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Press Release

May 1, 2013

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Bus Service Replacing Trains on Segments of Montauk Branch for Track Work on Saturday, May 4 and Monday-Thursday, May 6- 9

#### *LIRR Renewing Grade Crossings in Patchogue and Mastic and Carrying Out Semi-Annual Sperry Rail Car Track Inspections between Babylon to Montauk*

Buses will replace train service along segments of the Long Island Rail Road's Montauk Branch beginning this Saturday and continuing during off-peak hours next week as the Railroad turns the focus of its annual track renewal and maintenance program to the south shore of eastern Suffolk County.

The LIRR has budgeted \$70 million in 2013 to maintain its track infrastructure in a state of good repair and that will include the renewal of two grade crossings this Saturday, May 4, in Patchogue and Mastic and the hi-tech inspection of all commuter track between Babylon and Montauk beginning Monday, May 6 through Thursday, May 9.

The LIRR will provide bus service in place of trains between Speonk and Sayville for approximately 24 hours on Saturday, May 4 starting at 12:43 AM so crews can replace grade crossings at West Avenue in Patchogue and Mastic Road in Mastic. Train service resumes early Sunday morning with the departure of the 12:38 AM train from Penn Station.

Buses will also replace trains along segments of the Montauk Branch for Sperry Rail Car track inspections on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, May 6 through May 9

#### **Saturday, May 4: New Grade Crossings in Patchogue & Mastic**

LIRR workers will be renewing grade crossings at West Avenue in Patchogue and Mastic Road in Mastic starting at 12:43 AM on Saturday, May 4. As a result, buses will replace train service in the work zones during that 24 hour period. Train service resumes early Sunday morning with the departure of the 12:28 AM train from Penn Station.

#### **Eastbound**

Customers traveling east to Patchogue through Speonk will board buses at Sayville to their destinations. Passengers at Patchogue and Bellport will board a bus up to 28 minutes earlier for Speonk where train service will resume. Passengers traveling from Westhampton to Montauk will board an earlier train to Sayville for bus service to Speonk. Customers should allow for up to 49 minutes of extra travel time.

#### **Westbound**

Customers traveling from Speonk through Patchogue will board busses up to 31 minutes earlier than normal for Sayville where train service will be available for those traveling further west. Passengers traveling between Montauk and stations west of Speonk will board buses at Speonk to stations Mastic-Shirley through Patchogue. Passengers traveling between Montauk and stations west of Patchogue will board buses at Speonk to Sayville where train service will resume. They should allow for up to 48 minutes of extra travel time.

**Monday-Thursday, May 6-9: Sperry Rail Car Inspections**

The LIRR will conduct its semi-annual inspection of track conditions along the Montauk Branch using the specially-equipped Sperry Rail Car, a diagnostic vehicle that detects internal rail defects early, before they lead to cracked or broken rail conditions. The bright yellow Sperry vehicle is fitted with ultrasonic and induction test equipment that can identify imperfections not visible to the eye. Defects that are found will be corrected immediately by a crew of LIRR track maintenance workers.

The Sperry Rail Car, which is used twice a year to inspect approximately 500 miles of LIRR track, will examine the area between Babylon and Patchogue on Monday, May 6, Patchogue to Montauk on Tuesday, May 7, Speonk to Montauk on Wednesday, May 8, and Babylon to Patchogue again to inspect a separate section of track on Thursday, May 9.

**Buses Replace Midday Off-Peak Trains Monday, May 6 between Babylon & Patchogue****Eastbound (9:16 AM to Noon)**

Customers traveling to Bay Shore through Speonk will board buses at Babylon for points east. They should allow for up to 23 minutes of additional travel time depending on their destination.

**Westbound (9:16 AM to Noon)**

Customers traveling to Patchogue through Bay Shore will board buses to Babylon, then transfer to trains to their final destinations. Buses will depart up to 21 minutes later than the trains they replace. Customers should allow for up to 19 minutes of additional travel time depending on their destination.

**Buses Replace Trains Midday Off-Peak Tuesday, May 7 between Patchogue & Montauk****Eastbound (8:01 AM to 5:15 PM)**

Customers traveling to stations Bellport through Montauk will board buses at Patchogue to their final destinations. Customers should allow up to 41 minutes of added travel time depending on their destination.

**Westbound (8:01 AM to 5:15 AM)**

Customers at stations Montauk through Bellport will board buses to Patchogue where train service will resume. Buses will leave up to 1 hour and 5 minutes later than they trains they replace and customers should allow up to 1 hour and 5 minutes additional travel time depending on their destination.

**Buses Replace Midday Off-Peak Trains Wednesday, May 8 between Speonk & Montauk****Eastbound (6:49 AM to 6:15 PM)**

Customers traveling to stations Westhampton through Montauk will board buses at Speonk to their final destinations. Customers should allow for up to 28 minutes of additional travel time.

**Westbound (6:49 AM to 6:15 PM)**

Customers at stations Montauk through Westhampton will board buses to Speonk or Patchogue where train service will resume. Buses will depart up to 1 hour and 16 minutes later than scheduled trains and customers should allow for up to 1 hour and 16 minutes minutes of additional travel time

**Buses Replace Midday Off-Peak Trains Thursday, May 9 between Babylon & Patchogue****Eastbound (9:16 AM to Noon)**

Customers traveling to Bay Shore through Patchogue will board buses at Babylon for points east. They should allow for up to 23 minutes of additional travel time depending on their destination.

**Westbound (9:16 AM to Noon)**

Customers at stations Patchogue through Bay Shore will board buses to Babylon, then transfer to trains to their final destinations. Buses will depart up to 19 minutes later than scheduled trains and passengers should allow for up to 22 minutes of additional travel time depending on their destination.

The LIRR's program to maintain its 594 miles of commuter track and 107 miles of track in its train yards employs a cyclical track replacement program that includes routine inspections, both Sperry and visual, to assess conditions and to maintain safety and reliability by keeping the track infrastructure in good repair and in compliance with all Federal Railroad Administration track standards.

**For More Information**

Customers can contact the LIRR's Customer Service 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 the LIRR at 511. They can also consult the MTA website at [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr).