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IMMEDIATE

MTA Long Island Rail Road President James J. Dermody to Retire September 1st

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Peter S. Kalikow announced today the retirement of MTA Long Island Rail Road President James J. Dermody.

Mr. Dermody, a 48-year employee of MTA Long Island Rail Road, will retire effective September 1, 2006.

In announcing the retirement, Chairman Kalikow said, "Jim Dermody has been an exceptional president who has made terrific progress in bringing newer equipment, enhanced customer communication, and better on-time performance for LIRR riders. His will be very big shoes to fill."

MTA Executive Director Katherine N. Lapp said, "Jim has been a great leader and outstanding colleague. No one knows the Long Island Rail Road better than he does, and his encyclopedic knowledge of every mile of every track will be missed."

During his tenure as LIRR president, Mr. Dermody has overseen the successful phasing-in of the LIRR's new M-7 cars, a more reliable, new technology fleet of electric train cars. With the M-7s comprising 70% of the LIRR's electric car fleet, the Mean Distance Between Failures (MDBF) for the entire fleet has risen substantially to 51,993 miles in 2005, up 31.4% from 39,579 miles in 2003. As of May, 2006 the year-to-date MDBF is 70,274.

Other milestones include the total rebuilding of Jamaica Station as an inter-modal transportation center linking four different transportation services: LIRR, AirTrain JFK, NYCT Subway, and local bus lines. Under the Jamaica Station Improvement Project the platforms, canopies and westerly pedestrian bridge were replaced and a portal bridge/mezzanine structure connecting the LIRR with the AirTrain was constructed.

Mr. Dermody has also overseen the Brooklyn Atlantic Terminal Improvements, which is entering its final phase of construction for the new entry pavilion, permanent ticket office, and waiting room. He also initiated the environmental impact statement study for the Main Line Corridor Improvement Project.

Joining the LIRR in June of 1958 after graduating from Brooklyn Prep High School, Mr. Dermody started his railroad career as a ticket clerk. He has held diverse posts in the intervening years. While working at the LIRR, he earned a bachelor of science degree from Adelphi University. He spent the major portion of his career in the Transportation Department supervising train-dispatching operations, and he has served as General Manager of Customer Quality and Service Planning, Acting Chief Mechanical Officer, General Manager-New Fleet Procurement, Chief Transportation Officer and Senior Vice President-Operations.

The 172-year-old Long Island Rail Road is the busiest commuter railroad in the nation and carries an average of 262,000 passengers a day on more than 700 trains. The Railroad has 701 miles of track (300 miles of route track), 1,130 rail cars and locomotives, and some 6,100 employees.