



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

June 22, 2009

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### MTA LIRR Serves Record Number Of Customers Traveling To 'People's Open' At Bethpage

*Nearly One-third of U.S. Open general spectators take the LIRR to the Open this week*

About a third of all U.S. Open general spectators who attended Championship play at Bethpage State Park this week arrived via the Long Island Rail Road, the latest ridership statistics show.

The LIRR added extra trains all week long to the LIRR Farmingdale Station so that golf fans from around the world had the option of being able to reach the park without driving. Long Island Bus provided free shuttle service to the park under an arrangement with the USGA.

Throughout the week, the LIRR adjusted its schedule as rain delays impacted when play began and was suspended for the day. The Railroad and Long Island Bus met the demand each day and LIRR ridership grew as the week progressed.

"We have been saying all along that the LIRR is a fast, green and convenient way to get to the US Open and our customers have backed us up with their patronage. We're delighted to have carried nearly a third of the total gate to the 'People's Open' at Bethpage via public transportation," said LIRR President and interim MTA Executive Director Helena Williams. "I would like to thank the dedicated employees of the LIRR and Long Island Bus for helping to provide the extra service to Farmingdale in first class fashion. The MTA police also provided critical support, as did officials in the Village of Farmingdale and Nassau County. It has been our pleasure to coordinate all our efforts with the USGA."

"From the USGA's perspective, we are thrilled with the train service and that so many people took advantage of this option," said Robbie Zalneck, Director, U.S. Open Championship Management.

From Monday through Sunday, June 15-21, the LIRR provided train service for 78,615 general spectators arriving at the Open those days – representing about a third of the Open gate.

US Open Bethpage Black June 15 –21, 2009	Daily Total LIRR U.S. Open Arrivals	Daily Total LIRR U.S. Open Departures	Daily Total LIRR U.S. Open Ridership*
Monday, June 15	3,345	3,746	7,091
Tuesday, June 16	5,544	5,469	11,013
Wednesday, June 17	8,887	8,626	17,513
Thursday, June 18	10,714	2,904	23,618
Friday, June 19	17,702	18,814	36,516
Saturday, June 20	17,467	17,157	34,624
Sunday, June 21	14,956	15,743	30,699
Total as of 6/21	78,615	82,459	161,074

\* Numbers are based on eastbound and westbound arrivals and departures.