

Staff Summary



Subject FALL TRACKWORK PROGRAMS & HOLIDAY SERVICE						Date October 6, 2022			
Departments SR. VICE PRESIDENT – OPERATIONS						Vendor Name			
Department Head Names R. FREE						Contract Number			
Department Head Signature 						Contract Manager Signature			
Board Action						Internal Approval			
Order	To	Date	Approval	Info	Other	Order	Approval	Order	Approval
1	LI COMM	10/24/22				3	VP – Corp Comm	1	President
						2	CTO 		

PURPOSE:

This is to inform the Long Island Committee of the MTA Long Island Rail Road’s plan to provide added service for the 2022 Thanksgiving Holiday. A trackwork program in late October will support a Signal Cutover in Queens Interlocking as part of the Queens Reconfiguration Project. Additionally, in early November schedules will be temporarily adjusted on the Port Washington Branch for a Switch Installation, Track Relocation, and a Signal Cutover in support of the Great Neck Pocket Extension and also for Concrete Tie and Rail Replacement on the Hempstead Branch.

TRACK WORK PROGRAMS

Construction Activities (Short-term trackwork items requiring a special program)

- **Main Line – Signal Cutover** – On the weekend of October 29-30, all main tracks on the Main Line will be out of service between Queens and Hicksville for approximately 50 hours for a signal cutover in Queens Interlocking as part of the Queens Reconfiguration Project.
 - **Temporary Service Adjustments:**
 - Eastbound, no MU service will operate between Penn Station and Hicksville, and two-hourly Oyster Bay Branch diesel service will operate between East Williston and Oyster Bay. For Eastbound customers from western terminals traveling to Ronkonkoma Branch stations Farmingdale through Ronkonkoma, and to Port Jefferson Branch stations Hicksville through Huntington/Port Jefferson, customers will board electric MU express service to Babylon, where they will transfer to diesel shuttle trains operating between Babylon and Hicksville via the Central Branch, then transfer at Hicksville to trains operating to either Ronkonkoma or Huntington/Port Jefferson. Eastbound Bethpage customers will board the electric MU express service to Babylon, then transfer to the diesel shuttle train, which will stop at Bethpage on its way to Hicksville.

- Westbound, no electric MU service will operate between Hicksville and Penn Station, and two-hourly Oyster Bay Branch diesel service will operate between Oyster Bay and East Williston. For Westbound customers on the Ronkonkoma Branch travelling from stations Ronkonkoma through Farmingdale, and on the Port Jefferson Branch for stations Port Jefferson/Huntington through Hicksville, customers will board trains at their station to Hicksville, where they will transfer to diesel shuttle trains operating between Hicksville and Babylon via the Central Branch, then transfer at Babylon to express trains for western terminals. Westbound Bethpage customers will board the diesel shuttle train to Babylon, then transfer at Babylon to express trains for western terminals.
 - *Extra trains will be added between New York and Babylon to connect with shuttle trains between Babylon and Hicksville.*
 - *Bus service will also be provided between Mineola and Hicksville.*
 - *Oyster Bay Branch trains will operate between Oyster Bay and East Williston, with bus service provided in both directions between Jamaica, Mineola, and East Williston for connecting train service.*
 - *Hempstead Branch customers will be bused to/from Jamaica for the duration of the weekend.*
 - *There will be normal weekend service intervals on the Montauk, Long Beach, Far Rockaway, Port Washington, and West Hempstead Greenport Branches, but on adjusted schedules. Train service will operate between Ronkonkoma and Greenport, but on adjusted schedules.*
- **Port Washington Branch – Great Neck Pocket Track Extension** – On the weekends of November 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20, all tracks on the Port Washington Branch will be out of service between Bayside and Port Washington for approximately 48 hours for a switch installation, track relocation and a signal cutover. On weekdays, November 7-11, and November 14-18, a portion of track will remain out of service as work will continue near the Great Neck Pocket Track.
 - **Temporary Service Adjustments:** On the weekends of November 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, hourly bus service will replace train service between Bayside and Port Washington. Train service will still operate at half-hourly intervals between Penn Station and Bayside. On weekdays, November 7-11, and November 14-18, schedules adjustments will be required during the Off Peak and AM Peak periods. Additionally, 3 trains in the PM Peak period will be cancelled and combined with other trains, and 2 reverse PM Peak trains will be cancelled.
- **Hempstead Branch – Concrete Tie Installation – Rescheduled from October 15-16** – On the weekend of November 12-13, both main tracks on the Hempstead Branch will be out of service for approximately 48 hours while new concrete ties are installed, and the existing rail is replaced. Installing the new concrete ties will offer greater reliability versus traditional wooden ties, and a longer lifespan, thus reducing the need for future outages. This outage was rescheduled from October 15-16.

- **Temporary Service Adjustments:** On the weekend of November 12-13, buses will replace train service at Bellerose Station and also between Stewart Manor and Hempstead on the Hempstead Branch. Regularly scheduled Hempstead Branch Trains will depart Atlantic Terminal making stops at Nostrand Avenue, East New York and Jamaica. Customers for stations Hollis through Hempstead will be accommodated by Ronkonkoma trains that will make added stops at Hollis, Queens Village, Floral Park and Mineola. Hempstead Branch customers will detrain at Mineola for bus service to all stations between Stewart Manor and Hempstead. Customers at Bellerose Station will be accommodated by buses to/from Queens Village Station.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thanksgiving Eve Program (*Wednesday, November 23, 2022*)

The LIRR will operate a regular weekday schedule with additional service added. The Thanksgiving Eve program includes the standard 11 early release afternoon eastbound trains for people leaving the city early, plus an additional Montauk Branch service opportunity from Penn Station. The extra trains will operate as follows: four will go to Babylon, two to Huntington, two to Ronkonkoma, and one each to Hicksville, Great Neck, Far Rockaway and Montauk.

Thanksgiving Day Program (*Thursday, November 24, 2022*)

The Thanksgiving Day program includes six extra westbound trains on Thanksgiving morning for those attending the parade in NYC, and 11 early afternoon eastbound extra trains for those returning home from the parade or heading to Long Island for Thanksgiving gatherings.

IMPACT ON FUNDING

Funding for these projects is contained in the Long Island Rail Road Operating and MTA Capital Program budget