

Construction for Brooklyn Church Back on Schedule

Following an eight-month wait for approval from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York State, construction resumed on the new 52,000-sq-ft Universal Church at Fulton Street and Classon Avenue in Brooklyn.

During the excavation process, workers came upon the A and C subway line walls that ran along Fulton Street.

"We knew that we couldn't work within fifty feet of the wall without approval of our plans," said Ahmed Mohammed, general manager of developer and general contractor Paradise Construction. "Unfortunately, there was a delay in the approval process at the MTA."



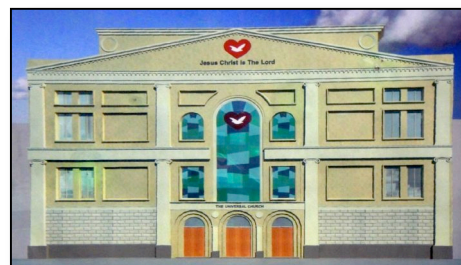
View of Universal Church project from Fulton Street, jobsite Nov. 11, 2007.

on the back structure located on the northeast side of the new building, and will have a main worship area with a mezzanine level, gender-specific dressing areas, sanctuary pools, classrooms and a help center. The church will also have a parking garage and living spaces in the back structure for visitors.

Construction on the church began in April 2006. Paradise hit the MTA wall around November 2006 and full-speed construction resumed in early September 2007. The contractor predicts to complete the project by September 2006, which is the original completion date.

"We are keeping the same completion date because we anticipated the delays with the MTA," said Mohammed.

Steel contractor Super Steel in Queens, has agreed to put on triple crews to speed up the project and be back on schedule by the end of 2007.



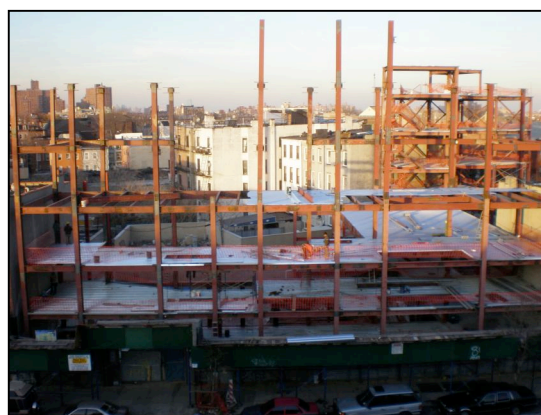
Universal Church on Fulton St, Brooklyn, is slated to open September 2008.

The project also ran into delays during submission of the design, which had to be approved by the MTA to work near the wall.

"The entire approval process took eight months and we had to reconfigure some of the original plans," said Habeeb Chowdry, founder and CEO of Paradise Construction.

"Adjusting our designs to fit the needs of the MTA was a challenge for us," explained Miguel Rosario at UnSpace, the designers of the facility. "We had to move the entire space back a couple of feet, and creating a comfortable and beautiful space while staying within the budget on such a large-scale project was difficult."

The \$12-million project will be five stories at its highest,



Same scene, early Decemberr.

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