



## **LIRR Announces Artist Marc Dennis to Design Artwork for the \$23.9 Million Modernization of Wantagh Station**

MTA Long Island Rail Road announced that the planned \$23.9 million rehabilitation of the LIRR's Wantagh Station is getting underway with Long Island-based Fortunato Sons Contracting, Inc., as the primary contractor on a project expected to create 100 construction jobs. The infrastructure investment at Wantagh, financed by the MTA Capital Program, will include a new concrete platform, segmented canopy, platform waiting room, escalator, elevator, lighting, communications system and signage. The MTA Arts & Design Program chose American artist Marc Dennis to create a distinctive public art project for the station.

Known for his hyper-realistic and strikingly detailed paintings of staged images of contemporary American culture, Marc Dennis' proposal for thirty hand-painted glass windows will depict scenes of an idyllic and imaginative day at nearby Jones Beach to include colorful and realistic images of birds, beachgoers, sunsets, seashells and regional symbolism. In addition, mosaic panels at stairways will highlight ocean waves and shoreline life. The hand-painted glass windows will be created in Germany at Glasmalerie Otto Peters in Neuenbeken; and the mosaics will be created at Franz Mayer of Munich. The project will be completed by July 2017.



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced an initiative to speed up station enhancement projects by changing MTA contracting procedures to enable one private sector company to build to its own designs. Although the design of the Wantagh station modernization was already completed prior to this new initiative, the LIRR is closely monitoring this "design-build" approach, which is being undertaken at other LIRR projects as well as 31 New York City Transit subway stations, in order to adopt best practices for its future capital projects.

MTA Chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast said: "This station rehabilitation project is part of the MTA's ongoing commitment to Long Island and will benefit thousands of customers who depend each day on the LIRR. Governor Cuomo has made clear that New York State needs to support projects like this, which create construction jobs and help the local economy."

LIRR President Patrick Nowakowski said: "Wantagh Station is going to look spectacular when this project is complete. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's commitment to the MTA, the LIRR continues its modernization efforts across Long Island with the Wantagh Station Rehabilitation Project. The Babylon branch is our busiest line and we are investing in these improvements to better serve our customers."