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Press Release

August 20, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

First Escalator Rehab Completed at Hicksville

***LIRR Upgrading Safety Features on Station Escalators on Long Island
 Older Escalators Being Refurbished and Equipped With Modern Safety Sensors***

The first of a group of MTA Long Island Rail Road escalators undergoing major rehabilitation at Long Island stations has been placed back in service at Hicksville serving the westbound platform. Today the LIRR announced the anticipated schedule of testing for returning to service all the escalators being rehabbed under its upgrade program. The LIRR is in the process of upgrading safety features and refurbishing ten of its older escalators at stations on the Babylon Branch and at Hicksville.

"The LIRR has been diligently working to upgrade the safety features and rehabilitate these escalators so that they can be placed back in service as quickly as possible," said MTA spokesperson Sam Zambuto. "We are very aware that this needed work has caused significant inconvenience to many of our customers. However, safety is our No. 1 priority. We are making significant progress and are confident that we will return many, if not all, of these escalators to service during September."

The LIRR anticipates the escalators at Lindenhurst, Babylon (2 units) and Rockville Centre to be returned to service by the end of August. Another four escalators—Baldwin, Amityville, Hicksville (serving the eastbound platform), and Freeport—are expected to be back in service by the end of September. It is anticipated that Copiague's escalator will return in October, if not sooner.

The schedule of anticipated escalator final testing prior to their return to service is:

Rockville Centre – week of August 20

Lindenhurst m- week of August 27

Babylon (westbound platform) – week of August 27

Babylon (eastbound platform) week of August 27

Hicksville (eastbound platform) – week of September 3

Amityville - week of September 10

Freeport – week of September 10

Baldwin – week of September 17

Copiague – week of October 15

All ten escalators receiving the major overhaul will be equipped with new, modern safety sensors, new or refurbished steps, new step chains, brake assemblies, top and bottom comb plates and controllers. Parts had to be shipped from Germany and Canada. The new controllers will allow for the possible future remote monitoring of the escalators' operation. The work is being performed by a new escalator maintenance and repair firm, Nouveau, that the LIRR recently contracted with. Our new escalator contractor – at our direction – has assigned teams of mechanics to work overtime, including weekends, as part of the effort to restore these units to service.

In addition, the LIRR has established a new Elevator & Escalator Operations (E&EO) group, headquartered at an Operations Center at Lynbrook Station staffed with certified "Qualified Elevator (Escalator) Inspectors" (QEIs). They have been instrumental in returning the Hicksville escalator to service at the end of last week.

The new E&EO group is overseeing the rehabilitation work. The LIRR will be more proactive in determining maintenance and identifying trends with a newly developed database on all new parts and installation dates. The group is also developing a remote monitoring system that will automatically notify the LIRR of any unit that goes out of service, so that service calls can be initiated quicker and will limit downtime of elevators and escalators.