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Press Release

October 24, 2016

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Scheduled Track Work Means Service Delays on the Montauk, Babylon, Hempstead and Port Wash Branches This Weekend

#### *Consider Using Main Line Branches to Avoid Busing Programs & Delays*

Track work on the Long Island Rail Road's Montauk, Babylon, Hempstead and Port Washington branches scheduled for this coming weekend, Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30 will mean extensive delays unless travelers plan ahead.

The LIRR urges customers to consider using Main Line (Port Jefferson/Huntington, Ronkonkoma and Oyster Bay) branches of the Railroad if possible. If not, they should consult revised weekend train schedules and allow plenty of extra travel time.

The weekend projects include the installation of new switches at Port Interlocking in Freeport, the resurfacing of track just east of Garden City Station on the Hempstead Branch and Sperry Rail Testing on the Port Washington Branch.

It is all part of the LIRR's annual State of Good Repair Program – the regularly scheduled replacement of track, switch and signal infrastructure being carried out at a cost of \$60 million in 2016. Over the last decade, the LIRR has invested more than \$573 million in the program.

Revised Montauk, Babylon, Hempstead and Port Washington timetables for the weekend can be found at the MTA LIRR website <http://web.mta.info/lirr/Timetable/>. Printed copies are available at all LIRR terminals and branch stations. Here are the key service changes scheduled for those branches over the weekend:

#### Montauk Branch

##### Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30

#### Westbound

- Almost all trains operating east of Babylon had been adjusted 17 to 30 minutes later than usual.

#### Eastbound

- Almost all trains operating east of Babylon have been adjusted 1 to 30 minutes later than normal and have alternate connections.

#### Babylon Branch

##### Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30

#### Westbound

- Service between Penn Station and Babylon is reduced from half-hourly to hourly.
- The 12:57 a.m. train from Babylon will depart 14 minutes earlier than normal.
- The 10:58 p.m. train from Babylon will depart 12 minutes later than normal.

#### Eastbound

- Service between Penn Station and Babylon is reduced from half-hourly to hourly.
- The 7:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. trains from Penn Station to Babylon will depart 10 minutes later than usual, making all local stops from Jamaica to Babylon.
- The 10:55 p.m. train from Penn Station to Babylon will depart 15 minutes later than normal.

#### Hempstead Branch

##### Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30

Buses will replace train service on the Hempstead Branch between Jamaica and Hempstead from 12:49 a.m. on Saturday, October 29 through 12:28 a.m. on Sunday, October 30.

Buses will replace train service between Garden City and Hempstead from 12:28 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 30.

#### **Saturday, October 29**

##### **Westbound**

- Customers will board buses and vans at stations Hempstead through Hollis departing up to 32 minutes earlier than scheduled train times for travel to Jamaica for train service to points west.
- Customers at the Country Life Press Station will board a local van 50 minutes earlier than normal for travel to Jamaica where train service will resume to points west.

##### **Eastbound**

- Customers will change at Jamaica to board buses or vans for travel to stations Hollis through Hempstead. They should expect up to 33 minutes additional travel time.
- Customers heading Country Life Press will board a local van at Jamaica and will arrive at their station 49 minutes later than normal.

#### **Sunday, October 30**

##### **Westbound**

- Customers will board buses or vans up to 15 minutes earlier than normal for Garden City where train service will resume to points west.

##### **Eastbound**

- Customers will detrain at Garden City and board buses or vans for Country Life Press or Hempstead. They will arrive up to 13 minutes later than usual.

#### **Port Washington Branch**

##### **Saturday, October 29 Only**

Service on the Port Washington Branch will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly from 12:55 a.m. until 12:55 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, as the LIRR conducts Sperry Rail Testing from Great Neck to Port Washington. The Sperry Rail Car, a bright yellow vehicle fitted with ultrasonic and induction test equipment, is designed to detect internal rail defects not readily visible to the eye. Defects that are found will be corrected immediately by a crew of LIRR track maintenance workers. The Sperry Rail Car is used twice a year to inspect 500 miles of LIRR track.

##### **Westbound**

Buses or vans will replace trains at Port Washington, Plandome and Manhasset for travel to Great Neck where train service will resume to points west. Departure times for buses or vans will up to 25 minutes earlier than regular train departure times.

##### **Eastbound**

Customers traveling to stations Manhasset, Plandome and Port Washington will travel by train to Great Neck and board buses or vans to their final destinations, arriving up to 25 minutes later than normal.

##### **For Additional Information**

For train schedules and real-time train status, customers should download LIRRTrain Time™, 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.