



THE LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

September 28, 2022

*VIA EMAIL*

Dear Mayor:

Today, we were proud to stand with Long Island Rail Road Interim President Catherine Rinaldi to announce that the MTA was indeed reversing course on their plan to eliminate express train service to Penn Station on the Port Washington Branch of the LIRR. This announcement followed weeks of negotiations with MTA leadership, and advocacy by community members and elected leaders such as yourself. Thank you for your advocacy and support in this effort.

When the new timetables ultimately take effect, riders will have the choice of three express trains to Penn Station in the morning commute, and three express trains to Penn Station in the evening commute (full details of the updated timetables can be found below).

We are hopeful that today's announcement is just a first step toward further improvements to the Port Washington Branch and we will continue working with you to advocate for increased services for our constituents.

**Information on Timetable changes:**

**Morning Rush Hour: 36% Service Increase Includes Three Express Trains**

Under the revised draft timetables, express trains would depart Port Washington at 7:14 a.m., 7:54 a.m., and 8:28 a.m., stopping only at Plandome, Manhasset, and Great Neck before running express to Penn Station with no intermediate stops. Compared with the first draft timetables released in June, the schedules quicken trip times by up to nine minutes from all four stations.

The revised draft timetables' overall morning rush hour service includes 15 trains arriving in Manhattan between 6:16 a.m. and 9:51 a.m., up 36% from the current 11 that arrive at Penn Station between 6:21 a.m. and 9:34 a.m. The proposed rush hour arrivals include six trains arriving at Grand Central Madison between 6:37 a.m. and 9:20 a.m. and nine arriving at Penn Station between 6:16 a.m. and 9:51 a.m.

**Afternoon/Evening Rush Hour: 43% Service Increase Includes Three Express Trains**

The LIRR is proposing to transform three afternoon/evening rush hour trains scheduled under earlier draft timetables to depart Penn Station at 4:16 p.m., 5:52 p.m., and 6:25 p.m. into express trains that make only a single intermediate stop at Bayside before then running express again to Great Neck, Manhasset, Plandome, and Port Washington.

Overall afternoon/evening rush hour service would include 20 trains departing Manhattan between 4:06 p.m. and 7:43 p.m., a 43% increase from the current 14 that depart Penn Station between 4:21 p.m. and 7:49 p.m. The proposed rush hour departures include 10 trains departing Grand Central Madison between 4:06 p.m. and 7:43 p.m., and 10 trains that depart Penn Station between 4:16 p.m. and 7:35 p.m.

### **Port Washington Branch Timetables Boost Overall Service 11% from Current Levels**

Despite the lack of increased space to store trains at the Port Washington Yard, the revised draft Port Washington Branch timetables include 10 more trains each weekday than current timetables, increasing service by 14% to 103 trains per day. On weekends, the timetables add five trains per day, to 81 trains each Saturday and Sunday, up 16% from the 76 that operates currently.

The LIRR's new east side terminal at Grand Central Madison is allowing the LIRR to add nearly 275 trains per weekday, increasing service 41% systemwide and saving up to 40 minutes per day for customers traveling to the east side.

The length of time LIRR trains will need to reach Grand Central – known to service planners as running time – is the same as it is to Penn Station.

The Long Island Rail Road has committed to monitor travel patterns and train capacity after opening and make adjustments as necessary. Final schedules are expected to be released this fall.

We thank you again for your advocacy on behalf of our shared constituents.

Sincerely,



Anna M. Kaplan  
State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Gina L. Sillitti  
State Assembly Member  
16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District