



A rail station for Rosebank?

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May 15, 2008, 11:28AM

A railway station in Rosebank would plug the largest gap along the train's service line and would be relatively easy to add, transportation experts say.

The authors of a recent study conducted by data and transportation experts at the College of Staten Island noticed a "glaring gap" as they mapped the current Staten Island Railway (SIR) route.

As most strap-hangers know, the longest ride on the route is between the Clifton and Grasmere stations, with stops that are about four to five minutes apart.

Other stops on the rail line are about a minute or two apart and are spaced with the goal of allowing users to get to the trains by walking, said Jonathan Peters of CSI's Geographic Information Systems group, which studies Island transportation and demography. He and fellow researchers Cameron Gordon and Nora Santiago, marking the train's stops on a map of the borough, said that the space between East Shore stations "popped out as a glaring omission," Peters said.

According to Peters' study of Census data, 15,633 people live within a half-mile of a would-be Rosebank station.

A Rosebank station had existed, prior to 1953, as part of the Staten Island Rapid Transit (SIRT) spur that continued to South Beach.

That station has long since disappeared, but potential future sites, including the former DeJong paper factory on Tompkins Avenue, are "certainly worth considering," according to Councilman Michael McMahon (D-North Shore). The CSI team proposes a spot along the SIR line between Reynolds and Fletcher streets.

"In the world of transit, it's a very easy improvement that could be done at minimal expense," said Peters. "It's not like you're adding to the track line. You just have to stop the train."

A New York City Transit spokesman said the MTA would comment on the feasibility of a Rosebank station after the authors of the study present them with their proposal.

New York state's \$2.9 billion Transportation Bond Act, which voters approved in 2005, includes funding for MTA expansion projects.

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