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Press Release

January 10, 2013

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Buses Replace Peak & Off-Peak Trains between Speonk & Montauk for 72 Hours from Tuesday, January 15 thru Friday, January 18

Outage Needed as LIRR Continues Rehabilitation of 3 Bridges in Hampton Bays

MTA Long Island Rail Road will substitute buses for train service between Speonk and Montauk for 72 hours beginning early Tuesday morning, January 15 through early Friday morning, January 18, 2013 as rehabilitation work continues on three LIRR bridges in Hampton Bays.

The single main track between Speonk and Montauk will be out of service for the work period and the result will be significant schedule changes for East End customers during **both the peak and off-peak** periods. Buses will replace trains between Speonk and Montauk from 2:13 AM on Tuesday, January 15 through 2:30 AM on Friday, January 18.

The \$26 million renewal of the North Highway Bridge, the Montauk Highway Bridge and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge began in the fall of 2011 and underscores MTA LIRR's long-term commitment to improving service on the Montauk Branch and the South Fork, where tourism is so important to the local economy.

The 72-hour track outage will result in the cancellation, between Speonk and Montauk, of nine trains on Tuesday, 10 trains on Wednesday, 10 trains Thursday and one train on Friday. For special bus departure times and revised train schedules, customers should pick up a copy of the **Special Timetable: East of Speonk Customers: East End Bridge Rehabilitation, January 15-18, 2013** at terminals or local stations. The special schedule can also be found on the MTA LIRR web at www.mta.info/lirr.

The bridge work, which is scheduled for completion at the end of this year, has at times required temporary service suspensions like the one upcoming with buses substituted to transport customers as well as temporary street lane closures affecting vehicular traffic. The LIRR and the contractors carrying out the project have worked closely with the local authorities to minimize the impact on the local community.

The LIRR's North Highway Bridge was built in 1907, the Montauk Highway Bridge in 1929 and the Shinnecock Canal Bridge in 1931. As part of the rehabilitation, the vertical roadway clearance of Montauk Highway and North Highway Bridges will be increased by approximately five inches to reduce the potential for vehicular impact.

This rehab project is being paid for by the Federal Transit Administration and the MTA LIRR Capital Program and is intended to extend the life of all three bridges by 30 to 40 years.

For generations, the LIRR has played a important role in the growth of eastern Long Island, especially the popularity of the Hamptons and Montauk as a vacation destination on the South Fork and, more recently, the rebirth of the North Fork as a popular vacation and weekend destination highlighted by the growth of the wine industry and other popular family attractions.

Weekday Work Dates

Weekday work dates were chosen for the track outage because more riders travel this segment of the Montauk Branch on weekends at this time of year and the LIRR always tries to schedule track work on days that impact the fewest customers. On the three weekdays, approximately 405 eastbound and 364 westbound customers will be affected.

During the 72-hour track outage, eastbound trains will terminate at Speonk and buses will carry customers to destinations east to Montauk. Westbound travelers between Montauk and Westhampton will be bused from their home station to Speonk, where they will board trains to points west. When taking the substitute bus service, customers should expect up to 40 minutes of additional travel time depending on the distance of their trip.

AM and PM Peak Service

Rush hour customers are reminded that buses will replace the following AM peak hour and PM peak hour trains between Speonk and Montauk during the three-day outage.

Eastbound

- **The 6:17 PM train from Jamaica will terminate at Speonk at 7:55 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

Westbound

- The 5:39 AM train from Montauk scheduled to arrive in Speonk at 6:49 AM will instead originate from Speonk on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

For additional information, Customers can call 511, the New York State Travel Information Line 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. Montauk branch customers can also consult the MTA website at www.mta.info/lirr. On the website, customers can sign up for free email and text message alerts, the fastest and most accurate way to get updates on LIRR train service.