

Memorandum



Metro-North Railroad

Date: October 20, 2023

To: Metro-North Committee

From: Catherine A. Rinaldi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CAR".

Re: October 29, 2023, Schedule Change

Schedules will change on the Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven lines effective Sunday, October 29, 2023.

The October 29 schedule supports major MTA C&D, CTDOT and Maintenance of Way projects that require extensive track outages. On-time performance data and ridership and dwell-time analyses were considered and utilized to ensure minimal effects on customers' daily commutes.

Hudson Line:

- The popular Leaf Peeper trains returned to the Hudson Valley on October 7 and will continue into the new Oct 29 schedule, with the last weekend of operation slated for Nov. 4-5.
 - There are three extra northbound AM trains on Saturdays and two extra northbound AM trains on Sundays toward Beacon and Poughkeepsie and two extra southbound PM trains each day returning to Grand Central Terminal (GCT).
- Restoration of three round-trip "Half-Hourly" weekend diesel train frequencies between GCT and Poughkeepsie on Saturdays and Sundays

The new schedule supports infrastructure projects including interlocking renewal in GCT and weekend Park Avenue Viaduct Replacement preparatory work, both of which begin in January 2024.

Harlem Line:

- Schedule adjustments enacted on Sept. 18 to accommodate the State of Good Repair work between Pleasantville and Chappaqua continue in the Oct. 29 schedule.

The schedules also support weekend interlocking-renewal work in the Bronx, scheduled to be completed in December.

New Haven Line:

- Train 1408, the 6:58 AM train from GCT to Stamford, departs GCT at 6:37 AM, 21 minutes earlier, to relieve train conflicts.
- There will be minor schedule adjustments of 1-5 minutes to support several State of Good Repair projects, including:
 - The bridge-replacement projects at South St and Fulton Ave in Mt Vernon.
 - The Walk Bridge replacement project at South Norwalk, CT, will begin in December 2023, reducing the capacity from four tracks to two tracks between CP 241 at South Norwalk and the new interlocking at CP 243, two miles east of East Norwalk.
 - Maintenance of Way rail and tie replacement between Bridgeport and Devon, CT.

As a result of lowered funding allocations from the Connecticut Legislature to support rail service, CTDOT requested New Haven Line service adjustments commensurate with the new funding level. Metro-North and CTDOT worked collaboratively on a revised service plan, which does not affect New Haven Line service in New York State.

The following Monday-Friday service adjustments will be made:

- Train 1464, scheduled to depart GCT at 5:56 PM will no longer operate. Passengers have the option to board Train 1562 at 5:46 PM, 10 minutes earlier, or Train 1868 at 6:18 PM, 22 minutes later.
- New Canaan Branch Train 1722, scheduled to depart Stamford at 11:56 AM, will no longer operate. Passengers will have the option of Train 1718, departing Stamford at 11:01 AM, 55 minutes earlier, or Train 1726, departing Stamford at 1:01 PM, 1 hour 5 minutes later.
- Danbury Train 1890, scheduled to depart Stamford at 11:01 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers will have the option of Train 1882, scheduled to depart Stamford at 8:52 PM, 2 hours 7 minutes earlier, or Train 1894, scheduled to depart South Norwalk at 12:35 AM, 1 hour 34 minutes later.

- Train 1585, scheduled to depart New Haven at 6:25 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers have the option of Train 1583, scheduled to depart New Haven at 5:40 PM, 45 minutes earlier, or Train 1587, scheduled to depart New Haven at 6:44 PM, 19 minutes later.
- New Canaan Branch Train 1759, scheduled to depart New Canaan at 12:29 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers have the option of Train 1755, scheduled to depart New Canaan at 11:29 AM, 1 hour earlier, or Train 1763, scheduled to depart New Canaan at 1:29 PM, 1 hour later.
- Danbury Branch Train 1895, scheduled to depart Danbury at 9:17 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers will have the option of Train 1889, scheduled to depart Danbury at 6:47 PM, 2 hours 30 minutes earlier, or Train 1897, scheduled to depart Danbury at 10:32 PM, 1 hour 18 minutes later.

