

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Colonial Road Improvement Project

March 2015

The MTA Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) strives to be a good neighbor in the communities we serve by keeping property owners informed of important infrastructure improvements that promote the safety of customers and area residents as well as the reliability of our train service.

The \$45 million Colonial Road Improvement Project in the Village of Thomaston includes the replacement of the bridge, improved drainage at the track level and the extension of the existing pocket track.

The new bridge will be constructed to keep the existing Colonial Road Alignment. These investments will provide long term bridge safety and improve train service reliability.

Project Benefits

- Enable the LIRR to turn trains faster and provide better rush hour service and seat availability from Great Neck and stations west of Great Neck.
- Allows for additional trains to the East Side of Manhattan when the East Side Access Project brings the LIRR to Grand Central Terminal.
- Allow for better service for special events at Mets-Willets Point.
- Reduction in a flooding problems that often hampers train service.

Construction Activities

Work will include: right-of-way clearing, earth work and retaining walls, bridge replacement, signal modifications as required, switches, crossovers, interlocking, and drainage improvements.

- Early construction will require grading, moving earth along the LIRR Right of Way (ROW), and the installation of retaining walls in some locations to support the new bridge structure.
- Establishing fenced staging areas for contractor field offices, equipment and supplies, including stockpile materials.
- Limited clearing of vegetation along the ROW to create a road way for construction vehicles, reducing the use of construction vehicles on local residential streets. Please note that restoring plantings along residential properties when construction is complete has been included in the overall plan.
- Installing fencing along the ROW.

- Dump trucks and excavators along the ROW removing excess material off the site, and bringing clean fill materials onsite.
- Installing steel sheeting adjacent to the ROW.
- Relocation of utilities along and adjacent to the LIRR's ROW.
- Retaining wall construction.
- Demolition and removal of existing bridge.
- Installation of new bridge, construction of new roadway and paving.

Community Impacts

- Construction of the Colonial Road Improvement Project began in February 2015 and will continue until December 2018.
- Colonial Road will be closed for one year, from March 30, 2015 to late March 2016.
- Construction will take place within the LIRR's existing property.
- The project will be phased to maintain reliable train service. (see back for details)
- The majority of the work will take place on weekdays during daytime hours.
- There will be continuous day and overnight work during one weekend for the demolition of the existing bridge and during two weekends for the installation of the new bridge.
- The work will require the use of excavators, dump trucks, drill rigs, cranes, concrete trucks and other construction equipment
- The LIRR will make every effort to minimize our construction presence by limiting the movement and parking of construction equipment vehicles in residential areas and minimizing noise and vibrations by complying with local regulations and codes.

For more information, please visit mta.info/lirr/colonialroad or contact: Hector Garcia / hgarcia@lirr.org / 718-558-7305

