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Press Release

October 13, 2011

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IMMEDIATE

### Staten Island Railway Autumn Service Advisory

#### *Fallen Leaves May Slow SIR Service*

Effective now through mid-December, MTA Staten Island Railway (SIR) advises customers to allow extra travel time as trains may need to move at slower speeds due to fallen leaves on the tracks.

Fallen leaves, when crushed by moving trains, leave a slippery residue on the running rails. This residue may affect the train's ability to move and stop. In order to ensure safe operation, trains may operate at reduced speed and/or operate at slower than normal speeds while entering or leaving stations.

"Crushed leaves present us with one of our biggest seasonal operational challenges," said Stephone Montgomery, Vice President of MTA Staten Island Railway. "It's an industry-wide problem for all rail systems that operate outdoors in highly vegetated areas. Light rain and morning dew worsen the situation." While some delays are expected, missed Staten Island Ferry connections are rare. However, since it may result in longer ride times, customers should allow for additional travel time.

Customers may call 511, the New York State travel information line for MTA customers service and travel information or log on at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) to sign up for free email and text message alerts.