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Brookhaven Rail Terminal warns a LIRR strike will bring rail freight to a halt while putting 800 long haul trucks onto our roads

PR Newswire

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YAPHANK, N.Y., July 16, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- A Long Island Rail Road strike will put 20,000 tons of goods and products and 800 long haul trucks back on Long Island roadways over the course of a month according to executives at the Brookhaven Rail Terminal (BRT).

Jim Newell, President of Brookhaven Rail, stated, "Based on the strategic role the rail terminal has played over the last 12 months to reduce regional truck traffic, air emissions and roadway wear and tear, our calculations show that Long Island needs to be prepared to see a return of at least 185 truck trips if the strike lasts a week. That calculates to tons of engine emissions from heavy truck traffic and the obvious additional congestion on a road network that will be way past the breaking point."

Newell said, "We are issuing an advisory to local and state transportation officials so that they can factor these numbers into their crisis management planning because the BRT has become a quiet but essential transportation asset in moving commerce onto Long Island over the last year. A strike will clearly shut down that role and exacerbate a terrible situation as 150,000 daily commuters queue up on the Long Island Expressway."

Fifty rail cars a week now use the BRT

Currently the Brookhaven Rail Terminal daily unloads items ranging from construction material to biofuels and has created jobs for 55 transportation professionals. It welcomes approximately 50 rail cars a week, some from as far away as Washington State as part of the transportation system that keeps Long Island's commerce moving forward.

Brookhaven Rail Terminal was formed by local, established Long Island business professionals in conjunction with Brookhaven Rail LLC. BRT is the first multi-modal rail freight facility on Long Island to provide rail based shipping, warehousing and Logistic Services to this critical U.S. market. BRT is located at the geographic nexus of Long Island in Yaphank, New York - immediately adjacent to the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and the Long Island Expressway (Interstate I-495), which provide direct rail and road access.

With Brookhaven Rail Terminal, Long Island companies and agribusiness now have increased access to world markets through BRT's connection to the national rail network. The ability to use BRT to ship and store commodities in refrigerated, climate-controlled and dry warehousing translates to lower costs, more flexible local service and a greatly expanded market reach. In addition, BRT's rail transportation shipping and warehousing services are keeping transportation costs competitive while significantly protecting Long Island's environment.

Newell concluded, "The environmental cost of a LIRR strike will be particularly dramatic as one rail freight car can carry the equivalent of four truckloads and railroads consume almost one-third less fuel than trucks per ton-mile moved. In addition one train can remove more than 280 trucks (the equivalent of 1,100 cars) from the L.I.E."

<http://www.brookhavenrailterminal.com/>

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