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## MTA to spend millions more to finish Grand Central Madison — a year after it opened way over budget

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Commuters walk through the main concourse of Grand Central Madison.

A year after the opening of Grand Central Madison, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority expects to spend tens of millions of dollars more to wrap up the station's buildout.

The MTA has issued a solicitation for a contractor to carry out between \$10 million and \$50 million in "miscellaneous remaining work" on the Long Island Rail Road station. Grand Central Madison, also known as East Side Access, [opened to the public in January 2023](#) after years of delays and soaring costs that, with an \$11 billion price tag, turned it into one of the world's most expensive mass transit projects.

But work isn't quite complete 18 months later.

As part of the solicitation, the MTA is seeking a contractor to install and modify components of the fire alarm system, set up security cameras, carry out escalator-related

work and perform utility work for the retail spaces on the concourse, among other odd jobs, according to MTA documents.

The procurement ties up loose ends for more than 40 separate contract packages that went into the station's construction, according to MTA spokeswoman Joanna Flores. The effort, Flores added, also includes infrastructure work to make the station's 25,000 square feet of commercial space across 32 dining and retail spaces more enticing for someone to lease, which the authority [issued a Request For Proposal for in April](#).

Final proposals for someone to manage the retail space were due in June and the authority has said it aims to select one vendor to oversee all the retail space by the fall so that it can ink deals with restaurants and shops that would open sometime in 2025. So far, the MTA has just one long-term lease inked for the station's retail and dining: a 10-year lease with former Penn Station watering hole [Tracks Raw Bar & Grill](#), for roughly 2,700 square feet.

Luring someone to lease the station's retail concourse is the final obstacle to making Grand Central Madison not just a transit hub but a Midtown retail destination.

Once a contractor is selected, the MTA says it expects the miscellaneous work to take 13 months to complete, according to the solicitation. Bids will be accepted through September 12.