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Press Release

March 16, 2010

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

# No Train Service On LIRR Long Beach Branch The Weekend Of Saturday, March 20 & Sunday, March 21

### *Buses Replace Trains As Construction Of New Bridges Over Powell Creek & Hog Island Channel Continues*

Buses will replace train service for Long Island Rail Road customers traveling between Long Beach and Valley Stream the weekend of Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21 as work continues on the construction of two new railroad bridges over Powell Creek and Hog Island Channel.

The \$24.5 million project, which is funded through the MTA Capital Budget and federal grants, will also require train outages on three other weekends – including March 27-28, May 1-2 and May 15-16. Each of these weekends will be preceded by a public notification so that LIRR Long Beach Branch customers can plan ahead. The Railroad's goal is to complete the installation of both bridges before Memorial Day.

Eastbound, when busing is in effect, customers will transfer to buses at Valley Stream for stations Lynbrook through Long Beach. Customers should allow up to 34 minutes of additional travel time.

Westbound, customers will board buses at stations Long Beach through Lynbrook bound for Valley Stream, where they will transfer to trains to complete their trip. Buses will depart up to 33 minutes earlier than scheduled train times

Both the Powell Creek Bridge (located between the LIRR's East Rockaway and Oceanside stations) and the Hog Island Channel Bridge (located between Oceanside and Island Park) were built in the 1920s, and have served the LIRR well for nearly 90 years. These two bridges are being replaced as part of the Railroad's ongoing efforts to modernize its infrastructure and ensure safe and reliable service for our customers and neighbors for decades to come.

The existing Powell Creek and Hog Island Bridges are open-deck wooden and steel structures supported by wooden piles through which water is visible below. These structures will be removed and replaced with pre-cast concrete structures, supported by reinforced concrete-filled, steel pipe piles, which will provide safer, closed-deck concrete roadbeds.

The project will also alleviate a recurring flooding condition at Powell Creek Bridge, which has at times led to delays and temporary service suspensions, by raising the elevation of the bridge by approximately one foot. Bridge walkways will also be installed at both locations to make it safer for LIRR employees.

For detailed information and updated schedules, customers can pick up a Long Beach Branch special weekend timetable, visit the LIRR's website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) or call the LIRR's 24-hour Travel Information Center: (718) 217-LIRR (NYC); (516) 822-LIRR (Nassau); (631) 231-LIRR (Suffolk); (718) 558-3022 (TDD/Hearing Impaired).