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Press Release

March 19, 2009

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Media Advisory: March 21 & March 22 LIRR Track Work

WEEKEND TRAIN SERVICE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED ON WEST HEMPSTEAD BRANCH; HOURLY BABYLON BRANCH SERVICE; FAR ROCKAWAY, HEMPSTEAD, LONG BEACH AND MONTAUK BRANCHES HAVE REVISED SCHEDULES DUE TO WEEKEND VALLEY STREAM TRACK WORK PROGRAM

This weekend, March 21 and March 22, a track program in the Valley Stream area will affect Long Island Rail Road train service on the West Hempstead, Hempstead, Babylon, Long Beach, Far Rockaway and Montauk Branches. This program will also be in effect on March 28-29. Train service on the West Hempstead Branch will be replaced with buses and Babylon Branch service will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly. There are adjustments to stopping times and connections on the Far Rockaway, Hempstead, Long Beach and Montauk Branches. Customers should pick up a copy of the March 2-March 29 branch timetables.

The work in the Valley Stream area involves maintenance of track components, including ties and rails, and replacement where necessary. In addition, preparatory work will take place for installation and activation of a new signal system in the area during the fall. A later news release will detail train service impacts during this fall weekend.

Weekends of March 21-22, March 28-29

WEST HEMPSTEAD BRANCH

West Hempstead Branch weekend train service is replaced by buses.

Eastbound: Customers will board their regular trains at western terminals and transfer to buses at Valley Stream. Customers should anticipate up to 19 minutes additional travel time.

Westbound: Customers will board buses at their stations and transfer to trains at Jamaica to complete their trips. Customers should anticipate up to 29 minutes additional travel time.

BABYLON BRANCH

Since there will be limited track space available during the affected weekends because of the work, it is necessary to reduce the number of Babylon Branch trains operating during these four weekends. Service will be reduced to approximately one train per hour instead of the regular two trains per hour. Affected customers should pick up a copy of the Branch timetables for further details.

LONG BEACH BRANCH

Both eastbound and westbound trains will operate using the eastbound track during the weekend. Customers should use the eastbound (toward Long Beach) platform for all train service.

FAR ROCKAWAY, HEMPSTEAD, LONG BEACH & MONTAUK BRANCHES

Train departure and arrival times will be revised during the affected weekends. Customers should pick up a copy of the Branch timetable for further details.

OTHER BRANCHES

Customers on the Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma, and City Terminal Zone branches should pickup copies of the March timetables at their stations and at all terminals because of time changes in Jamaica for connecting trains due to the track work. Only two branches will not be impacted, Oyster Bay and Port Washington, although both branches also have new timetables in effect March 2-March 29. The timetables for these two branches do not reflect any time changes.

New timetables will be issued effective March 30, after the Valley Stream track work is completed.

Special timetables for the affected weekends are available at stations and terminals.

Affected 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 may also consult the LIRR's website at www.mta.info.