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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### LIRR Ronkonkoma Branch Weekend Service Affected by Track Work November 12 & 13

***Buses Replace Early-Morning Saturday Train Service between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma for Track Inspection. Buses also Replace Weekend Train Service between Central Islip and Ronkonkoma Stations All Day Saturday, Nov. 12 through 6:30 AM Sunday, No...***

The MTA Long Island Rail Road will provide bus service in place of weekend trains on the Ronkonkoma Branch November 12 & 13 for two different rail projects.

Buses will be substituted for Saturday early-morning train service between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma on November 12 for six hours as track inspections are performed by the Sperry Rail Car.

Buses will also replace train service between Central Islip and Ronkonkoma stations all day Saturday, November 12 through 6:30 AM Sunday, November 13 while work is performed to renew the railroad crossing at Ocean Avenue in Ronkonkoma.

While the track is out of service for this necessary track work, LIRR crews will also perform a clean-up of the right of way.

During the two track projects, customers will take substitute bus service as detailed below:

#### **Buses replace early-morning service between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma, Sat. Nov. 12**

LIRR customers will be provided bus service between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma while rail testing is performed for six hours during the early-morning Saturday, November 12, from 12:45 AM through 6:30 AM as follows.

**Eastbound:** Customers on the 12:14 AM, 1:16 AM, 2:53 AM and 4:43 AM early-morning Saturday trains from Penn Station to Ronkonkoma on November 12 will transfer to buses at Hicksville for travel to stations Wyandanch through Ronkonkoma. Customers bound for Bethpage and Farmingdale will stay on these trains to their stations. Eastbound customers should expect up to 24 minutes additional travel time, depending on destination station.

**Westbound:** Customers normally on the 12:44 AM, 2:10 AM, 3:45 AM, 5:37 AM and 6:40 AM early-morning Saturday trains from Ronkonkoma will board buses instead at their stations Ronkonkoma through Wyandanch up to six minutes later than scheduled train times and transfer to trains at Hicksville to complete their trips. Bethpage and Farmingdale customers will board their normally scheduled trains at their stations. Westbound customers should expect up to 40 minutes additional travel time.

In performing the track inspection, the Sperry Rail Car – a bright yellow vehicle fitted with ultrasonic and induction test equipment – is designed to detect internal rail defects not readily visible to the eye. Defects that are found will be corrected immediately by a crew of LIRR track maintenance workers. The Sperry Rail Car is used twice a year to inspect approximately 500 miles of LIRR track.

#### **Buses replace train service between Central Islip and Ronkonkoma – Nov. 12 & 13**

LIRR customers will be provided bus service between Central Islip and Ronkonkoma – from 6:30 AM Saturday, November 12 through 6:30 AM Sunday, November 13 – while LIRR forces rehabilitate the railroad grade crossing at Ocean Avenue in Ronkonkoma. Buses will operate as detailed below:

**Eastbound:** Customers on trains from Penn Station to Ronkonkoma – starting with the 6:16 AM train Saturday, November 12 through and including the 4:43 AM Sunday, Nov. 13 – will transfer to buses at Central Islip for Ronkonkoma.

**Westbound:** Customers normally boarding trains at Ronkonkoma – starting with the 7:40 AM train Saturday, November 12 through and including the 5:37 AM train Sunday, November 13 – will instead board buses at Ronkonkoma up to 15 minutes earlier for a transfer to trains at Central Islip for the remainder of their trips. These trains will originate as normally scheduled from Central Islip.

#### **Two Saturday evening Port Jefferson Branch trains affected by Ronkonkoma Branch Track Work**

On Saturday evening, November 12 into Sunday overnight, November 13, Port Jefferson Branch trains that connect with Ronkonkoma Branch trains are affected by the crossing renewal work. The affected trains are:

- The Saturday 11:36 PM westbound train from Huntington to Penn Station will be held in Jamaica for three minutes. This train will also have added Kew Gardens and Forest Hills stops. Woodside and Penn Station arrivals will be five minutes later than normally scheduled.
- The Saturday 11:58 PM westbound train from Hicksville to Penn Station will be operating on a modified schedule, leaving Hicksville at 12:20 AM Sunday morning.

Detailed information on these two trains is contained in the [Special Port Jefferson Branch Timetable card dated November 12 & 13](#).

The crossing renewal work at Ocean Avenue includes replacing the rubber crossing pads with longer lasting and smoother concrete crossing materials as well as rebuilding the track bed and replacing the wood track ties with longer lasting concrete track ties in the crossing area.

The Ocean Avenue crossing will be closed to highway traffic from 11:00 PM Friday to 11:59 PM Saturday. During the roadway closure, the following detour routes will be in effect:

**Southbound:**

For local traffic: Proceed south on Ocean Avenue to Erie Street; then east to Pond Road; then south to Johnson Avenue; then west to Ocean Avenue.

For commercial traffic: Take Express Drive South (L.I.E. service road) east to Ronkonkoma Avenue (County Road 29); then south to Johnson Avenue; then west to Ocean Avenue.

**Northbound:**

For local traffic: Proceed north on Ocean Avenue to Easton Street; then east to Pond Road; then north to Erie Street; then west to Ocean Avenue.

For commercial traffic: Take Ocean Avenue north to Lakeland Avenue; then east to Ronkonkoma Avenue (County Road 29); then north to Johnson Avenue; then west to Ocean Avenue.

Upon completion of the crossing work, temporary paving material will be placed between the Long Island Rail Road crossing panels and the roadway. In the near future, the approaches to the crossing will be permanently repaved (weather permitting). The permanent repaving will not require the complete closure of the crossing since it affects only one single lane of traffic at a time, and roadway traffic will be maintained for both directions.

For additional information, customers can visit the [LIRR's website](#) for the [Special Ronkonkoma Branch timetable dated Nov. 12 & 13](#). Customers can also call 511, the New York State Travel Information Line, and say: Long Island Rail Road. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred relay service provider or the free 711 relay to reach LIRR at 511.