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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

New LIRR Timetables Take Effect May 14

Highlights include restored midday Port Washington Branch Service; Schedule Adjustments for Summer Track Construction Work

New MTA Long Island Rail Road timetables will take effect on Monday, May 14. The new schedules include the restoration of half-hourly, midday service on the Port Washington Branch on weekdays, as well as adjustments to schedules or midday busing in place of trains on various branches to support the summer track construction work.

Port Washington Branch

Beginning Monday, May 14, half-hourly midday service will be restored on the Port Washington Branch on weekdays in the period between the morning and evening rush hours. This service was reduced to hourly intervals in September 2010 as part of the service cuts implemented to help fill the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's \$800 million budget gap. At the time this service reduction took place, the LIRR indicated that it would monitor ridership patterns and make adjustments, as needed. While it was assumed that ridership would shift to adjacent trains, an analysis by the LIRR revealed that a loss in ridership – over 180,000 rides annually – was occurring. In an effort to attract customers back to the LIRR, the half-hourly service is being restored. This service restoration on the Port Washington Branch will be implemented with no additional train crew cost. The anticipated revenue from the expected increased ridership to be generated will offset any other costs.

Eastbound: The seven restored eastbound trains will depart Penn Station at 19 after the hour, from 9:19 AM through 3:18 PM. These are in addition to the eastbound trains at 49 after the hour, which remain unchanged.

Westbound: The seven restored westbound trains will depart Port Washington at 40 after the hour, from 9:40 AM through 3:40 PM. These are in addition to the westbound trains at 10 after the hour, which remain unchanged.

Ronkonkoma Branch

The LIRR will be replacing wooden ties on the Ronkonkoma Branch between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma on weekdays beginning May 14. The work will be completed in three phases to minimize customer impact. Minor adjustments are also being made to midday weekday Long Beach, Far Rockaway and Montauk branch trains to accommodate this work.

- In the first phase of the work, from May 14 through June 22, midday weekday busing will replace trains between Brentwood and Ronkonkoma stations. Six eastbound and six westbound trains will originate and terminate at Brentwood station. Westbound customers at Ronkonkoma and Central Islip will have bus service, up to 19 minutes earlier to connect with train service at Brentwood for the remainder of their trip. Trains between Ronkonkoma and Greenport will operate on normal schedules.

Eastbound midday weekday customers, destined for points east of Ronkonkoma will have express bus service from Brentwood and Central Islip to stations Medford through Greenport, since the busing between Brentwood and Ronkonkoma will not allow them to connect with the regular Ronkonkoma-Greenport trains. Westbound midday weekday customers from stations Greenport through Medford, traveling west of Ronkonkoma will board their regular train to Ronkonkoma. At Ronkonkoma, they will transfer to buses for Hicksville for train service for the remainder of their trip, making local stops as necessary.

- The second phase of the work, from June 25 through July 20, requires the use of single track between Deer Park and Brentwood during the midday on weekdays. As a result, six midday weekday westbound Ronkonkoma trains are adjusted to operate 30 minutes later.
- In the final phase, between July 23 and August 10, buses will replace midday weekday train service between Hicksville and Ronkonkoma. All Ronkonkoma Branch midday weekday trains will terminate and originate at Farmingdale. Customers traveling east of Ronkonkoma will have express bus service between Hicksville and their home station, since the trains operating between Ronkonkoma and Greenport will run on their normal schedules.

Note: From August 13 through August 31, Ronkonkoma Branch midday weekday schedules will return to the schedule used during phase two to allow for increased service levels for the Barclay's Golf event which will be held in Bethpage State Park. Details of the service plans for this event will be provided in a future press release as the event approaches.

Port Jefferson Branch

Huntington switch work and tie replacement prep work will require one track to be taken out of service between Syosset and Huntington in the midday on weekdays. Huntington and Port Jefferson branch trains are adjusted between 1 and 20 minutes to accommodate this work.

Far Rockaway Branch

Grade crossing renewal work at Franklin Avenue in Hewlett, track drainage and rail replacement in the Far Rockaway yard is being performed on the Far Rockaway Branch and will require one track to be taken out of service during the midday between Valley Stream and Far Rockaway. As a result, midday weekday Far Rockaway, Long Beach, Hempstead and Oyster Bay branch trains are adjusted between 3 and 30 minutes to accommodate this track work.

Late Night Service to Atlantic Terminal

Late night service to Atlantic Terminal will be affected by one track being taken out of service between East New York and Jamaica to allow LIRR engineering forces to replace cable in the tunnel. Six trains that operate to Atlantic Terminal between 8 PM and midnight on weeknights are adjusted between 3 and 12 minutes to accommodate this work.

East Side Access Work

To accommodate East Side Access overhead steel and tunneling work in Queens, four late-night trains, on weekends, will be adjusted to allow contractors to perform their work without interference from passing trains. As a result, two eastbound trains will be adjusted 15 minutes later, one eastbound train will be adjusted 15 minutes earlier and one westbound train will be adjusted 30 minutes later to create the necessary work windows.

Additionally, tunnel construction within Harold Interlocking in Queens to construct the *B/C* Tunnel will require trains to be rerouted between Penn Station and Jamaica in July for approximately four weeks. This work will eliminate one of the three eastbound tracks normally used during the PM Peak period. Long Island Rail Road trains will operate using two main tracks between Penn Station and Jamaica instead of three during this time period. This reduction in capacity will require three eastbound PM Peak period trains to be cancelled and seven other PM Peak trains will have schedules adjusted between 1 and 3 minutes to allow trains to be re-routed to the two remaining Main Line tracks. Coordination with MTA Capital Construction is ongoing and details of the required schedule adjustments will be provided in a separate release closer to the construction work getting underway.

For More Information

Customers can pick up a copy of the new timetables, two weeks in advance of the May 14 start date, at the LIRR's major terminals and at local stations or consult the [LIRR Schedules and Fares page](#) on our website at www.mta.info/lirr. Customers can also call 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 on the free 711 relay to reach the LIRR at 511. For the most up-to-date information on train service, sign up for LIRR E-alerts and text messages at www.mymtaalerts.com. Project and service information will also be available on the LIRR's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/mtalirr?ref=nt> and on twitter at <http://twitter.com/LIRRScoop>.