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Press Release

March 19, 2013

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Derailment Update: MTA LIRR Canceling 7 Eastbound PM Peak Trains Track Repairs Will Take Several More Days

#### *Crews Working Around-the-Clock to Replace Damaged Track*

MTA Long Island Rail Road will cancel seven and divert one of the 128 trains it normally provides during the PM rush hour this evening because of a track outage caused by Monday night's derailment west of Forest Hills Station in Queens.

Due to the extensive damage resulting from the derailment of a non-passenger train, it is estimated that the track repair will take several more days. Customers should expect some AM and PM peak cancellations through Friday.

Crews have re-railed two of the four cars that derailed, but all must be re-railed and removed before track work can fully commence.

Approximately 3,700 feet of track was damaged on one of the LIRR's crucial four main tracks between Jamaica and Penn Station, thus limiting the Railroad's ability to run its normal complement of rush hour trains.

LIRR crews are working around-the-clock and readying equipment so that the process of removing and replacing damaged track, running rail and electrified third rail can begin. The job will also require the use of a specialized concrete track-laying machine that will remove and replace some 1,600 damaged ties. Once the new concrete ties are in place, the running rails and third rail are then re-installed on this almost three-quarter mile stretch of track.

An investigation is underway regarding the cause of the derailment.

While this work is being performed, most AM peak and PM peak trains will run on regular schedules. PM Peak customers are advised to expect approximately 7 cancellations and one diversion. In the AM Peak, since the damaged track is used more extensively, customers should expect approximately 11 cancellations, 5 diverted and four trains that will go only as far as Jamaica. Crowds are expected to be heavier during the AM and PM rush hours.

LIRR customers are advised to allow extra travel time during the peak periods and check traffic reports and the MTA/LIRR web site at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) for continuing service advisories for planned cancellations during the morning and evening rush hours.

For Tuesday's PM peak, the following trains have been canceled or diverted:

#### **Babylon Branch:**

- The 4:52 PM train from Penn Station due Babylon at 5:55 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:03 PM train from Penn Station due Wantagh at 5:53 PM with a stop at Rockville Centre and all local stops to Babylon.
- The 5:19 PM train from Penn Station due Wantagh at 6:06 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:24 PM train from Penn Station due Freeport at 6:10 PM with stops at Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Jamaica, Rockville Centre, and all local stops to Wantagh.
- The 5:40 PM train from Penn Station due Seaford at 6:30 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:47 PM train from Penn Station due Freeport at 6:31 PM with a stop at Rockville Centre, and all local stops to Seaford.

#### **Far Rockaway Branch:**

- The 5:32 PM train from Penn Station due Far Rockaway at 6:24 PM has been canceled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:49 PM train from Atlantic Terminal due Far Rockaway at 6:46 PM. Penn Station customers should take the 5:46 PM Huntington-bound train from New York to connect with the Far Rockaway train at Jamaica.

#### **Long Beach Branch**

- The 5:20 PM train from Penn Station due Long Beach at 6:11 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:23 PM train from Penn Station due Long Beach at 6:18 PM with stops at Jamaica, Locust Manor, Laurelton, Rosedale, Valley Stream, Lynbrook, and all local stops to Long Beach.

**Port Jefferson Branch:**

- The 3:27 PM train from Penn Station due Huntington at 4:33 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 3:43 PM train from Penn Station due Huntington at 4:49 PM with stops at Woodside, Jamaica, New Hyde Park, and all local stops to Huntington.
- The 5:47 PM train from Hunterspoint Ave. due Port Jefferson at 7:30 PM will instead originate from Jamaica tonight at 6:07 PM. Hunterspoint Ave. customers for this train will be accommodated by the 6:08 PM train from Hunterspoint Ave., due Port Jefferson at 8:00 PM.

**Port Washington Branch:**

The 5:11 PM train from Penn Station due Port Washington at 5:47 PM has been cancelled. Customers will be accommodated by the 5:14 PM train from Penn Station due Great Neck at 5:45 PM with a stop at Bayside and all local stops to Port Washington, excluding Mets-Willets Point.