



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

August 27, 2010

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Media Advisory: MTA LIRR Plans to Offer Regular Weekend Train Service with Some Exceptions as Repairs & Testing Continues on Signal & Switch System

The LIRR continues to make progress on repairing critical switching and signal equipment damaged in Monday's fire in a signal tower east of Jamaica, where 10 of 11 LIRR branches converge.

Approximately 25 percent of more than 300 tests that must be run to insure safe operation of the signal system have been completed. Testing will continue during the weekend.

The LIRR will run its regular weekend off-peak service with some exceptions.

As testing continues, it is possible that further damage from Monday's fire could be uncovered, requiring additional rewiring of switching equipment. The LIRR will closely monitor the progress of the repair work and testing program throughout the weekend.

LIRR crews will be working around the clock during the weekend in an effort to restore full service for Monday morning's rush hour. However, customers should be aware that accomplishing that goal depends upon the results of testing being conducted on Saturday and Sunday.

Depending upon the progress of the testing of the switch and signal system in this critical area of the Railroad, the LIRR may have to continue running a reduced AM and PM rush hour schedule on Monday.

Safety remains the LIRR's top priority. If more repairs or further testing becomes necessary, the LIRR will continue using a manual method to switch trains in the area east of Jamaica as a safety precaution.

#### West Hempstead Branch

Weekend customers on the LIRR's West Hempstead branch, one of its least traveled routes, will be served via buses between Valley Stream and West Hempstead.

#### Bus Service Locust Manor, Laurelton, and Rosedale

Customers at Locust Manor, Laurelton, and Rosedale stations will have bus service to and from Jamaica throughout the weekend in place of trains as a result of the switch and signal testing.

#### Bus Service Hollis and Queens Village

Eastbound Buses Saturday: Customers traveling eastbound to Hollis and Queens Village stations on Saturday, August 28 will have bus service from Jamaica Station; trains will operate westbound from Hollis and Queens Village on Saturday.

Westbound Buses Sunday: Customers traveling westbound from Hollis and Queens Village stations on Sunday, August 29 will have bus service to Jamaica Station; trains will operate eastbound to Hollis and Queens Village on Sunday.

#### Bus Service St. Albans

Eastbound Buses Saturday: Customers traveling eastbound to St. Albans Station on Saturday, August 28 will have bus service from Jamaica Station; trains will operate westbound from St. Albans on Saturday.

Westbound Buses Sunday: Customers traveling westbound from St. Albans Station on Sunday, August 29 will have bus service to Jamaica Station; trains will operate eastbound to St. Albans on Sunday.

#### Far Rockaway Branch

Far Rockaway Branch customers traveling to and from Penn Station on the weekend will make their connections at Valley Stream instead of Jamaica.

#### Babylon Branch

Babylon Branch customers traveling to and from Atlantic Terminal on the weekend will make their connections at Valley Stream instead of Jamaica.

#### Oyster Bay Branch

Westbound Oyster Bay Branch customers traveling to LIRR western terminals on the weekend will make their connections at Mineola instead of Jamaica.

#### Service Updates:

The LIRR will continue to provide updated Service Advisories as repairs progress. Customers should monitor news media and traffic and transit reports

and the LIRR's website (at [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr)) for these updates.

For up-to-date travel service information, customers can also contact the LIRR's Travel Information Center in Suffolk County at 631-231-LIRR, in Nassau County at 516-822-LIRR or in New York City at 718-217-LIRR. The Travel Information Center's TDD telephone number for the hearing impaired is 718-558-3022.

Customers can also text CooCoo at 266266 for train schedules.