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Press Release

August 20, 2019

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

MTA LIRR to Eliminate Railroad Crossing, Install New Bridge This Weekend at Covert Avenue in New Hyde Park

Major LIRR Expansion Project Milestone to Take Place August 24-25

This Weekend There Will Be No LIRR Service from New Hyde Park to Hicksville Stations

Other Service Changes, Timetable Adjustments all LIRR Branches; Details Below

This weekend, August 24-25, LIRR and 3TC crews will install a new LIRR bridge and underpass tunnel at Covert Avenue in New Hyde Park, which will be the project's fourth bridge installation this summer, as the railroad aims to eliminate eight grade crossings along the [LIRR Expansion Project corridor from Floral Park to Hicksville](#).

Over the past several months, crews have been building the new train bridge and tunnel structure adjacent to the tracks, in preparation for the installation. The Covert Avenue grade crossing will be eliminated and reconstructed to provide a two-lane grade-separated underpass with a pedestrian sidewalk on the east side of the underpass.

The elimination of the Covert Avenue grade crossing, part of the wider LIRR Expansion Project that will add a third track along the 9.8-mile stretch along the LIRR's Main Line, will strengthen the reliability of LIRR infrastructure and support the growth and development of Long Island and the wider region. This reconstructed grade crossing has been designed in conjunction with the Village of New Hyde Park, with feedback from local residents, commuters, and elected officials, and will enhance safety and provide for a quieter and more livable community along the railroad.

To allow this work to take place, service changes along the LIRR's Main Line, along with other adjustments on other branches, are necessary. Service details can be found below. For more information, including travel tips, alternate station options, a map detailing the service changes, and parking details, [please see here](#).

August 24-25, 2019

Hempstead Branch – [Special Timetable Here](#)

- To help accommodate customers using the Hempstead Branch as an alternative this weekend, service on this branch will be increased from hourly to half-hourly intervals, alternating between Penn Station and Atlantic Terminal.

Oyster Bay Branch – [Special Timetable Here](#)

- Trains will operate between Mineola and Oyster Bay only.
- Eastbound customers: Transfer to a free shuttle bus at Hempstead for service to Mineola, where connecting Oyster Bay trains will run every two hours.
- Westbound customers: Transfer to NICE buses (N40/N41) at Mineola (LIRR tickets will be cross-honored) for service to Hempstead, and resume train service at Hempstead for points west. Hempstead Branch service will be increased from hourly to half-hourly. Visit nicebus.com for schedules.
- On Sunday, August 25 between 7:00AM to 11:00AM buses will replace trains between Oyster Bay and Locust Valley to accommodate the Runner's Edge TOBAY Triathlon.
- Some Friday night and early Monday morning service will also be affected.

Port Jefferson Branch – [Special Timetable Here](#)

- There will be **NO weekend train service** between New Hyde Park and Hicksville; this includes no train service at Merillon Avenue, Carle Place, and Westbury Stations.
- Mineola Station: Will only have train service to/from Oyster Bay Station
- Eastbound customers travelling to Mineola: Take LIRR train to Hempstead; there, transfer to free shuttle bus to Mineola.

- Westbound customers from Mineola: Transfer to NICE buses (N40/N41) at Mineola (LIRR tickets will be cross-honored) for service to Hempstead, then transfer to a westbound train.
- From Port Jefferson to Huntington: Service will run on this stretch in two-hour intervals.
- From Huntington to Hicksville: Service will run on this stretch in hourly intervals.
- Westbound: Trains will operate from Port Jefferson and Huntington to Hicksville. At Hicksville, connect to a shuttle train to Babylon, then transfer to an express train to Penn Station. Express trains will stop at Jamaica for connections to Brooklyn and points west.
- Eastbound: Board a train to Babylon, transfer to a shuttle train to Hicksville, and transfer again for train service to points east, including Huntington and Port Jefferson.

Ronkonkoma Branch – [Special Timetable Here](#)

- There will be **NO weekend train service** between New Hyde Park to Hicksville; this includes no train service at Merillon Avenue, Carle Place, and Westbury Stations.
- From Ronkonkoma to Hicksville: Service will run on hourly intervals.
 - Westbound: Trains will operate from Ronkonkoma to Hicksville. At Hicksville, connect to a shuttle train to Babylon, then transfer to an express train to Penn Station. Express trains will stop at Jamaica for connections to Brooklyn and points west
 - Eastbound: Board a train to Babylon, transfer to a shuttle train to Hicksville, and transfer again for train service to points east, including Ronkonkoma.
- Bethpage Station: All service to and from Bethpage Station will be provided by the shuttle trains between Babylon and Hicksville. The shuttle will be a diesel train with bi-level cars. Electric trains will not stop at Bethpage Station.

Port Washington Branch – [Special Timetable Here](#)

Starting late evening on Friday, August 23, until the morning of Saturday, August 24, buses will substitute for trains between Great Neck and Port Washington as LIRR crews perform work to address a track condition near Manhasset.

- Eastbound: Last train before busing begins: **10:48 PM** train from Penn Station.
 - First train after busing ends: **7:18 AM** train from Penn Station.
 - Please plan for up to 25 minutes of additional travel time while busing is in effect.
- Westbound:
 - Last train before busing begins: **11:38 PM** train from Port Washington.
 - First train after busing ends: **8:11 AM** train from Port Washington.
 - The **7:11 AM** train from Port Washington to Penn Station is canceled.
 - Buses will depart from Port Washington, Plandome and Manhasset up to 25 minutes earlier than normal train times.

All Other Branches

Departure and arrival times for all weekend trains will be adjusted, as will departure times for connecting trains at Jamaica. In addition, some service changes will begin Friday evening and continue through early Monday morning.

Special timetables will be in effect for all branches the weekend of August 24-25. Please see special timetables by branch below:

- [Babylon Branch](#)
- [Far Rockaway Branch](#)
- [Hempstead Branch](#)
- [Long Beach Branch](#)
- [Montauk Branch](#)
- [West Hempstead Branch](#)

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.

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.

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

MTA.info – “Service Status” on the homepage of new.mta.info, and 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.