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Press Release

February 12, 2009

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IMMEDIATE

High Winds Impacted Some MTA LIRR Service Today

The MTA Long Island Rail Road experienced two, high wind-related service disruptions today affecting some train service on the Oyster Bay and Ronkonkoma branches.

The first incident occurred at 8:51AM this morning when the 8:16 AM train from Oyster Bay to Hunterspoint Avenue struck a LIRR communications pole that was pushed by high winds near the Northern State Parkway overpass at Roslyn Road east of Albertson Station.

The engineer acted quickly by applying the train's emergency brakes. As the train was stopping, he also assisted a female customer who was sitting toward the front of the train, making sure she was safely out of harm's way. Service was temporarily suspended on the Oyster Bay Branch at 8:55 AM with buses replacing trains between Mineola and Oyster Bay. Long Island Power Authority provided assistance in clearing the LIRR line pole. Service on Oyster Bay was restored at 11:10 AM with residual delays extending to the evening rush hour.

Two customers reported minor injuries. One was taken to Saint Francis Hospital and the other was taken to Winthrop University Hospital.

In the second incident, high winds caused a service disruption on the Ronkonkoma Branch at 8:11 AM this morning when the 7:32 AM westbound train from Ronkonkoma to Penn Station struck a crossing gate at the Broadway crossing in Bethpage. The gate, swinging in high winds, hit the train and broke off striking a window. MTA Police reported eight customers were injured. Two refused medical attention. Six customers - four females and two males - were taken to a New Island Hospital with what has been described as glass injuries. The incident resulted in delays of up to 20 minutes westbound and up to 30 minutes eastbound on the Ronkonkoma Branch until about 9:30 AM. The Ronkonkoma Branch was back on or close to schedule by 10:15 AM.

Both high-wind incidents are under investigation by the LIRR.

The LIRR would like to thank our customers for their patience and understanding during these two incidents.