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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Ticket Window Hours and Cleaning Crews Retained under Agreement between LIRR & Ticket Clerks' Union

LIRR ticket window hours at more than 18 stations and two heavy duty cleaning crews that help keep stations neat will be saved under a key agreement reached between the LIRR and Transportation Communications Union (TCU).

In a successful effort to keep some ticket windows open for the public that had been slated for closure and to retain the current level of cleaning services, TCU leadership and LIRR management agreed to temporary changes in contract rules.

The agreement, which extends to March 2012, modifies some of the Union's contractual work rules and contract provisions and provides sufficient savings to avert the planned layoff of 17 ticket clerks in 2011. That would have resulted in the closure of ticket offices and the reduction of ticket window hours at a total of over 18 LIRR stations. The reductions – originally included in the LIRR's financial plan – will now be averted for at least nine months. The LIRR hopes to discuss an extension of this temporary agreement to avoid shutting ticket windows and laying off employees in 2012.

In hammering out the short-term agreement, a reduction in the number of clerks will be accomplished through attrition and will result in five LIRR ticket offices – Amityville, Flushing-Main Street, Lynbrook, Massapequa and Wantagh – being kept open two days a week instead of closing. The LIRR has saved \$1.3 million through the reductions and the agreement with the TCU. The agreement also reduces by half the number of ticket offices that would have seen reductions in window hours.

"This agreement shows LIRR managers and TCU officials can work together to continue to provide the highest level of service to our customers while at the same time achieving efficiencies and less costly ways of doing business. This type of partnership is critical in dealing with the financial challenges the MTA faces – particularly going forward as the MTA and the LIRR continues to overhaul every aspect of our business. I applaud the TCU's leadership for their willingness to help in this process," said LIRR President Helena Williams.

TCU Vice President Arthur Maratea said: "We have been working hard with the Long Island Rail Road to address the MTA's continuing budget deficits. At a time when there are calls for unions throughout the country to make concessions to help with meeting budget shortfalls, the TCU is proud to announce we have stepped up and found innovative ways to reduce expenses while saving jobs of our members who directly serve the public."

Maratea added: "The TCU has given the LIRR the right to work its employees for straight time on two holidays this year. In addition, we have waived various work rules, from many of our different crafts, which will allow the LIRR to realize savings and keep many ticket offices from closing, which would have had a negative impact on our customers."

The TCU represents unionized ticket office personnel and other clerical positions at the Railroad as well as station cleaning crews.