



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) ▼

Press Release

November 1, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

LIRR Restores Hourly Service on the Huntington and Babylon Branches for Friday Morning's Rush, November 2 as Hurricane Sandy Recovery Continues

New Restored Service Is in Addition to Previously restored Hourly Service on Ronkonkoma Branch and Port Washington Branch from Great Neck to Penn Station, as well as between Jamaica and both Atlantic Terminal & Penn Station

MTA Long Island Rail Road is restoring limited hourly service for Friday (Nov. 2) morning's rush on the Huntington and Babylon branches to Penn Station as work continues around the clock in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. The recovery work, while taking place throughout the LIRR system, focused on returning service to the LIRR's four largest branches – Port Washington, Ronkonkoma, Babylon and Huntington.

The newly restored service for tomorrow's AM rush, supplements the LIRR service restored last night, hourly, between Jamaica and both Atlantic Terminal and Penn Station; as well as the hourly service restored for this morning's AM rush on the Ronkonkoma Branch to Penn Station and on the Port Washington branch between Penn Station and Great Neck. There continues to be no stops during peak periods at Kew Gardens and Forest Hills – these stops will only be made during the off-peak.

Two of four East River tunnels are not in operation at this time. In restoring the limited LIRR service to Penn Station, the LIRR is only able to use two of four tunnels, which we share with Amtrak and NJ Transit. Amtrak is continuing their work of pumping the flood waters out of their tunnels.

At the direction of Governor Cuomo, fares are not being collected on LIRR trains today and Friday. All LIRR customers are advised to hold onto their October monthly and current weekly tickets; they will remain valid for travel through Monday, November 5.

With the restored Ronkonkoma and Port Washington (from Great Neck) hourly service today, the LIRR carried approximately 10,000 customers to Penn Station this morning. Despite some crowded conditions on some trains, the LIRR met the demand for service and no customers were left on platforms.

LIRR employees are continuing to work around the clock to address power, signal and track issues so that we can restore additional service as soon as possible.

Details of restored hourly service for Friday's (Nov.) AM Rush:

Babylon Branch to Penn Station

Starting with the 12:35 AM departure from Babylon on Friday morning the LIRR, will be operating limited hourly service 35 minutes after the hour going to Penn Station. Eastbound, the hourly service will start with the 12:04 AM departure from Penn Station and continue at 4 minutes past the hour. See full [hourly Babylon Branch schedule](#) at www.mta.info.

Port Jefferson Branch service between Huntington and Penn Station

Starting with the 12:35 AM departure from Huntington on Friday morning the LIRR, will be operating limited hourly service 35 minutes after the hour going to Penn Station. Eastbound, the hourly service will start with the 12:00 AM departure from Penn Station to Huntington, and continue at the top of the hour. See the LIRR's full [hourly Port Jefferson Branch schedule \(from Huntington\)](#) at www.mta.info.

Ronkonkoma Branch to Penn Station

Limited hourly train service between Ronkonkoma and Penn Station is continuing with westbound trains departing Ronkonkoma 37 minutes after the hour. Eastbound trains depart Penn Station 8 minutes after the hour. See the LIRR's full [hourly Ronkonkoma Branch schedule](#) at www.mta.info.

Port Washington Branch service between Great Neck and Penn Station

Limited hourly shuttle train service between Great Neck and Penn Station is continuing with westbound trains departing Great Neck every 45 minutes past the hour and eastbound trains departing Penn Station every 14 minutes past the hour. Customers are advised to be dropped off at the Great Neck Station, as limited parking is available. See the LIRR's full [hourly Port Washington Branch schedule \(from Great Neck\)](#) at www.mta.info.

With the restoration of hourly service on the LIRR's four largest branches into Penn Station, the separate Jamaica-Penn Station hourly shuttle will no longer be needed.

LIRR Customers Should Anticipate Crowding

Because service will be limited, waits will be longer and trains will be more crowded. Customers are advised to consider changing their normal routines to travel later in the morning or later in the evening. Customers should anticipate crowded conditions on all LIRR trains that run until more service is restored. For safety reasons, some trains may be required to skip stations if they become overcrowded. Customers may have to wait for the next train. The LIRR will make every effort to add additional trains whenever possible.

For More Information

The LIRR will provide Service Advisories around the clock, as required. Customers should monitor news reports, the MTA website, www.mta.info, and sign up for free [E-Alerts](#) for updates on LIRR service. Customers can also contact the LIRR's Travel Information Center by calling 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 for the free 711 relay to reach LIRR at 511.