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CASE STUDY
East Side Access | New York, NY

Fire-Rated Floor Doors Protect Commuters In Huge Rail Station Project

The largest capital project in the history of Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to become fully operational in December 2022. The project, East Side Access, will offer relief for long-suffering Long Island commuters.

The \$12 billion project spans three New York boroughs and is the first expansion of the Long Island Rail Road in more than 100 years. The project will provide faster commutes, fewer delays, greater reliability and more options for commuters. LIRR riders will have direct access to the east side of Manhattan, easing overcrowding in and around Penn Station.

More than 1.4 million Long Island residents commute daily to New York City, some traveling as much as three hours one way. The project will save commuters traveling to Manhattan's East Side up to 40 minutes of travel time per day. The MTA expects 162,000 daily passenger trips with as many as 24 trains per hour transporting riders along eight tracks.

The scope of work on the project is staggering. It includes more than 40.5 miles of new track, eight miles of new tunnels and excavation of more than 2 million cubic yards of rock, soil and muck.

The centerpiece to the project for commuters is a new 350,000 square foot passenger concourse underneath Grand Central Station. The concourse will include 25 retail storefronts, Wi-Fi, cell service and digital signage with real-time train information.

The concourse serves as the heartbeat for the project. It includes 800,000 feet of underground raceways, 7,000 light fixtures, seven power stations and two off-track facilities.

Amid all the tunnels and junctions for electrical and plumbing fixtures are 53 fire-rated floor doors manufactured by BILCO. The doors range in size from 30 inches x 30 inches to 42 x 60, and were procured for the project by Fontana Metal Sales of New York.

Fire-rated floor doors are often found in public buildings, dormitories, office buildings and exit stairwells. BILCO's fire-rated doors maintain the fire rating of a 2-hour floor ceiling assembly between building floors.

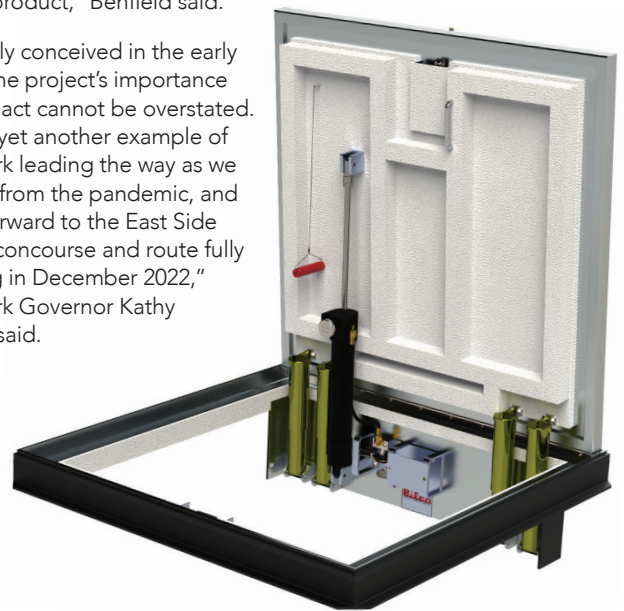
Each fire-rated floor door is constructed with door hardware and sealants to maintain the fire-rating. BILCO's doors are UL-listed and include a pan cover designed to accept flooring materials for concealed access.



"These doors provide a continuation of the regular floor," said Jason Benfield of the civil engineering team working on the project, Tutor Perini. "If a fire breaks out, these doors provide access and give people the chance to get out to an adjacent space. If they weren't fire-rated, smoke or fire could pass through the door and into the public area."

The MTA has a long history of installing BILCO doors in their projects. "It's a product that the MTA knows and it's easiest to purchase the known product," Benfield said.

Originally conceived in the early 1960s, the project's importance and impact cannot be overstated. "This is yet another example of New York leading the way as we recover from the pandemic, and I look forward to the East Side Access concourse and route fully opening in December 2022," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said.



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