



LIRRCC

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PRESS RELEASE: #17-13

For Immediate Release

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June 12, 2017

Long Island Rail Road Commuters Want Details on Penn Station Summer Plan

The Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) acknowledges today's release of an overall plan for service during eight weeks of Amtrak reconstruction work on New York Penn Station track infrastructure. At this point, however, riders have not yet had the opportunity to review specific information about this service plan. It is only through this process that riders can evaluate impacts that they will face this summer. For the convenience of riders and to minimize confusion, the LIRR and MTA should provide a straightforward summary of the trains that have had their schedules changed in the *Amtrak Construction/LIRR Summer 2017 Schedule* and highlight trains that have been changed in the timetables displaying these schedules.

The detail important to riders include which trains will be cancelled or combined, which trains will be relocated to other terminals, and which trains will receive additional capacity, as well as the additional service alternatives that are to be provided on ferries, buses, and subways and their capacities and frequencies. The Council calls upon the LIRR and MTA to ensure that each of these specific details are available on the MTA website as soon as possible so that commuters can begin to plan for the upcoming summer.

In addition, unanswered questions such as contingency plans for infrastructure failures or other incidents leading to unplanned service outages loom over this process. "The primary question is which riders will bear the burden of reduced service out of Penn Station," said LIRRCC Chair Mark Epstein. "We understand that this is necessary work and that maintaining service from Penn Station depends upon it being completed. We insist, however, that riders be treated fairly and disruptions to their commutes be kept to the minimum level possible. We also insist that fare reductions for those who will face severe disruptions and reductions in service quality must be put back on the table at the MTA."