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Press Release

October 7, 2011

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Buses Will Replace LIRR Trains between Speonk & Montauk for 72-Hours from Oct. 18- Oct. 21 & Again Oct. 25-Oct. 28

#### *Bridge Rehab & Scheduled Track Work to Impact AM & PM Rush on Montauk Branch*

MTA Long Island Rail Road will substitute buses for train service between Montauk and Speonk during two separate, 72-hour track outages later this month that will result in significant schedule changes for East End customers during both the peak and off-peak periods.

Buses will replace trains between Speonk and Montauk from 2:13 AM on Tuesday, October 18 through 2:30 AM on Friday, October 21 and again from 2:13 AM on Tuesday, October 25 through 2:30 AM on Friday, October 28 as the LIRR begins major bridge rehabilitation work on the Montauk Branch.

The \$26 million renewal of three bridges in Hampton Bays, L.I. - the North Highway Bridge, the Montauk Highway Bridge and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge - is expected to take two years and result in occasional service suspensions with buses substituted to transport customers. The bridges were built in the early part of the last century and their rehabilitation is expected to extend their useful life by 35 to 40 years. All the improvements are financed by the Federal Transit Administration and the MTA Capital Program.

The LIRR will take advantage of the track outage between Montauk and Speonk to renew rail crossings at Newtown Lane in East Hampton and Wainscot Harbor Road in Sagaponack.

The weekday work dates were chosen because more riders travel this segment of the Montauk branch on weekends at this time of year and the LIRR always tries to schedule track work on days that impact the fewest customers. Approximately 444 westbound customers and approximately 370 eastbound customers will be affected.

During each 72-hour outage, eastbound trains will terminate at Speonk and buses will carry customers to destinations east to Montauk. Westbound travelers between Montauk and Hampton Bays will be bused from their home station to Speonk and there board trains to points west.

When taking the substitute bus service, customers should expect up to 40 minutes of additional travel time depending on the distance of their trip.

Each 72-hour outage will result in the cancellation, between Speonk and Montauk, of nine trains on Tuesday, 10 trains on Wednesday, 10 trains Thursday and one train on Friday.

The complete substitute busing schedule can be found in specially printed Montauk branch timetables for October 18-21 and October 25-28, which are available at LIRR terminals and local stations or on the web at [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr).

Rush hour customers are reminded that buses will replace the following AM PEAK and PM PEAK trains between Speonk and Montauk during both outages.

#### **Eastbound**

The 6:17 PM train from Jamaica will terminate at Speonk at 7:55 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

#### **Westbound**

The 5:39 AM train from Montauk scheduled to arrive in Speonk at 6:49 AM will instead originate from Speonk on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The LIRR's North Highway Bridge was built in 1907, the Montauk Highway Bridge in 1929 and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge in 1931. The LIRR has a total of 640 bridges along its right of way and 30 viaducts and all are inspected on a regular basis on a prioritized maintenance schedule.

As part of the repairs, the vertical roadway clearance of Montauk Highway and North Highway Bridges will be increased by approximately five inches to reduce the potential for vehicular impact.

For additional information, Customers can call 511, the New York State Travel Information Line say: Long Island Rail Road. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred relay service provider for the free 711 relay to reach the LIRR at 511. Montauk branch customers can also consult the MTA website at [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr). At the website, they can sign up for free email service alerts, the fastest and most accurate way to monitor LIRR trains.

