



January 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#7

Contact: MTA Press Office
212-878-7440

MTA Prepares for Winter Storm

*With Heavy Snowfall this Evening and Overnight,
Customers Should Monitor MTA Website before Traveling Tomorrow*

With a Winter Weather Advisory in effect, and forecasts calling for eight to twelve inches of new snow across the MTA service area, preparations are underway to ensure safe travel for this evening and tomorrow morning's rush hour. Preparations began earlier today with de-icer trains dispatched to prep rails across the commuter rail and subway network, and chains were added to increase traction of buses in certain areas. There are no plans to curtail or limit service for this evening's rush hour.

Throughout the duration of this winter storm, we urge all of our customers to walk carefully on platforms and stairs, and to take special care when boarding or exiting buses or trains. Customers are urged to monitor the MTA website, www.mta.info, listen to the latest news broadcasts and traffic reports and/or sign up for the free E-Alerts that provide the latest train and bus information.

NYC Transit/MTA Bus

MTA New York City Transit and MTA Bus expects to run normal service this evening. In addition, New York City Transit has cancelled all planned service changes through Thursday morning, January 27. Due to trains being stored underground overnight on some express tracks, express service may be affected during tomorrow's AM rush. Limited Bus service in the five boroughs has been cancelled until further notice.

Access-A-Ride & Able-Ride

Due to the weather, Access-A-Ride and Able-Ride service is **cancelled** for Thursday, January 27, except for trips of medical necessity (e.g., dialysis, radiation treatment or chemotherapy). Customers who need to travel to such an appointment should call for reservations in advance.

Long Island Rail Road

The agencies of the MTA

MTA New York City Transit
MTA Long Island Rail Road

MTA Long Island Bus
MTA Metro-North Railroad

MTA Bridges and Tunnels
MTA Capital Construction

MTA Bus Company

Long Island Rail Road expects to operate regular PM Rush Hour Service this evening but will operate a reduced weekday AM Rush schedule tomorrow morning. The reduction in train service includes the cancellation of 14 westbound AM rush trains and buses will replace train service east of Speonk on the Montauk Branch and east of Ronkonkoma on the Main Line to Greenport. Service may be temporarily suspended if snow continues to accumulate through morning service and accumulations reaches 10 to 13 inches. For additional information, see the attached release.

Long Island Bus

Long Island Bus will be operating a normal rush hour schedule this evening, but customers are advised there may be some weather related delays due to road conditions. Service may be impacted during tomorrow's AM rush depending on road conditions.

Metro-North Railroad

Metro-North is operating a regular weekday schedule this evening with the exception of some cancellations or combined trains on the New Haven Line due to ongoing weather-related equipment shortages. Metro-North will operate a normal schedule for tomorrow's AM rush. See a current October 17 timetable or view the schedules page for details on train times. West-of-Hudson Customers: For NJ TRANSIT travel information and current service status, please visit <http://www.njtransit.com/>.

MTA Bridges & Tunnels

Motorists are asked to allow extra travel time and operate at reduced speeds due to wet roadways. Phase II wind restrictions may be enacted at MTA crossings if sustained wind gusts reach or exceed 50 mph. When this occurs the following vehicles are barred from crossing because they present a hazard to themselves or others using the bridge: tractor trailers, motor homes, step vans, box trucks, cars pulling trailers, mini buses, motorcycles, and any vehicle carrying cargo that may become dislodge during a wind event.

Storm Preparation

The MTA is disseminating incoming weather notifications across its agencies and all Incident Command Centers will be open and fully staffed to provide the most coordinated possible response once the storm is underway. This will allow the MTA to assess impacts as they occur and be more nimble in its response. These command centers will also help facilitate improved interagency communication, especially with emergency management offices in New York City and around the region.

New York City Subways and Buses

New York City Transit has entered into a Level IV alert. After the evening rush hour today, trains will be moved into underground tunnels to protect them from the weather. NYC Transit forces will be working 12-hour shifts. Crews are preparing to deploy a fleet of snow and ice-busting equipment to keep outdoor tracks and the third rail clear of snow. The fleet includes super-powered snow throwers, jet-powered snow-blowers, and specially-built de-icing cars, all designed to keep service moving.

Bus managers will travel bus routes, and will coordinate closely with the City of New York, to monitor the conditions of roadways and to make continual route-by-route assessments about service levels. NYC Transit is preparing to mobilize its own fleet of snow fighting equipment, particularly the salt-spreading trucks equipped with plows assigned to each depot.

Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad

The MTA's railroads will operate electric trains equipped with special scraper shoes to help reduce icing on the third rail and ensure that electric trains can draw their power properly. The railroads will treat switches with anti-freeze agents, lubricate them, and activate heaters. The LIRR is bringing extra personnel on hand at Jamaica to ensure that switches there remain operational. The LIRR is running anti-freeze trains throughout its electrified system to help reduce icing on the third rail.

Metro-North employees are deployed at all major switch and interlockings to keep them clear of snow and ice and personnel will be spraying door panels with anti-freeze, purging air brake lines of moisture to prevent them from freezing and treating third rail shoes with deicers.

Employees at each railroad are positioning jet engine snow blowers and plow trains to start operation as soon as snow accumulations begin. Snow fighting material is dispatched to stations and crews will be positioned to be ready to clear platforms and stairways.

Bridges and Tunnels

MTA Bridges and Tunnels has prepared and put into position its fleet of 102 snow-fighting trucks and other pieces of heavy equipment. In addition, MTA Bridges and Tunnels uses a system of technologically-advanced weather sensors to help keep motorists safe. All seven MTA bridges use small, rocket-like atmospheric weather sensors that deliver highly-accurate weather information, including wind velocity, wind direction, humidity and precipitation, via wireless communication. Other sensors are embedded in the roadway and on the snow-fighting trucks to monitor icing conditions on the roadways.

###