



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

August 21, 2008

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Pick Up the Green Brochure For Details on August 23 & 24 LIRR Service Shutdown on the Main Line

#### NO TRAINS THAT WEEKEND BETWEEN MINEOLA AND JAMAICA AND BETWEEN HEMPSTEAD AND JAMAICA AS QUEENS INTERLOCKING SWITCH AND SIGNAL WORK NEARS COMPLETION

MTA Long Island Rail Road customers who travel the Main Line and Hempstead Branch should look for a new brochure detailing the LIRR's plans to shutdown train service on the weekend of Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24 because of a major rehabilitation project.

The folded, eight-page publication entitled, "Queens Interlocking Switch & Signal Improvements," has been dropped on train seats and placed at stations and is easily recognizable by its green cover. Its travel tips will help customers cope with the 48-hour shutdown planned for the August 23-24 weekend.

The brochure reminds travelers that the Queens Interlocking work means:

- No train service from Mineola to Jamaica affecting customers on the Huntington/Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma and Oyster Bay branches.
- No train service from Hempstead to Jamaica.
- Buses replacing some trains, while other trains are rerouted.
- Allowing 30-45 minutes extra travel time.
- Picking up specially printed timetables for their branch.

To avoid delays, the brochure urges customers to use other branches if possible, including the Babylon, Far Rockaway, Long Beach, Montauk, Port Washington and West Hempstead branches.

The Queens Interlocking is undergoing a \$60.4 million modernizing program bringing state-of-the-art technology to an important LIRR switching point (between Queens Village and Bellerose) where the busy Main Line and Hempstead branch merge. Work began on Monday, June 16 and is scheduled for completion on Monday, September 1.

Workers have been replacing the current signal system with microprocessor technology and reconfiguring the track to include high-speed crossover switches.

During the shutdown weekend, buses replace most trains between Hempstead and Jamaica and between Mineola and Jamaica. Ronkonkoma branch trains are being diverted to the south shore.

The new brochure provides detailed maps of the work area and the locations of the designated bus stops at Mineola, Jamaica, Merillon Avenue and New Hyde Park.

Shea Stadium customers should anticipate up to 45 minutes of additional travel time. Mets fans and those attending the Arthur Ashe Kids Day event at Flushing Meadow Park can avoid delays and busing by using the Port Washington branch or south shore branches, including the Babylon, Far Rockaway, Long Beach, Montauk and West Hempstead branches to go to/from Shea Stadium.

"This is the final phase of an important project that would have not been possible without the cooperation of customers all summer long," said LIRR President Helena Williams. "We have tried very hard to minimize the impact, but on the August 23-24 weekend it is particularly important for LIRR customers to be aware of what's happening. We want everyone who plans to ride the Railroad that weekend to be ready to adjust their travel plans."

For additional travel information, customers can contact the LIRR's 24-hour Travel Information Center in Suffolk County at 631-231-LIRR, in Nassau County at 516-822-LIRR or in New York City at 718-217-LIRR. The Travel Information Center's TDD telephone number for the hearing impaired is 718-558-3022. Customers can also consult the LIRR's website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info).