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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

LIRR Announces Restoration of Nearly Full Service on the Port Jefferson Branch and Ronkonkoma Branch Following Tuesday Evening Motor Vehicle Collision

Crews Replaced or Rebuilt Hundreds of Feet of Track and Third Rail, Signal and Electrical Components; Crews Will Rebuild 112 Feet of Demolished Platform and Return Damaged Railcars to Service After Testing and Inspection

MTA Long Island Rail Road President Phil Eng today announced that the LIRR will operate nearly full service on the Port Jefferson Branch and Ronkonkoma Branch for the evening rush hour. Employees have worked around the clock to rerail and remove a damaged pair of rail cars and inspect, rebuild and test 300 feet of track, third rail, signal and electrical components that were damaged during a train/motor vehicle collision on Tuesday evening.

Two trains were involved in the incident, which occurred at approximately 7:20 p.m. on Tuesday at the School Street railroad crossing in Westbury: an eight-car eastbound train, the Port Jefferson Branch local that departs Penn Station at 6:35 p.m. and makes all stops to Hicksville, which was carrying 90 people, and a 12-car Ronkonkoma Branch reverse-peak train that originates at Ronkonkoma at 6:36 p.m. and was operating express, bound for Penn Station with 800 people aboard. After colliding with the motor vehicle, the first two cars of the westbound train derailed and the head of the first car collided with the westbound platform at Westbury Station.

During the predawn hours yesterday, crews ascertained that although there was about 250 feet of third rail that had been knocked from its position, the eastbound track was undamaged and then towed the eastbound train away for inspection. Crews reconstructed the eastbound track's third rail, allowing the LIRR to restore limited peak-direction service for yesterday morning's rush hour. During the mid-day period that day, crews decoupled the easternmost six cars from the westbound train and towed them to a yard for further inspections. With the work ongoing, the LIRR was able to provide limited eastbound rush hour service yesterday evening.

During the predawn hours today, crews re-railed the damaged cars and began process of replacing or repairing 200 to 300 feet of damaged track, third rail, signals and electrical components of the westbound track. The southern rail of the westbound track had "rolled," meaning that the energy released in the force of the impacted had twisted the rail so that it was laying on its side. This rail was cut away along with its twin rail to the north and both were replaced with new rail. This morning, the LIRR operated a limited westbound rush hour schedule using one track as that work continued. This morning after the rush hour had completed, crews removed the damaged cars from site and completed the work of rebuilding the track, third rail, and signals, allowing for restoration of full evening rush hour service.

In the coming months, the LIRR will rebuild the eastern 112 feet of platform at Westbury Station that were damaged in the crash and have been demolished. Customers at Westbury will be able to use the western 850 feet of the platform, which remains in service accommodating 10 cars of a train.

Twenty rail cars are currently out of service for inspection, testing and needed repairs as a result of the incident. These cars will be returned to service as quickly as possible. The railroad is reviewing service needs, train lengths and how best to mitigate the temporary loss of these 20 cars.

With 20 cars are out of service, the LIRR today will cancel three trains as follows.

The 4:54 p.m. train from Penn Station due into Farmingdale at 5:56 p.m. To help accommodate customers of this train, the 5:01 p.m. Ronkonkoma-bound train from Penn Station will make all local stops from New Hyde Park to Ronkonkoma.

The 5:29 p.m. train from Atlantic Terminal, due into Huntington at 6:28 p.m. To help accommodate customers of this train, the 5:35 p.m. Huntington-bound train from Penn Station will make an added stop at Jamaica and all stops between New Hyde Park and Huntington. Customers at Atlantic Terminal can connect with this train by taking the 5:35 PM train to West Hempstead transferring at Jamaica for the train to Huntington.

The 6:01 p.m. train from Penn Station running express to Westbury and Hicksville. To help accommodate customers of this train, the 6:04 p.m. Ronkonkoma-bound train from Atlantic Terminal will add stops at Westbury and Hicksville. Customers from Penn Station can board the 6:02 p.m. train to Far Rockaway and change in Jamaica for the train to Ronkonkoma with the added stops at Westbury and Hicksville. The 6:01 p.m. train that was cancelled usually connects at Hicksville with train to Port Jefferson. Passengers seeking that train can instead board the 6:02 p.m. train from Penn Station to Far Rockaway, or the 6:04 p.m. train from Brooklyn to Ronkonkoma, and change at Jamaica with the train to Port Jefferson.

Many Channels for Services Updates

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

myLIRR.org – Customers can see real-time positions of upcoming trains in real time, on a smartphone-optimized map that refreshes every 3- to 5-seconds, by logging into myLIRR.org.

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

MYmta app – Customers who use the new, comprehensive MYmta app will see real-time travel information for LIRR and connecting services all in one place. As a caution, trains that start out their trips on time may experience delays en route. The LIRR Train Time app also remains available for customers to access LIRR train information.

MTA.info – “Service Status” on the homepage of new.mta.info, and at the left side of [www.MTA.info](https://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.