

Central Station

Expansion and Modernisation works

Context

- The Central Station metro station is one of the oldest in the STIB network. It was opened in 1969. Today, this true multimodal hub in the heart of the city, with buses on the surface and the train right next to it, welcomes several thousand passengers every day. The station has never been thoroughly renovated since it was inaugurated, while the number of passengers passing through it has increased significantly over the same period.
- It is therefore necessary to renovate and completely transform the station. This major renovation and expansion project carried out by the STIB, the Region and Beliris, will provide more comfort and better accessibility for passengers.

Expansion and Modernisation

- The objectives of this in-depth renovation are to meet the current needs of travellers by making the station more than just a transit point, but a truly enjoyable area. The focus is on modernising, increasing the amount of space and light, improving the flow, comfort and accessibility.
- The station's capacity will be greatly increased, which will facilitate the flow of passengers.
- Several technical rooms will be relocated, and the platforms will be renovated and enlarged which will improve comfort and safety.
- Particular attention will be paid to the provision of natural light. New, warmer and more energy-efficient lighting will be installed. The floors, walls and ceilings will be completely refurbished in light colours to enhance the bright atmosphere. This will make the station a more pleasant place to be for everyone. The installation of stores, public toilets and ATMs will complete the station's facilities and several artworks will be installed. The Central Station is one of the few stations that does not yet have one. A call for proposals is currently in process to designate the artists who will appear in the station.
- The other essential part of this renovation is the improvement of the station's accessibility. New stairs will be built from Rue Ravenstein and Rue Cardinal Mercier, the two existing lifts will be replaced, and an additional lift will be installed, thereby bringing the total number of lifts in the station to three. People with reduced mobility will have direct access to the station platforms from the outside, without having to go through the railway station. The same applies to the escalators: those in the station will be renovated and two additional escalators will be

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- The KIOSK sales point will be completely refurbished and the information and signalling system will be renovated.
- Finally, it is planned to fit the station with entrance gates.

Renovation works in four phases

- In order to minimise disruption in the station and on the surface, and to guarantee passenger access to the metro throughout the works, the expansion and renovation work will be carried out in four main phases.
- Phase 1: reconfiguration of the existing station at the location of the current access at the intersection of Rue des Colonies and Rue Montagne du Parc
- Phase 2: Expansion of the station on the Rue Ravenstein side
- Phase 3: Expansion of the station on the railway station side
- Phase 4: renovation of the entire interior of the station and the platforms.
- During the construction work, the station will continue to be operational and the metro traffic will not be interrupted.

Renovation works in four phases

- Particular attention has been paid to the impact of the work on the street surface. The station is located under a 7-branch road junction, which makes it a very complex project to carry out. Every effort will be made to keep disruptions to surface traffic to a minimum during construction.
- To achieve this, state-of-the-art techniques will be used, such as building the walls and roof slab of the station first, in order to be able to dig underneath later. Thanks to this technique, surface traffic will always be guaranteed on one side of the road.
- The work affecting surface traffic will be completed in the course of 2025. The underground work in the station itself will follow and is planned to last about two years.

Accompanying and supporting

- Residents, shopkeepers and passengers will be informed and accompanied throughout the construction period. A large number of support measures are being put in place: ombudsman, WhatsApp group, website, newsletter, social networks, information leaflets, construction site signs, videos, an accompanying committee, specific information for SMEs in collaboration with Hub.brussels and the City of Brussels...
- Particular attention will be paid to delivery zones, building access, horeca, signage for events and tourists, and security.