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Press Release

October 30, 2018

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### MTA LIRR Opens Upgraded LIRR Stations at Farmingdale and Wantagh

#### *Renovations, Amenities Added to These Stations Bring Variety of Customer-Focused Improvements*

Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Long Island Rail Road officials today announced the opening of two newly renovated railroad stations – at Farmingdale and Wantagh – bringing customer-focused improvements to thousands of riders.

The doors to Farmingdale’s upgraded station building were opened today, while recently, the LIRR also finished a \$27 million renovation project at Wantagh Station, which included platform replacements and newly installed elevator, among many other added amenities.

These projects are one piece of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s unprecedented \$6.6 billion Modernization Program investment into the LIRR, with an achievable goal underway that’s set to bring the railroad into a new era of modernization and unparalleled customer experience.

"Some LIRR stations can be more than 160 years old. While we always want to celebrate and preserve our history, it’s about time we bring LIRR stations into the 21st century," MTA Chief Development Officer Janno Lieber said. "We’re proving that the MTA can deliver projects faster and at lower cost than in the past."

"The Long Island Rail Road's focus continues to be on how we can improve on the many ways customers experience our system. Along with improving train service and reliability, we want to make sure when they're at our stations, they have the comforts and amenities they're used to having at other world-class transportation outlets," LIRR President Phillip Eng said. "The attention to detail in these station renovations recognizes the important relationship between LIRR stations and the communities that surround them. LIRR stations are an ongoing part of the history and landscape of each community they serve."

The work at Farmingdale station, which is still ongoing, is part of an \$84 million, eight-station renovation package, awarded earlier this year. The work at Wantagh Station was funded through the current MTA Capital Program.

Artwork was commissioned for Wantagh Station that references the surrounding community and enhances the architecture and beauty. Details on the artist and the artwork can be found below.

#### **Farmingdale Station**

Farmingdale Station, located along the Ronkonkoma Branch in Nassau County, serves more than 3,800 daily customers. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this station, originally built in 1890, has long been a part of this community.

Its facade was fully restored to its original historical brick architecture, capturing and preserving its history and character. To celebrate that, historic photos will be placed alongside a commemorative plaque in remembrance of its past.

Improvements include:

- Building upgrades: A new waiting room with terrazzo flooring, newly redone ADA accessible restrooms, tile and wood wall and ceiling finishes, windows, doors, electrical, plumbing and HVAC upgrades.
- Easier navigation: The pedestrian underpass rehabilitated, and new wayfinding signage installed along with, bike racks, benches, USB charging stations, technology counters, and LCD information displays to further enhance the customer experience.
- Safety: New CCTV cameras installed.

Further upgrades to come:

- Improved ADA accessibility with a new ramp by the end of the year.
- Platform shelter sheds, LED platform lighting by Q2 2019.
- Trash receptacles, free public Wi-Fi, digital information display totems by summer 2019.
- Platform repairs, which are expected to be complete by summer 2019.

#### **Wantagh Station**

Along the Babylon Branch, the Wantagh Station, built in 1867, was replaced with the current elevated station in 1968.

Wantagh customers -- about 6,000 each weekday -- can now wait for their trains on newly replaced platforms, which feature snow/ice melting systems to help keep them clear and safe during the winter months. In colder times, customers can take shelter inside a new heated platform waiting room.

Improvements include:

- Improved ADA accessibility: an elevator was added to this station.
- Existing escalator replaced.
- A new center staircase was installed.
- Four other staircases were refurbished.
- A new segmented platform canopy installed.
- Energy efficient platform lighting.
- New signage and public address system to further enhance the customer experience.
- The replaced east-end platform was opened in February 2018, followed by the start of construction on the west-end platform, which finished this month.

#### **Art installation details at Wantagh:**

**Marc Dennis**

***Where Dreams Come to Play, 2017***

**Laminated Glass and Mosaic**

**Fabricated by Peters Studios and Mayer of Munich**

Marc Dennis' project at LIRR Wantagh depicts scenes of an idyllic and imaginative day at nearby Jones Beach that include colorful and realistic images of birds, beachgoers, sunsets, seashells and regional symbolism, such as the high school mascot and Jones Beach's iconic sea horse. Highly detailed individual paintings were made for the project and translated into glass for the windows of the station. In addition to the 30 laminated glass window frames within the platform level waiting room, a pair of mosaic panels at two main stairways highlight ocean waves seen under a rising and setting sun.

Marc Dennis is a New York based artist known for his hyper-realistic paintings that celebrate the subversive potential of beauty and explore the charged subjects of identity, pleasure and decadence. He exhibits in museums and galleries and his work is in the collection of several major museums.