



LIRRCC

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LIRRCC Urges Long-Term Action on Federal Transportation Funding

At the end of May 2015 the federal surface transportation bill will expire if it is not immediately extended, as it has been 32 times in the last 6 years, by a short term measure to preserve funding authority. If the surface transportation bill is not extended, the flow of funding to state and local transportation agencies will come to a grinding halt with potentially severe impacts on our communities.

The Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) calls upon Congress to put aside political gamesmanship and take action. The resources provided by federal transportation aid are necessary to continue the safe and effective operation of rail systems in our area and throughout the nation. Because the time to expiration is so limited, Congress must immediately renew funding for the federal transportation bill in the short term with a firm and clear commitment to approving new long-term surface transportation legislation. Without a long-term federal funding commitment, the planning necessary to provide for access to jobs, education, medical care, and other destinations will become more difficult and our economy and quality of life will be threatened.

“This gridlock in federal transportation funding is bad news for commuters who rely on the nation’s transportation infrastructure every day, including Long Island Rail Road riders, said LIRRCC Chair Mark Epstein. “The MTA and LIRR rely heavily on this funding to pay for critical capital investments on the LIRR system, and the impending expiration of the federal transportation bill, with no prospect for long term funding, only adds to the uncertainty surrounding LIRR capital funding and the concerns of LIRR riders.”