



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

October 31, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### LIRR Restoring Limited Service between Jamaica & Penn Station tonight Wed., October 31 in aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

#### ***LIRR Expects to Restore Limited Hourly Service on Ronkonkoma Branch and on the Port Washington Branch from Great Neck for Thursday's Morning Rush***

MTA Long Island Rail Road is restoring limited service between Jamaica and Penn Station in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Beginning at approximately 7 PM tonight, (Wed., October 31) the LIRR is implementing hourly service between Jamaica Station and Penn Station. There will be no stops during peak periods at Kew Gardens and Forest Hills – these stops will only be made during the off-peak. As of 6:45 PM, Penn Station is open to customers.

Earlier today, the LIRR restored limited, hourly service between Jamaica and Atlantic Terminal, Brooklyn. In conjunction with the restored Jamaica-Brooklyn service, beginning tomorrow, customers will be able to connect to shuttle buses from Barclays Center (adjacent to the LIRR's Atlantic Terminal) to Manhattan. Customers heading to downtown Manhattan should travel to Penn. The special buses running from Barclays Center in Brooklyn are dropping customers off in midtown, not downtown.

All trains leaving Jamaica to Atlantic Terminal and Penn Station tonight will follow the same times, which is at 10 minutes after the hour until 11:10 PM. After that time, all trains to Atlantic and Penn Station will leave at 45 minutes after the hour.

LIRR employees have been working around the clock to restore as much service as possible

on the LIRR's four main branches – Port Washington, Ronkonkoma, Babylon, and Huntington. The LIRR's primary obstacle to restoring service is restoration of power at its substations along its branches that feed the third rail. More than 20 substations remain without power. The LIRR has been in close contact with LIPA to coordinate work crews on this priority.

Two of four East River tunnels remain flooded and cannot be used at this time. In restoring the limited LIRR service to Penn Station, the LIRR will only be able to use two of four tunnels, which we share with Amtrak and NJ Transit.

#### **Ronkonkoma Branch: Limited Hourly Service to be Restored for AM Rush Thursday**

The LIRR will be restoring limited, hourly train service from Ronkonkoma to Penn Station for tomorrow morning's rush hour (Thursday, 11/1) starting at 5:37 AM. The restored Ronkonkoma Branch trains will not be stopping at Merillon Avenue, New Hyde Park, Westbury, and Carle Place.

#### **Port Washington Branch: Limited Hourly Service from Great Neck to be Restored for AM Rush Thursday**

Limited, hourly shuttle train service from Great Neck to Penn Station will be restored on the Port Washington Branch for tomorrow morning's rush hour (Thursday, 11/1) starting at 5:45 AM. Customers advised to be dropped off at the Great Neck Station, as limited parking is available.

#### **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.

#### **LIRR Fare Policy During Hurricane Sandy Recovery Period**

Off Peak fares will be in effect on all LIRR trains until full service is restored. No onboard penalty fares will be charged. All LIRR customers are advised to hold onto their current monthly and weekly tickets; they will remain valid for travel through Monday, November 5.

#### **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](http://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.