



BULLETIN

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Long Island Rail Road Main Line Third Track Opens for Service

At one minute past midnight on Saturday, August 13, the Long Island Rail Road placed the first major section of Main Line third track into service.

Known as “Block 1,” this first segment extends from the east end of Floral Park station to 987 feet east of the east end of Merillon Avenue station, for a total length of 13,669 feet, or 2.59 miles.

A test train, consisting of 12 M7 cars (E 7746-7745+7118-7117+7170-7169+7766-7765+7196-7195+7832-7831 W), was the first passenger train to operate over this segment. Starting out of Jamaica on the afternoon of the 13th, the first pass of this test train took place starting at about 3:30 PM from Floral Park and proceeded east at no more than 10 miles per hour.

At both New Hyde Park and Merillon Avenue stations, a small group of engineers from 3TC (3rd Track Constructors, the general contractor) walked from one end of the train to the other, taking measurements at

all 24 door openings between the car and the platform edge. Apparently, everything measured was within the specified tolerances and no exceptions were taken.

After taking measurements at Merillon Avenue station, the test train then proceeded east using the new crossover at Nassau 1 Interlocking from local Track 2 to middle Track 1 and continued east to just past Nassau 3 Interlocking, east of Roslyn Road in Mineola. There, they changed ends and prepared to proceed west for the second test run.

The second pass started at about 4:30 PM, was done at 30 mph (“medium” speed in railroad parlance), and the train went straight to Floral Park station without stopping.

Starting at about 4:55 PM, the third pass, east from Floral Park to Nassau 3 Interlocking again, was conducted at a speed of 60 mph. This was the first time any type of train passed over this piece of track at a relatively high speed. Your editor and two of his friends were standing on the westbound platform at Merillon Avenue station to document this event and witnessed quite a cloud of dust being kicked up into the air.

About 10 minutes later, starting at about 5:05 PM, the fourth test pass was conducted. This was done at *(continued on page 3)*