

STATUS OF LIRR THIRD TRACK PROJECT UNDER COVID-19

Currently, the LIRR Expansion Project is continuing progress on essential work consistent with the Governor's Executive Order that exempts transit infrastructure from the ban on non-essential business activity.

This means that where we can continue to work safely, we are continuing to do so - including at project locations like New Hyde Park Road where the road is currently closed to traffic while we build a vehicular underpass below the tracks. Here are some other changes that will be in place while the MTA evaluates the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on our operations:

1. LIRR is running a special reduced schedule.
2. Where we can't proceed with LIRR Expansion work in a manner consistent with COVID-19 safety protocols, we will suspend that work.
3. Until further notice, the Community Outreach Office in Mineola is closed to the public.
4. The Community scorecard will continue to be distributed, as we value the community's input on contractor performance. However, since most of our project management staff is currently telecommuting, scorecards will be distributed electronically and through our website. No awards will be made through the program until further notice.
5. New pre-authorization applications through the Community Benefits Fund may be submitted, however applications will be kept on file, but will not be processed until further notice.
6. Payments for expenses incurred against previously approved pre-authorization applications will continue to be reimbursed as usual.

The safety of our employees, contractors and the public is our top priority. Where we continue to work, we are coordinating closely with contractor associations, and adhering to the following safety protocols to keep workers safe on our construction sites.

1. We're sending home immediately any worker who is sick with COVID-19-like symptoms. If someone exhibits a fever, cough, shortness of breath and/or a sudden lost sense of smell/taste, they should notify their supervisor and leave the worksite as soon as possible. If a worker reasonably believes another employee is at risk, they should report the situation to their supervisor as soon as possible.
2. We're organizing work to keep people 6 feet apart. Access to small spaces (e.g. pump rooms) is being staged to ensure staff separation. In areas where this is not practical, workers will be equipped with additional personal protective equipment. Workers should also avoid physical contact and use other protective measures. And of course, any office staff supporting projects, whose on-site presence is not required, should telecommute.

3. We're limiting crew sizes as well as interaction between crews. We are revising schedule planning and coordination to keep crew sizes small, phase work to reduce cross-pollination between work crews, and prevent the sharing of tools.
4. We're asking folks to monitor separation during entry, exit and breaks. Staying six feet apart or more is just as important in locker rooms and break rooms.
5. We're enforcing the appropriate PPE. Items such as gloves and masks, required for certain work tasks may provide secondary benefits for COVID-19 virus protection. If masks and gloves are not required PPE employees and contractors are allowed to provide their own. Under no circumstance can workers share PPE equipment.
6. We're actively managing worksite sanitation and personal hygiene practices. Worksites should maintain a robust sanitizing schedule, with an emphasis on frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, switches and handles. Disinfect shared tools between uses. Workers have access to additional washing stations, soap, hand sanitizer, and/or disinfecting wipes to the extent that supplies allow. Water fountains and other common facilities have been closed.
7. We're providing safety information and training. Project leads are responsible for providing COVID-19 information in pre-shift safety briefings.
8. We're following MTA established protocols when there is a known or suspected positive COVID-19 case. If a worker gets sick with COVID-like symptoms, their work sites should be cleared and sanitized. If the worker ultimately tests positive, those who worked in close contact with them should go on 14-day quarantine. Sick workers can return to work after they have been asymptomatic for 14 days.