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DMR Architects Designs "Destination Station"

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Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.-based DMR Architects has started construction on the Meadowlands Rail Station, part of the larger undertaking of the Meadowlands Railroad and Roadway Improvement Project. The overall program includes both railroad and highway projects, with \$150 million in funding for the new rail station and related work provided by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It is a multi-agency cooperative effort to provide a mass transportation alternative to access the New Jersey Meadowlands Sports and Entertainment Complex.

The station is a first for DMR and the first of its kind for the area. It will allow passengers to travel from northern New Jersey, midtown Manhattan, and Long Island through Secaucus Junction Transfer

Station to the stadium and entertainment complex.

"We were charged with designing a new rail transportation facility, which terminates the new two-mile long track system that spurs off the Pascack Valley line," says Kurt Vierheilig, project manager and senior designer. "It's surprising simple and efficient. The pedestrian overpass connects several platforms and a pedestrian plaza along with a series of ramps along the 950-foot-long station."

The project will serve Meadowlands Xanadu (the \$1.3 billion family entertainment and office complex currently under construction) as well as the new Meadowlands Stadium, Izod Arena, and Meadowlands Racetrack.

The area previously had bus lines providing the only mass transportation service.

"It's great that finally train transportation will be an option for so many people to access the Meadowlands Complex," Vierheilig says. "This is truly a destination station, one where people are coming with a specific purpose and destination in mind. Pedestrian movement influenced the station's design and layout -- it had to be intuitive and clearly identifiable for all patrons."

A large circulation stair was added, as well as overpass and ramp systems to move people to their platforms. Minimal amenities were incorporated due to the close proximity of surrounding venues and all they have to offer.

The project is on schedule to be completed in June 2009.