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Patrick A. Nowakowski  
President



October 9, 2015

The Honorable Judi Bosworth  
Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road  
Manhasset, NY 11030

Dear Supervisor Bosworth:

I am writing to update you on the progress of the MTA Long Island Rail Road's Ellison Avenue Bridge Replacement project. This \$17.5 million project includes the replacement of the bridge, roadway, sidewalks, curbs and fencing. These investments will provide long-term bridge and train safety.

Ellison Avenue Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic on April 15, and the bridge was successfully removed over the weekend of May 16-17. **Installation of the new bridge structure will take place on the weekend of October 24-25.** Though the new bridge is being installed this weekend, the bridge will remain closed until the spring of 2016, while road reconstruction is underway. To perform this work safely, a complete suspension of train service through the work zone for 48 hours is necessary. **During the weekend, there will be no train service on the Main Line between Mineola and Hicksville, and busing will be provided.**

Service impacts include:

- All LIRR branches will be affected throughout the weekend. Train departure and arrival times will be different, in some cases substantially, than normal schedules.
- Buses will replace most trains between Hicksville and Mineola.
- Some trains will be diverted. For example, at certain times during the weekend, Farmingdale through Ronkonkoma customers will be provided with dual-mode train service operating via the south shore along the Babylon and Central Branches. This will allow affected customers to travel to or from western terminals without changing trains or using buses.
- Train service between Port Jefferson and Huntington will operate less frequently, with trains running every two hours, versus the usual 90-minute intervals. Huntington service is also reduced, from half-hourly to hourly.
- During daylight hours, travel time will increase up to 44 minutes for Ronkonkoma Branch customers and up to an additional 48 minutes for Port Jefferson Branch customers.

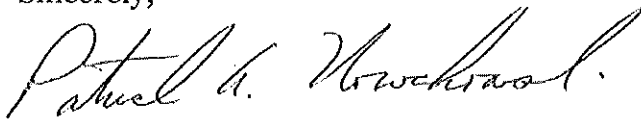
- Overnight travel times will increase up to 58 minutes for both Port Jefferson and Ronkonkoma Branch customers.
- To avoid delays, customers will be advised to use alternate branches.
- Customers should refer to the special Oct 24-25 Port Jefferson/Ronkonkoma Branch Timetable, as well as revised weekend timetables for all other branches.

In addition, the LIRR will take advantage of the 48-hour train service suspension by performing other critical work in the vicinity during the outage. These additional efforts will include track work and drainage improvements between Mineola and Hicksville and **replacement of the 12th Street crossing in New Hyde Park**. To accommodate the grade crossing improvement work, **vehicular traffic will be diverted from 12th Street to Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road for the entire weekend.**

We will be publicizing the service changes associated with this project through announcements, posters, brochures, a press release, ads in local weekly newspapers and radio. If I can be of any other assistance, or if you would like to discuss this project, please contact my office or Bob Brennan or Hector Garcia of the LIRR's Government and Community Affairs Department at 718-558-7301.

Thank you in advance for your assistance while we continue moving this critical infrastructure improvement forward.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Nowakowski  
President