



MTA Press Releases

Press Release

January 20, 2010

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

No Service On LIRR Long Beach Branch This Weekend, January 23-24, And Next Weekend, January 30-31

Buses Replace Trains as LIRR Installs New Bridges Over Powell Creek and Hog Island Channel

There will be no train service along the Long Beach Branch this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, January 23-24, and next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31 due to the installation of two new MTA Long Island Rail Road bridges over Powell Creek and Hog Island Channel.

Buses will serve LIRR customers between Long Beach and Valley Stream on both weekends. Regular weekday train service will not be affected by the project.

The \$24.5 million project, funded through the MTA Capital Program and Federal Transit Administration grants, will also require the shutdown of train service on four other weekends later this year – March 20-21, March 27-28, May 1-2 and May 15-16.

In addition to the weekend dates listed above, work will require the Railroad to close the eastbound platforms at Island Park, Oceanside, East Rockaway and Centre Avenue on five other weekends: February 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 and March 6-7. All trains will operate from westbound platforms at those stations.

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

Westbound, customers will board buses at the six stations between Long Beach and 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 stations) were built in the 1920s and served the LIRR for nearly 90 years.

"Without the long term financing for new infrastructure that the MTA's Capital Program provides, it would be impossible to undertake projects like this," said LIRR President Helena E. Williams. "These two bridges are being replaced as part of our ongoing efforts to modernize and ensure safe and reliable service for our customers for decades to come."

MTA Capital Program funds for the project total \$14.2 million, while the FTA has added \$10.3 million. The international construction company, Kiewit Constructors Inc., is the prime contractor and Kiewit, in turn, is employing a number of subcontractors. Much of the material being used has been purchased from local firms in the tri-state region.

The bridge replacement program has created approximately, 47 new full time jobs, including 12 construction managers at Kiewit and 35 craft labor positions involving operating engineers, dock builders and laborers. Numerous LIRR employees will be installing new track and signals over the bridges.

Work on the project began in November but is only now impacting service. To limit that impact, most of the work will be done during 48-hour weekend shifts.

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

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

The project is being coordinated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Town of Hempstead.

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/lirr 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).

