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Press Release

September 22, 2017

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

LIRR Crews to Improve Safety, Reliability on Babylon Branch This Fall

Eastbound and Westbound Trains to Run Hourly on Select Weekends Starting Sept. 30

As part of the Long Island Rail Road's efforts to improve infrastructure to ensure safety and increase on-time performance, LIRR crews this fall will replace wood ties with concrete ties on the Babylon Branch between Freeport and Merrick. The work is being done under the LIRR's 2017 Annual Track Program, an ongoing initiative designed to enhance future service.

During the weekends of Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Oct. 7-8; Oct. 14-15; Nov. 4-5; Nov. 11-12, one of two main tracks will be out of service between Rockville Centre and Wantagh. Between 12:37 a.m. on Saturdays and 2:19 a.m. on Mondays, trains on the Babylon Branch will continue to operate in both directions, but will run on an hourly basis, reduced from every half hour, with stopping patterns revised on remaining trains.

Other changes on these weekends include some eastbound trains on the Huntington Branch that will stop at Forest Hills and Kew Gardens. Some Patchogue, Speonk and Montauk Branch trains will be running on adjusted schedules and have alternate connections at Jamaica or Babylon. Some eastbound Oyster Bay connections from Penn Station, Kew Gardens and Forest Hills will also change; trains will depart three minutes earlier at Penn Station and five minutes earlier at Kew Gardens and Forest Hills.

Stay Informed Through Many Methods

Information about the additional service noted in this press release and all planned service changes is available through the LIRR's real-time service information sources:

Email and text message service updates – Customers are urged to sign up to receive the alerts by visiting [MyMTAAlerts.com](https://www.mta.info/lirr/alerts). To avoid unwanted messages, a user can tailor the messages to the specific branch, and the specific times of day.

LIRR Train Time app – Customers who use the LIRR Train Time app will see up-to-the-minute status for each upcoming train at each station. As a caution, trains that start out their trips on time may experience delays en route.

MTA.info – The rail tab of the "Service Status" box at the left side of www.mta.info is always the definitive source for the latest status for each branch, updated every minute. In addition, customers can visit www.mta.info/lirr to see special service notices in the upper center of the page.

@LIRR on Twitter – Twitter users can follow @LIRR to receive updates of a similar nature to the email and text alerts, shortened to fit Twitter's format.

The above communications channels can be accessed while at home or on the go. For customers who are located at stations, the LIRR will post the latest service updates on **digital signs** at station platforms and will make **audio announcements** over public address systems, and on-board announcements made by train crews.

For those who prefer the **telephone**, information is available from the LIRR's Customer Service Center by calling 511, the New York State Travel Information Line, and saying: "Long Island Rail Road." Those who are deaf or hard of hearing can use their preferred service provider for the free 711 relay to reach the LIRR at 511.