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Press Release

October 9, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Buses Will Replace Trains between Speonk and Montauk for 72-Hours Beginning Tuesday, October 16 through Friday, October 19

#### *\$26.2 Million Bridge Rehabilitation Project to Impact AM & PM Rush on Montauk Branch*

MTA Long Island Rail Road will substitute buses for train service between Montauk and Speonk for 72-hours beginning early Tuesday morning, October 16 through early Friday morning, October 19, 2012 as rehabilitation work continues on three LIRR bridges in Hampton Bays.

The track outage 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 16 through 2:30 AM on Friday, October 19 as the LIRR carries out important concrete and steel repairs on the bridges.

The \$26 million renewal of the North Highway Bridge, the Montauk Highway Bridge and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge began in the fall of 2011 and underscores MTA's long-term commitment to improving service on the Montauk Branch and the South Fork, an area where tourism is so important to the local economy.

The project, which is scheduled for completion at the end of 2013, has occasionally necessitated temporary service suspensions like the upcoming one with buses substituted to transport customers or street lane closures. The LIRR and the contractors carrying out the project have worked closely with the local authorities to minimize the impact on the local community.

The LIRR's North Highway Bridge was built in 1907, the Montauk Highway Bridge in 1929 and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge in 1931. As part of the rehabilitation, 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. This rehabilitation work, which is being paid for by the Federal Transit Administration and the MTA Capital Program, is intended to extend the life of all three bridges by 30 to 40 years.

For generations, the LIRR has played a key role in the growth of eastern Long Island, especially the popularity of the Hamptons and Montauk as a vacation destination on the South Fork and, more recently, the rebirth of the North Fork as a popular vacation and weekend destination highlighted by the growth of the wine industry and other popular family attractions. The Montauk Branch carries 5,490 passengers on an average weekday, with ridership swelling to nearly 8,000 at high points during the summer months.

Weekday work dates were chosen for the track outage 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. On the three weekdays, approximately 450 westbound customers and approximately 375 eastbound customers will be affected.

During the 72-hour track outage, eastbound trains will terminate at Speonk and buses will carry customers to destinations east to Montauk. Westbound travelers between Montauk and Westhampton will be bused from their home station to Speonk and will board trains to points west. When taking the substitute bus service, eastbound customers should expect up to 37 minutes of additional travel time and westbound travelers up to 39 minutes of additional travel time depending on the distance of their trip. The 72-hour track 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 16-19](#), which are available at LIRR terminals and local stations or on the web at [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr)

#### **AM and PM Peak Service**

Rush hour customers are reminded that buses will replace the following AM peak hour and PM peak hour 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.

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.