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Press Release

January 25, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### MTA LIRR's Storm Recovery Timetables Now Available at MTA.Info Website

#### *Customers Encouraged to Familiarize Themselves with the Four Levels of Recovery Schedules Prior to Implementation during a Major Storm*

With winter weather reaching our region, the MTA Long Island Rail Road is working to improve communications with customers during service disruptions caused by severe storms. An important part of the LIRR's improved communication effort is the posting of special [Storm Recovery Timetables](#) on our website – [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) – so that customers know what level of LIRR service to expect either during or as we come out of a storm.

"We are posting these Storm Recovery Timetables on our website to better communicate this information to our customers prior to a disruption in service," said LIRR President Helena E. Williams. "We urge all our customers to visit the special timetable page on our website to familiarize themselves with these modified levels of service as winter weather moves into our region."

The Storm Recovery Timetables, to be pressed into use based on storm conditions, contain plans ranging in various levels of service – from regular weekday and weekend service, to weekday AM or PM rush hour schedules with cancellations; to other levels of modified service on the LIRR's four large branches. When a modified schedule is implemented, customers should also expect systemwide delays of 10-15 minutes.

The development and use of these Storm Recovery Timetables is part of the LIRR's renewed effort to improve customer communications during service disruptions. The LIRR will display modified schedule information on electronic signs at stations, on our website and through train information at CoCo, the phone app available by pressing 266 266.

It's important to note that, depending on storm conditions throughout our 120 mile network, other storm recovery schedules in addition to these four may be needed, and the LIRR will post descriptions of those service levels on our website.

#### Storm Recovery Timetables

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##### Modified Schedule 1:

Links to listing of possible train cancellations either during the Morning or Evening Rush Hours. A regular weekday schedule will be in effect; however, up to 20 train cancellations will be made from the list of trains in either the AM or PM rush.

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##### Modified Schedule 2:

Links to a LIRR weekend schedule with 37 extra east and westbound trains added.

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##### Modified Schedule 3:

Links to schedules for LIRR service that would operate on **one-hour intervals only on the LIRR's four key branches** – Port Washington, Port Jefferson (between NY and Huntington), Ronkonkoma and Babylon – and shuttle service between Atlantic Terminal and Jamaica. These branches are not only the Railroad's busiest lines, their locations make them accessible to customers from nearby smaller branches where service is suspended. This modified schedule provides times at stations for trains operating every hour in both directions on each of the four branches.

- While service remains suspended on the following branches, the LIRR recommends customers use suggested branches listed below, if possible:

Suspended Service	Alternate Service Branch
Long Beach Branch	Babylon Branch
Far Rockaway Branch	Babylon Branch
Hempstead Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington)
West Hempstead Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington) or Babylon Branches
Oyster Bay Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington) or Pt. Washington Branches
Montauk Branch (east of Babylon)	Ronkonkoma or Babylon Branches
East of Huntington	Ronkonkoma or Port Jefferson (west of Huntington)
East of Ronkonkoma	Ronkonkoma Branch (west of Ronkonkoma)

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##### Modified Schedule 4:

Links to schedules where LIRR service would operate on **two-hour intervals only on the LIRR's four key branches** – Port Washington, Port Jefferson (between NY and Huntington only), Ronkonkoma and Babylon. There would be no service between Atlantic Terminal and Jamaica Station.

This modified schedule provides times at stations for trains operating every two hours in both directions on each of the four branches.

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The following branches would have suspended service: Long Beach, Far Rockaway, Hempstead, West Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Montauk, east of Huntington on the Port Jefferson Branch and east of Ronkonkoma.

While service remains suspended on the following branches, the LIRR recommends customers use suggested branches listed below, if possible:

Suspended Service	Alternate Service Branch
Long Beach Branch	Babylon Branch
Far Rockaway Branch	Babylon Branch
Hempstead Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington)
West Hempstead Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington) or Babylon Branches
Oyster Bay Branch	Port Jefferson (west of Huntington) or Pt. Washington Branches
Montauk Branch (east of Babylon)	Ronkonkoma or Babylon Branches
East of Huntington	Ronkonkoma or Port Jefferson (west of Huntington)
East of Ronkonkoma	Ronkonkoma Branch (west of Ronkonkoma)

All these schedules are posted on the LIRR's website – [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr) –and can be easily accessed at any time by clicking on the "Modified Schedules" box at the bottom of the LIRR's homepage. When a storm-related service disruption requires the implementation of one of these Modified Schedules, the LIRR will post a service advisory on its website notifying customers which Modified Schedule is in effect; as well as issue a customer E-Alert and news media advisory to inform customers.

The LIRR wants its customers to know that we always try to provide the greatest amount of service that is safely possible. Rest assured, if we can do better, we will.

The LIRR's goal is to keep operating as long as possible during a storm. We know our customers depend on the LIRR to get to and from work and other destinations. And, we take that responsibility very seriously. However, for the safety of our customers and employees, we may have to suspend service if snow accumulations reach between 10-13 inches. Some 80 percent of LIRR service is electric, meaning our trains must be able to maintain good contact with the third rail to draw sufficient power. Higher snow accumulations interfere with the train's third rail contact.

While our crews and snow fighting equipment work around the clock to keep the third rail and key switches clear before and during a storm, we have 11 branches and 700 miles of track to patrol. There are times when – due to high winds, snowdrift conditions and rate of snow accumulation – it may become impossible for the Railroad to keep up with a storm's intensity. If operating conditions become unsafe, we will suspend service.

Before venturing out in a storm, or immediately after one, it remains critical that customers check the [mta.info](http://mta.info) website, call the LIRR's Travel Information Center and monitor media reports for the latest information. Customers should also sign up for the LIRR's free email alerts for service updates that come direct from the LIRR's train operations center. The LIRR's Travel Information Center can be reached 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 or the free 711 relay to reach LIRR at 511.

When at stations during a storm, we urge customers to listen to announcements and to take extra care when traveling. Stay clear of the platform edges, use handrails on staircases and walk carefully when entering or exiting stations and boarding or leaving trains.