

St. Petersburg to Open First New Metro Station in 5 Years

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Gorny Institute metro station in St. Petersburg. Peter Kovalev/TASS

St. Petersburg will open a new metro station this week, Governor Alexander Beglov <u>announced</u> Thursday, marking the former Tsarist capital's first new metro station in five years.

The Gorny Institute metro station, located on Vasilievsky Island, will extend the fourth (or "orange") line westward. It will begin operations at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, with its vestibule open for both entry and exit, Beglov said.

"The opening of Gorny Institute is a milestone," the governor wrote on Telegram, noting that the city had overcome "significant challenges" during the station's construction.

Beglov thanked President Vladimir Putin, metro builders, engineers and residents of St. Petersburg for their patience and support, calling the station's completion the "first results" of sustained efforts to advance the city's metro system. The station's opening comes after years of delays. Initially scheduled for completion in 2015, its opening was postponed to 2018 and later to 2022. Construction efforts were further overshadowed by a <u>fatal scaffolding collapse</u> in June 2020 that killed one worker and injured another.

Gorny Institute is the first station to open since 2019, when three others — Prospect Slavy, Dunayskaya, and Shushary — were inaugurated.

St. Petersburg's metro is currently made up of five lines and 72 stations. However, it has expanded slowly over the years, in stark contrast to Moscow's burgeoning metro system, which this year <u>opened</u> eight new stations.

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