



June 5, 2020

# Virtual Breakfast

# Phillip Eng

President, MTA Long Island Rail Road



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# About Phillip Eng

- Phil Eng is the President of the MTA Long Island Rail Road, the largest commuter railroad in the nation serving over 89 million rides a year. Phil initiated the railroad's Forward program – a set of strategic initiatives aimed at improving service reliability and enhancing the customer experience. Under Phil's leadership, Long Island Rail Road is delivering an historic \$6B capital program to modernize and expand its infrastructure, including Double Track, Main Line Expansion, East Side Access, Jamaica Capacity Improvements, new M9 fleet and Centralized Train Control.
- Phil first joined the MTA in 2017 as the Chief Operating Officer where he spearheaded initiatives focused on modernizing transportation systems through innovative technologies. These include the development of new fare payment applications and testing new signaling systems. Phil also served as the Acting President for New York City Transit leading the early efforts of the Subway Action Plan.
- Phil began his career in public service in 1983 at the New York State Department of Transportation as a Junior Engineer. He gained expertise working his way up through various groups from Structures, Bridge Inspection, Maintenance, Design and Construction. At NYSDOT Phil held various positions including Construction Supervisor, Regional Director, Chief Engineer before his final post as Executive Deputy Commissioner. During his tenure at DOT, Phil played a vital role improving project delivery and use of design build while delivering significant projects such as the I-81 Environmental Impact Study, Rochester Train Station, and construction of the new Kosciuszko and the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge bridges.
- He earned his Bachelor of Engineering at Cooper Union and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Phil is a native Long Islander, and currently resides with his wife, Carole, and their four children in Smithtown.



# Speaker Presentation

- As president of the LIRR, Mr. Eng said, his top priorities are service, reliability and safety, which are part of the LIRR's Forward initiative. The East Side Access, Main Line Expansion, Double Track and ADA accessibility programs, are currently being performed on schedule. The agency is also continuing to work on the platforms on the west side of the Mineola station, repairing elevators at the Floral Park station and making upgrades along the Carle Place, Merillon Avenue, Garden City and New Hyde Park stations.
- Mr. Eng said the employees took a proactive approach during the slowdown by working on safety improvements. They recently installed concrete ties to replace the older wooden ties. Because they are made of concrete, he said, they are sturdier, more reliable and provide a smoother ride. In addition, LIRR personnel inspected the rails for breakage; any rails that were broken or about to break were immediately replaced. The LIRR exceeds federal inspection guidelines, inspecting the rails two to four times a year; federal requirements call for inspections only once a year.

# Speaker Presentation

- After reaching record ridership at the beginning of the year, Mr. Eng said, the number of riders dropped off significantly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Since March 27, the LIRR has run an “essential service plan” with only 3% of ridership taking the trains. He pointed out that those riders are “heroes” — healthcare workers, food delivery workers, utility workers and transit workers.
- In an effort to protect workers and riders, Mr. Eng has encouraged them to practice social distancing and, if that is not possible, to wear protective face coverings when on the trains, waiting on the platforms or taking the stairs to and from the station. He has said that LIRR employees are working hard to keep riders safe by spraying down the cars with an EPA-approved disinfectant. In addition, all LIRR employees undergo a temperature scan to make sure they do not have the virus.

# Speaker Presentation

- The good news is that, during the pandemic, on-time performance was at 98%, according to Mr. Eng. As of now, ridership has increased to 10%. Mr. Eng said that, once New York City starts to reopen under the state's Phase 1 on Monday, there will be more riders taking the train.
- Mr. Eng has been LIRR's president since April 2018. He first joined the Metropolitan Transit Authority in 2017 as chief operating officer. In his role, he spearheaded initiatives focused on modernizing transportation systems through innovative technologies. These include the development of new fare payment applications and testing new signaling systems. Mr. Eng also served as the acting president for New York City Transit, leading the early efforts of the Subway Action Plan.



# Thank you for attending!



**June 19, 9:00 – 10:00 am**  
**The Stresses & Needs of Hospital Systems.**

**Kevin Dahill**  
**President, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc.**

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC, is a consortium of not-for-profit and public hospitals advocating for better health care policy for all those living and working in the nine counties north and east of New York City: Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties in the Hudson Valley.

