 AM	6.7	7.5	-1	39%	44%	9	8
		4:00 PM	6.7	7.5	-1	26%	29%	9	8
		6:00 PM	8.6	7.5	1	42%	37%	7	8
		7:00 PM	7.5	6.7	1	33%	29%	8	9

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## Summary of Proposed 2 and 3 Line Weekday Trip Changes as of May 2026 (continued)

Line	Direction	Hour beginning	Current average headway (minutes)	Proposed average headway (minutes)	Proposed change (trips)	Current % of guideline load	Proposed % of guideline load	Current trains per hour	Proposed trains per hour
<div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>combined</div> </div>	Northbound - 14 St (AM), Times Square- 42 St (PM)	5:00 AM	15.0	20.0	-1	45%	60%	4	3
		6:00 AM	8.6	7.5	1	72%	60%	7	8
		7:00 AM	5.0	4.3	2	50%	43%	12	14
		8:00 AM	3.5	3.3	1	40%	38%	17	18
		9:00 AM	3.3	3.5	-1	29%	31%	18	17
		10:00 AM	3.8	4.0	-1	26%	28%	16	15
		5:00 PM	3.2	3.0	1	51%	49%	19	20
		6:00 PM	2.9	3.3	-3	38%	45%	21	18
		7:00 PM	3.8	3.5	1	43%	41%	16	17
		9:00 PM	4.0	3.8	1	62%	58%	15	16
	Southbound - 72 St	5:00 AM	8.6	7.5	1	51%	42%	7	8
		7:00 AM	3.2	3.0	1	57%	54%	19	20
		8:00 AM	2.7	2.9	-1	56%	58%	22	21
		9:00 AM	3.3	3.5	-1	45%	47%	18	17
		4:00 PM	3.5	3.8	-1	37%	39%	17	16
		6:00 PM	3.8	3.5	1	39%	37%	16	17
		7:00 PM	3.8	3.5	1	36%	34%	16	17

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## Summary of Proposed 4 and 5 Line Weekday Trip Changes as of May 2026

Line	Direction	Hour beginning	Current average headway (minutes)	Proposed average headway (minutes)	Proposed change (trips)	Current % of guideline load	Proposed % of guideline load	Current trains per hour	Proposed trains per hour
4	Northbound - 14 St-Union Square	7:00 AM	6.7	6.0	1	72%	65%	9	10
		9:00 AM	5.5	6.0	-1	45%	49%	11	10
		10:00 AM	5.0	5.5	-1	23%	26%	12	11
		6:00 PM	5.0	6.0	-2	49%	59%	12	10
		7:00 PM	6.7	5.5	2	52%	42%	9	11
	Southbound - Grand Central-42 St	5:00 AM	8.6	7.5	1	61%	51%	7	8
		8:00 AM	4.6	5.0	-1	81%	87%	13	12
		9:00 AM	5.0	5.5	-1	31%	34%	12	11
		3:00 PM	6.7	6.0	1	65%	58%	9	10
		4:00 PM	4.6	5.0	-1	45%	48%	13	12
5	Northbound - 14 St-Union Square	7:00 AM	8.6	6.7	2	71%	55%	7	9
		8:00 AM	6.7	5.5	2	102%	84%	9	11
		9:00 AM	4.3	5.0	-2	29%	33%	14	12
		11:00 AM	6.7	7.5	-1	63%	71%	9	8
		4:00 PM	5.5	6.7	-2	59%	72%	11	9
		5:00 PM	4.6	5.0	-1	68%	74%	13	12
		6:00 PM	6.0	5.0	2	37%	31%	10	12
		7:00 PM	8.6	7.5	1	50%	44%	7	8
		8:00 PM	8.6	10.0	-1	54%	63%	7	6
	Southbound - Grand Central-42 St	6:00 AM	7.5	6.0	2	75%	60%	8	10
		8:00 AM	5.0	5.5	-1	80%	87%	12	11
		3:00 PM	6.0	6.7	-1	61%	68%	10	9

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## Summary of Proposed 4 and 5 Line Weekday Trip Changes as of May 2026 (continued)

Line	Direction	Hour beginning	Current average headway (minutes)	Proposed average headway (minutes)	Proposed change (trips)	Current % of guideline load	Proposed % of guideline load	Current trains per hour	Proposed trains per hour
<div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>combined</div> </div>	Northbound - 14 St-Union Square	7:00 AM	3.8	3.2	3	72%	60%	16	19
		8:00 AM	2.9	2.6	2	79%	72%	21	23
		9:00 AM	2.4	2.7	-3	36%	41%	25	22
		10:00 AM	3.0	3.2	-1	29%	30%	20	19
		11:00 AM	3.8	4.0	-1	69%	73%	16	15
		4:00 PM	2.9	3.2	-2	64%	70%	21	19
		5:00 PM	2.4	2.5	-1	74%	77%	25	24
		7:00 PM	3.8	3.2	3	51%	43%	16	19
		8:00 PM	3.5	3.8	-1	72%	76%	17	16
	Southbound - Grand Central-42 St	5:00 AM	6.7	6.0	1	82%	70%	9	10
		6:00 AM	3.5	3.2	2	66%	59%	17	19
		8:00 AM	2.4	2.6	-2	80%	87%	25	23
		9:00 AM	2.9	3.0	-1	37%	39%	21	20
		4:00 PM	2.4	2.5	-1	43%	45%	25	24