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Press Release

October 28, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

LIRR to Begin Suspending Service by 7 PM on Sunday for Safety of Customers, Employees and to Protect Equipment and Infrastructure

LIRR Takes Steps to Secure and Protect Equipment In Advance of Hurricane Sandy Reaching Long Island

MTA Long Island Rail Road thanked weekend customers traveling the Huntington-Port Jefferson Branch for their cooperation during a planned service outage in Hicksville this past weekend.

MTA Long Island Rail Road announced today the plans for the system wide suspension of train service beginning by 7 PM on Sunday, October 28, in advance of Hurricane Sandy making landfall, for the safety of its customers, employees and to protect its equipment. Customers are urged not to wait for the last trains when making their travel plans.

Suspending service allows the LIRR to secure and protect its equipment and infrastructure from the strong winds and flooding expected to hit the Long Island on Monday, October 29. With the shutdown, train equipment – both electric and diesel – will be removed from yards in low-lying areas that are prone to flooding.

Until the suspension is complete, the LIRR will cross-honor New York City Transit MetroCards to stops in Brooklyn and Queens to facilitate a safe trip home.

A major and time-consuming aspect of the LIRR's storm prep is the removal or tying up and securing of railroad crossing gates system-wide in advance of the storm to protect them from high winds. The LIRR has 295 railroad grade crossings system-wide – the great majority of which are on the eastern portion of the system. Since each crossing has multiple gates, a total of 690 crossing gates need to be secured or removed – a process that takes approximately 12 hours. Power to the crossing gates will also be removed. This process must be completed prior to forecasted sustained winds of 39 mph.

Train service must be suspended for the crossing gates to be removed. The LIRR started removing gates yesterday east of Ronkonkoma on the Main Line to Greenport, where weekend service does not operate at this time of year. Additionally, crossing gates will start being removed on the Montauk Branch east of Speonk today, October 28. As a result, LIRR train service east of Speonk on the Montauk Branch will be replaced with buses starting Sunday at 9 2AM and continuing until 7 PM when the full service shut down begins.

Taking these pre-emptive measures before the full brunt of the storm arrives will help in the LIRR's recovery efforts after the storm passes.

Last Train Departures by Branch

The following is a listing, by branch, of the last trains to operate before the shutdown at 7 PM.

Babylon Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:40 PM train from Penn Station, due Babylon at 7:57 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:58 PM train from Babylon, due Penn Station at 8:12 PM.

Montauk Branch:

- Eastbound: The 5:41 PM train from Jamaica, due Patchogue 6:49 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:42 PM train from Speonk due Jamaica at 8:10 PM.

Ronkonkoma Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:15 PM train from Penn Station, due Ronkonkoma at 7:35 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:40 PM train from Ronkonkoma, due Penn Station at 7:59 PM.

Port Jefferson Branch:**Port Jefferson:**

- Eastbound: The 5:36 PM train from Huntington, due Port Jefferson at 6:25 PM.
- Westbound: The 5:42 PM train from Port Jefferson, due Huntington at 6:29 PM.

Huntington:

- Eastbound: The 6:51 PM train from Penn Station, due Huntington at 7:55 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:36 PM train from Huntington, due Penn Station at 7:39 PM.

Oyster Bay Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:52 PM train from Jamaica, due Oyster Bay at 7:46 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:20 PM train from Oyster Bay, due Jamaica at 7:14 PM.

Hempstead Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:42 PM train from Atlantic Terminal, due Hempstead at 7:35 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:19 PM train from Hempstead, due Atlantic Terminal at 7:12 PM.

Long Beach Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:45 PM train from Penn Station, due Long Beach at 7:42 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:26 PM train from Long Beach, due Penn Station at 7:21 PM.

Far Rockaway Branch:

- Eastbound: The 6:12 PM train from Atlantic Terminal, due Far Rockaway at 7:05 PM.
- Westbound: The 6:50 PM train from Far Rockaway, due Atlantic Terminal at 7:42 PM.