

Planning for Amtrak's East River Tunnel Outage

Update to the MTA Board

April 30, 2025

LIRR, Amtrak, and NJ Transit operate trains through Penn Station and the East River Tunnels



Superstorm Sandy damaged regional rail infrastructure

- MTA completed similar Sandy-related repairs on 9 East River crossings
- Two of the four tracks in Amtrak's East River Tunnel were also flooded and have been in need of repair since 2012.
- Construction was initially set to begin in 2019, but was pushed back to 2025



A closer look inside the East River Tunnel

Current East River Tunnel



461 LIRR trains run daily through the East River Tunnels – the vast majority of all trains

A closer look at the East River Tunnel tubes

East River Tunnel, future construction



What does East River tunnel construction mean for rail service?

- Limited capacity: Same number of trains running on fewer tracks
- Shorter headways, so even a small delay could have cascading impacts

We're coordinating with Amtrak, but concerns remain



What is Amtrak doing today to harden existing infrastructure that will be used during the tunnel outage?



What maintenance work will Amtrak conduct during the outage to minimize any rail disruptions?



What oversight will Amtrak provide during the outage to quickly respond to issues as they arise?

