

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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# **Update on Coalition of LIRR Unions' Contract Talks with MTA: LIRR WORKERS STRIKE – TRAINS STOP**

**NEW YORK – The coalition of five Long Island Rail Road unions are now on strike as of 12:01 am, Saturday, May 16. The railroad is completely shut down. No further contract talks are scheduled.**

After three year of contract talks and four years without a raise and despite the recommendations of two federal panels of experts who recommended raises for LIRR workers, between 4.5% and 5% MTA refused to agree to a contract that wasn't concessionary.

The coalition of five LIRR unions has said that its 3,500 members need an agreement that addresses rising inflation and the high cost of living on Long Island. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Consumer Price Index](#) released on May 1 for the 25 counties in the region that includes Long Island, prices last month rose over 4% compared to March 2025.

MTA refused to come to the bargaining table for months. Only one bargaining session occurred between August of 2025 and last week. Playing against the clock, contract talks began Friday morning at 11 a.m. and ended shortly before midnight. While some progress had been made toward a settlement earlier in the evening MTA refused to close the gap and toward the end of the night management clearly wanted to provoke a strike than settle by adding healthcare takeaways and other issues to the table literally in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour that had never been raised previously.

“MTA and Gov. Hochul determined that they would rather create frustration and gridlock for thousands of commuters, spend millions on buses during a strike and lose millions in lost

revenue rather than settle a contract meant to keep pace with the rising cost of living,” said Nick Peluso who serves as the National Vice President of the Transportation Communications Union.

**Picket lines will begin this morning at LIRR stations and workplaces beginning at 7:00 a.m. and immediately at the two locations below:**

**Manhattan -- East End Gateway entrance to Penn Station, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Ronkonkoma – LIRR Station, Hawkins Avenue**

“This is an open-ended strike. We don’t know when it will end. It shouldn’t have begun. Management through their provocations and game-playing own this one,” said Gilman Lang, who serves as General Chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

The coalition of LIRR unions will have more details on strike activity later in the morning.

*The coalition of five rail unions includes the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the Transportation Communications Union (TCU).*