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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Helena E. Williams Named Interim MTA Executive Director And CEO

Appointment is Pending Board Approval on May 27

MTA Chairman H. Dale Hemmerdinger today announced that Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) President Helena E. Williams will serve as interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, pending MTA Board approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 27. Williams' appointment will remain in effect until a new Chairman and CEO is nominated by Governor Paterson and confirmed by the State Senate. Williams will retain her title and responsibilities as LIRR President.

"This is a time of transition at the MTA, but it is critical that we continue to serve our customers without missing a beat," said H. Dale Hemmerdinger, Chairman of the MTA Board. "Helena Williams is doing a terrific job at the Long Island Rail Road and will be an excellent steward for the entire transit system until a new Chairman and CEO is appointed."

"I am honored to be asked to step in temporarily - pending approval of the MTA Board - to serve in this position while continuing my duties as President of the LIRR. As we all know, the subway, bus, bridge, tunnel and commuter rail systems are the lifeblood of our city and of the entire New York metropolitan region. I've spent much of my career at the MTA, so this will be an exciting challenge."

A labor lawyer by training, Williams has served as president of Long Island Bus and the LIRR during a combined 15 years at the MTA. She also served as deputy county executive to Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi. Under her leadership at the LIRR, the Rail Road has reached record on time performance and improved communications with customers. She is a graduate of St. John's University School of Law.