

For Release IMMEDIATE

Contact: MTA Press Office (212) 878-7440

MTA Long Island Rail Road Offering Extra Service & Off-Peak Fares for the Extended Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

Off-Peak & Family Fare Pricing in Effect Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday Nov. 23-26

To make it easier for Long Island Rail Road customers to get where they need to be this Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the MTA agency is supplying additional train service along with off-peak ticket pricing on certain days.

- Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22: a dozen extra afternoon eastbound trains will run to handle the rush of customers racing home to start the holiday weekend.
- Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23: Extra trains will be available to get customers into the city for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, as well as extra trains to get home following the festivities.
- Black Friday, November 24: The LIRR will run a regular weekday schedule this day to accommodate the hordes of shoppers headed for discounts and deals. All day Black Friday, the LIRR will honor all tickets at lower, off-peak fares.
- Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26: Still have the urge to get out and about? The LIRR is ramping up extra service on these days, too – the first of six consecutive weekends that the LIRR will bolster service to meet the holiday season demand.

Off-Peak & Family Fares in Effect Thursday, Nov. 23 through Sunday, Nov. 26

In getting with the holiday spirit, the LIRR will offer tickets at off-peak prices over the four-day Thanksgiving holiday starting on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23 until Sunday, November 26. The Railroad's Family Fare Discount will also be in effect all four days: children ages 5-11 (limit of four children per fare-paying adult) can ride one-way for \$1 each. These tickets must be purchased before boarding the train. Children, as always, under 5 ride for free.

Service Highlights For the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22

Eastbound – 12 Extra Trains Departing Penn Station

Ronkonkoma Branch

- 12:43 p.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, Mineola, Hicksville, then all stops to Ronkonkoma.
- 1:49 p.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, Mineola, Hicksville, then all stops to Ronkonkoma.

Babylon Branch

- 2:22 p.m. from Penn Station, express to Rockville Centre, then local to Babylon.
- 2:32 p.m. from Penn Station, express to Lynbrook, then local to Babylon.
- 3 p.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica, Rockville Centre, then local to Babylon.
- 3:31 p.m. from Penn Station, express to Rockville Centre, then local to Babylon.

Port Jefferson Branch

- 2:08 p.m. from Penn Station to Jamaica, Mineola, then local to Huntington.
- 2:29 p.m. from Penn Station to Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Jamaica, New Hyde Park, then local to Huntington.
- 3:24 p.m. from Penn Station to Jamaica, Mineola, Westbury and Hicksville.

Port Washington Branch

• 3:40 p.m. from Penn Station to Woodside, Flushing Main Street, then all stops to Great Neck.

Far Rockaway Branch

• 3:48 p.m. from Penn Station, express to Locust Manor, then all stops to Far Rockaway.

Montauk Branch

• 4:06 p.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Westhampton, Southampton, Bridgehampton, East Hampton and Montauk.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23

On Thanksgiving Day, the LIRR is running on a weekend/holiday schedule supplemented by with 17 extra trains timed perfectly for those attending the Thanksgiving Day Parade or otherwise visiting the city. There will be six extra westbound trains in the morning and 11 extra eastbound

trains in the afternoon. Coach cars will be added to select trains as the demand requires to accommodate holiday travelers.

<u>Westbound – Six Extra Trains Heading into Penn Station</u>

Babylon Branch

- The 6:49 a.m. train from Babylon, making all stops to Rockville Center, then Jamaica, and Penn Station.
- The 7:21 a.m. train from Babylon, making all stops to Rockville Centre, then Jamaica and Penn Station.

Ronkonkoma Branch

- The 6:10 a.m. train from Ronkonkoma, making all stops to Hicksville, then Jamaica, Woodside and Penn Station.
- The 7:18 a.m. train from Ronkonkoma, making all stops to Hicksville, then Jamaica, Woodside and Penn Station.

Port Jefferson Branch

• The 6:01 a.m. train from Port Jefferson making all stops to Huntington, then stopping at Jamaica and Penn Station.

Montauk Branch

• The 6:28 a.m. train from Speonk, making all stops to Babylon, Jamaica and Penn Station.

<u>Eastbound – 11 Extra Trains Departing from Penn Station</u>

Babylon Branch

• The 11:39 a.m., 12:09 p.m., 12:39 p.m. and 1:09 p.m. trains from Penn Station stopping at Jamaica, Rockville Centre, then all local stops to Babylon.

Huntington Branch

• The 11:59 a.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica, New Hyde Park and all stops to Huntington.

Port Jefferson Branch

• The 12:06 p.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica, Mineola, Hicksville, then all stops to Port Jefferson.

Montauk Branch

• The 12:15 p.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica, Freeport, then all stops to Speonk.

Ronkonkoma Branch

- The 11:35 a.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, Hicksville, Bethpage Farmingdale then all stops to Ronkonkoma except Pinelawn.
- The 12:32 p.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, New Hyde Park, Mineola, Hicksville, Bethpage, Farmingdale, then all stops to Ronkonkoma except Pinelawn.
- The 1:03 p.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, New Hyde Park, then all stops to Farmingdale.
- The 1:32 p.m. train from Penn Station, stopping at Woodside, Jamaica, Hicksville, Bethpage, Farmingdale, then all stops to Ronkonkoma, except Pinelawn.

Black Friday, November 24

LIRR trains will operate on a normal weekday schedule on Friday, November 24 with off-peak fares in effect the entire day.

Saturday and Sunday, November 25 & Sunday, November 26

Beginning this weekend, the LIRR is offering extra train service and seating capacity on weekends through the entire holiday season for your shopping, dining, sightseeing and entertainment pleasure. The LIRR is adding four morning westbound trains and six afternoon eastbound trains to its regular weekend schedule starting Saturday, November 25, and Sunday, November 26 and the weekends of December 2-3, December 9-10, December 16-17, December 23-24 and December 30 – December 31.

The extra weekend trains are as follows:

Long Beach Branch

Westbound

• The 8:55 a.m., 9:55 a.m., 10:55 a.m. and 11:55 a.m. trains from Long Beach making all local stops to Jamaica, then express to Penn Station.

Eastbound

• The 4:07 p.m., 5:07 p.m., 6:07 p.m. and 7:07 p.m. trains from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica and making all local stops to Long Beach.

Babylon Branch

Eastbound

• The 1:12 a.m. from Penn Station, stopping at Jamaica, Rockville Centre and then all stops to Babylon.

Port Jefferson Branch

Eastbound

• The 2:44 a.m. from Penn Station stopping at Jamaica, New Hyde Park, then all stops to Huntington.

Many Channels for Services Updates

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

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.

LIRR Train Time app – Customers who use the LIRR Train Time app will see up-to-the-minute status for each upcoming train at each station. As a caution, trains that start out their trips on time may experience delays en route.

MTA.info – The rail tab of the "Service Status" box 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.

###