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Press Release

October 20, 2016

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### LIRR Plans Major Service Changes This Weekend – Including Trains to Sunday's Islanders Game – For Scheduled Track Work

#### *LIRR Urges Customers to Consider LIRR Main Line Branches to Avoid Montauk and Babylon Branch Delays*

Scheduled track work on the Long Island Rail Road's Babylon and Montauk Branches this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, October 22-23, will mean significant service changes on those branches – including service to Sunday's Islanders game at Barclays Center – as the LIRR replaces switches in Freeport and installs new concrete ties and makes grade crossing improvements east of Babylon.

Islanders' fans who usually travel to games directly via the Babylon Branch or the Montauk Branch should instead to use the Ronkonkoma Branch or the Port Jefferson/Huntington Branch to get to Atlantic Terminal, Brooklyn and Barclays Center this Sunday. By doing so, they will avoid delays, including train-to-bus transfers between Wantagh and Rockville Centre, necessitated by the track work.

#### **Direct Service to Islanders Game at Barclays Center this Sunday**

For fans attending this Sunday's 6 p.m. Islanders home game, a total of four extra westbound Ronkonkoma Branch trains will operate directly to Atlantic Terminal; three of those trains will originate at Ronkonkoma, and make all local stops (except Pinelawn) and one train will originate in Farmingdale. Additionally, four extra eastbound Ronkonkoma Branch trains (three to Ronkonkoma and one to Farmingdale) will also be provided from Atlantic Terminal and will depart approximately 20 minutes after the conclusion of the game.

#### **Customer Should Use LIRR's Main Line Branches this Weekend**

Opting for the Ronkonkoma Branch and the Port Jefferson/Huntington Branch is good advice for anyone who intended to travel on the Montauk Branch or the Babylon Branch this weekend. Customers who stick with the Babylon and Montauk Branches will be facing up to 45 minutes of additional travel time.

Because of the track outage between Wantagh and Rockville Centre, Babylon Branch service will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly all weekend. Then on Sunday beginning at 5 p.m., buses will replace trains between Rockville Centre Wantagh for 8 hours. Buses will also replace train on the Montauk Branch between Babylon and Speonk. Eastbound train service to Forest Hills and Kew Gardens Stations in Queens will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly. The work will also result in modified service at St. Albans Station on the West Hempstead Branch.

#### **Check the Special Branch Timetables**

For specific train times, customers should consult the Special Branch Timetables for Barclays Center Ronkonkoma Branch Extra Service for travel to the Islanders game on Sunday and the Ronkonkoma Branch Weekend Timetable in effect through November 13 for regularly scheduled service. Special Timetables are also available for Babylon, Montauk and West Hempstead branches and Special Timetable Cards for Forest Hills/Kew Gardens service. Customers will find the special timetables online at <http://web.mta.info/lirr/Timetable/> and at all LIRR terminals and branch stations.

#### **Here is a summary of the key service changes for the Weekend of Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23**

##### **Babylon Branch**

- Saturday & Sunday: Eastbound and westbound service between Penn Station and Babylon is reduced from half-hourly to hourly.
- Saturday Only - The 10:58 p.m. train from Babylon will depart 12 minutes later than normal.
- **Sunday Only: Beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing through 1 a.m. Monday, buses replace trains between Wantagh and Rockville Centre. Eastbound customers will transfer to a bus at Rockville Centre, bound for Wantagh, where train service resumes east. Westbound customers will transfer to a bus at Wantagh, bound for Rockville Centre, where train service resumes west. Sunday Only: Eastbound from Penn Station, the 7:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. trains will depart 10 minutes later than normal. The 10:55 p.m. train from Penn Station will depart 15 minutes later than normal. Monday Only: The 12:01 a.m. train from Penn Station is canceled.**
- Westbound: The 12:57 a.m. train from Babylon will depart Babylon 14 minutes earlier than normal.

##### **Montauk Branch**

Buses replace trains between Babylon and Speonk all weekend and many Montauk branch trains are running on adjusted schedules with alternate train/bus connections at Speonk, Babylon and/or Jamaica. On Sunday Only - Starting at 5 p.m., Buses replace trains between Rockville Centre and Wantagh on connecting Babylon branch trains.

**Eastbound:** Passengers traveling from stations Speonk through Bay Shore will board buses to Passengers will experience up to 37 minutes of additional travel time, depending upon destination. Passengers traveling from western terminals to stations east of Speonk will detrain at Babylon for express buses to Speonk, where train service resumes. Passengers traveling from stations Bay Shore to Mastic-Shirley will board a local bus to Speonk where train service resumes.

**Westbound:** Passengers traveling from stations Speonk through Bay Shore to Babylon and western terminals will board buses at alternate times with alternate train connections to western terminals. Passengers will experience up to 37 minutes additional travel time. Passengers traveling from stations east of Speonk will detrain at Speonk for an express bus to Babylon where train service will resume or a local bus to stations Mastic-Shirley through Bay Shore.

#### **St. Albans Station**

Eastbound and westbound service to/from St. Albans will run on adjusted schedules. Trains will depart up to 30 minutes later than usual.

#### **Forest Hills & Kew Gardens**

**Eastbound:** Service will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly. The 7:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 10:15 p.m. trains from Penn Station to Forest Hills and Kew Gardens will operate on adjusted schedules, departing Penn Station 10 minutes later than normal. The 10:55 p.m. will depart 15 minutes later than normal. Also, customers connecting to the 11:20 p.m. Hempstead train at Jamaica will board the 10:52 p.m. train from Penn Station 4 minutes earlier than usual.

**Westbound:** The 10:52 p.m. train from Jamaica will be replaced with the 11:01 p.m. train from Jamaica, stopping at Kew Gardens, Forest Hills, Woodside and Penn Station. All other westbound service remains normal.

#### **For Additional Information**

For train schedules and real-time train status, customers should download LIRRTIME™, the Railroad's official app available via the Apple Store for iOS devices or Google Play Store for Android along with MTA eTix™ - LIRR's mobile ticketing app which allows customers to buy LIRR tickets on their mobile device -- anytime, anywhere. Customers can also sign up for LIRR Service Alerts via text or email by registering at [www.mymtaalerts.com](http://www.mymtaalerts.com). Assistance is also available from the LIRR's Customer Service Center by calling 511, the New York State Travel Information Line, and saying: Long Island Rail Road. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred service provider for the free 711 relay to reach the LIRR at 511.