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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

MTA Railroads Report Ridership Gains

Strong Holiday Season Boosts Ridership on LIRR and Metro-North; Both Railroads Up in November for the Third Consecutive Month

MTA Long Island Rail Road and MTA Metro-North Railroad report that busy weekend holiday shopping and tourism boosted ridership on both commuter lines in December, which follows significant ridership gains for both transit agencies in November.

Customer counts conducted at Grand Central Terminal show that Metro-North carried an average of 151,000 customers to and from New York City on the weekends of December 3-4, December 10-11 and December 17-18. This is a 9.2% increase over 2010.

"For years, Metro-North has been expanding weekend service during the holidays and people have been voting with their feet," said Metro North President Howard Permut. "Most people who come into Manhattan could drive, but they choose to take a Metro-North train instead because it's easier, more convenient and a good value."

The LIRR said its December weekend ridership was up 8% compared to the same period in 2010.

The LIRR also reported a 3.8% increase in ridership during the month of November when it served 252,000 more customers than it did in November 2010. The November figures mark the third consecutive month that ridership was up on the LIRR.

"The November increase in ridership is significant," said Helena E. Williams. "It's the third month in a row our ridership has rebounded. We will have to wait and see if ridership continues to grow in the New Year, but it is certainly a positive trend for us."

Metro-North ridership also increased significantly during November. Total East of Hudson ridership increased 3% vs. November 2010 levels, the fastest rate of ridership growth observed this year. Metro-North carried almost 200,000 more customers than in November 2010. November was also the third consecutive month that Metro-North ridership was up vs. last year.