



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

April 1, 2015

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Ronkonkoma Branch Customers Should Anticipate Delays of 15-25 Minutes During Wednesday Evening and Thursday Morning Rush Hours as Repairs Continue to Infrastructure Damaged in Freight Derailment

Crews Working Around the Clock to Rebuild, Test and Install Hundreds of Intricate Electrical Components Crushed by Derailed Train

The Long Island Rail Road's Ronkonkoma Branch customers should anticipate 15-25 minute delays east of Hicksville during rush hours on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning due to the damage to the LIRR's signal system caused by the derailment of a New York & Atlantic freight car west of Wyandanch Station. LIRR trains will be operating at a reduced speed between Farmingdale and Wyandanch.

On Thursday morning, two eastbound Ronkonkoma Branch trains will be partially canceled and bus service provided.

- The 5:11 a.m. train from Penn Station to Ronkonkoma will terminate at Farmingdale. Customers for stations Wyandanch thru Ronkonkoma must detrain at Hicksville for buses for remainder of their trip. Bethpage & Farmingdale customers will have regular train service.
- The 7:54 a.m. train from Deer Park to Riverhead will instead originate from Ronkonkoma at 8:10 a.m. Deer Park, Brentwood & Central Islip customers will receive bus service to Riverhead.

The damaged freight car, property of the New York and Atlantic Railway, was carrying a full load of lumber when it derailed at about midnight on Sunday on a freight track that runs parallel to the Ronkonkoma Branch. Though employees of both railroads have been working around the clock since the incident, LIRR customers should anticipate that the delays through the work area will continue through the Thursday morning commute as the incredibly complicated restoration continues.

The derailed car came to rest on its side and in a location which made it impossible to re-rail without first off-loading the lumber. To do so, LIRR workers had to undertake the laborious task of cutting away security fencing made of high-gauge steel, enabling NY&A to bring in the machinery needed to remove the lumber.

When that was finally accomplished Monday night, the LIRR assisted NY&A in the effort to remove the damaged freight car, cutting it into pieces rather than trying to rerail it, and discovered the full extent of the damage done to its communications infrastructure. The derailed car had knocked down a utility pole, sliced through wires and cables and crushed signal machinery.

Long Island Rail Road personnel are working around the clock to build a replacement signal case and all its wiring and components before mounting it at the site of the derailment. Crews are working to rebuild approximately 500 wire connections between 353 wires and 175 line cables. Crews are also undertaking the intricate and time-consuming electrical work needed to replace 75 major electrical components, including 28 vital relays, 15 surge/lightning protection units, 12 fuses, power supplies and transformers. Wiring is projected to be completed later this evening, allowing the project to proceed to testing and installation of the rebuilt signal case in Wyandanch and connecting it to the signal system.

New York & Atlantic Railway operates on the Long Island Rail Road under a long term leasing agreement that pays the LIRR revenue based on the carloads it moves. NY&A operates only at times that do not interfere with commuter train schedules.

For More Information

Ronkonkoma Branch customers should monitor television, radio and internet news reports, LIRR Customer Service Alerts or go to the MTA LIRR website www.mta.info/lirr for the latest on repair efforts and service plans for the commute on Wednesday morning. Customers can also call 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