Long Island Business News **http://libn.com**

Reverse commute

by LIBN Staff

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MTA Chairman and CEO Joseph Lhota dropped a bomb this week when he told a crowd of Long Island Association members the agency's East Side Access project may be delayed until 2019.

That news, scooped by LIBN, caused such a commotion it put the MTA into crisis management mode.

Later that day, the MTA released a statement trying to walk back Lhota's statement, saying it was only based on one preliminary analysis of risk factors, and one that wasn't complete.

We understand companies and agencies attempting to put out self-started fires. But it's not like the 2019 statement came from the friend of a brother of a guy who knows a guy doing construction below the Queens rail yard. It came right from the top.

If we were PR spitballing for the MTA, we'd advise that rather than reneging on your top dog's statement, own it and spin it positive. As in a statement like, "Yeah, we said that, and it could happen if the state and federal governments don't give us more money."

Ransom notes get much better results.

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