In addition, the following adjustments will be made on Fridays only:

- Train 1417, scheduled to depart Bridgeport at 6:16 AM, and Train 1419, scheduled to depart Bridgeport at 6:28 AM, will no longer operate. New combo Train 3419 will make the same stops of both trains, departing Bridgeport at 6:21 AM.
- Train 1427, scheduled to depart Bridgeport at 6:57 AM, will no longer operate. Passengers will have the option of boarding Train 1525 at Bridgeport at 6:42 AM, 15 minutes earlier, or Train 1531, departing Bridgeport at 7:03 AM, 6 minutes later.
- Train 1437, scheduled to depart South Norwalk at 8:26 AM, and Train 1537, scheduled to depart New Haven at 7:42 AM, will no longer operate. New combo Train 3539 will make the same stops of both trains, departing New Haven at 7:39 AM and departing South Norwalk at 8:32 AM.
- Train 1539, scheduled to depart New Haven at 7:55 AM, will no longer operate. Passengers will have the option of boarding Train 3539, scheduled to depart New Haven at 7:39 AM, 16 minutes earlier, Train 1541, scheduled to depart New Haven at 8:15 AM, 20 minutes later, or a new express Train 3541, scheduled to depart New Haven at 8:24 AM, 29 minutes later.
- Train 1560, scheduled to depart GCT at 5:42 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers may board Train 1562, scheduled to depart GCT at 5:47 PM, 5 minutes later.
- Train 1568, scheduled to depart GCT at 6:08 PM, and Train 1470, scheduled to depart GCT at 6:10 PM, will no longer operate. New combo Train 3570 will make the same stops of both trains, departing GCT at 6:13 PM, 3-5 minutes later.
- Train 1572, scheduled to depart GCT at 6:45 PM, will no longer operate. Passengers may board Train 1570, departing GCT at 6:32 PM, 13 minutes earlier, or Train 1574, scheduled to depart GCT at 6:54, 9 minutes later.

Holiday Services and Special Timetables

The 2023/2024 Fall/Winter Holiday Programs are:

- **Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend**

Metro-North will publish and operate a special four-day schedule for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend (Thursday, November 23, through Sunday, November 26) that is tailored to the travel needs of our customers; these schedules will also be available through the MyMTA app, our IVR/call center, the internet, and via TrainTime and third-party apps. As in past years, off-peak fares will be valid throughout the entire four-day period.

- **Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving – 11/22/2023**

Historically, this is the heaviest travel day of the year with outbound ridership between noon and 8 PM more than 25% higher than a normal weekday. Metro-North will operate a regular weekday schedule with longer trains at key times and 10 additional trains (3 Hudson, 2 Harlem, 5 New Haven) departing GCT between noon and 4:15 PM. Later in the evening, Metro-North will combine or cancel select trains on the Hudson and Harlem Line and will operate the new Friday service plan on the New Haven Line.

Metro-North will operate a Getaway Schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **Thanksgiving Day – 11/23/2023**

Metro-North will provide additional inbound morning service for customers going to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. There will also be expanded outbound service starting in the late morning and continuing until mid-afternoon for customers traveling to suburban destinations. Finally, there will be expanded evening service for customers returning to New York City.

During the key outbound period between 10 AM and 2 PM all fares from Grand Central and from Harlem-125th Street will be collected from customers before they board trains. "Gate collection" of fares will take place to ensure that a fare is collected from each customer. Overall, we project that Metro-North will provide more than 100,000 rides on Thanksgiving Day.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Holiday schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **Friday, the day after Thanksgiving – 11/24/2023**
Fewer commuters and greatly increased discretionary travel require a significant change to regular weekday service. A special schedule included in Metro-North's four-day timetable addresses the unique travel patterns of our ridership on this day by featuring an expanded Saturday schedule with extra service in the traditional AM and PM peak periods.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Holiday schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **Thanksgiving Weekend (Saturday and Sunday) 11/25 – 11/26/2023**
Saturday and Sunday schedules complete the four-day timetable on both East of Hudson and West of Hudson lines, with additional cars on select existing trains.

- **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS**
To assist customers for their traveling needs, Metro-North will publish Holiday changes with the new schedule change, in anticipation of the Holiday season.

- **Friday – 12/22/2023**
Metro-North will operate a Getaway schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **Christmas Eve – 12/24/2023**
On Christmas Eve, Sunday 12/24/2023, Metro-North will operate a regular Sunday service schedule.

- **Christmas Day – 12/25/2023**
Christmas Day has the lowest ridership of any holiday. Metro-North will operate a special schedule on Christmas Day, with hourly service on the Lower Hudson, Upper Hudson, Mid-Harlem, Upper Harlem, Inner New Haven and Outer New Haven Lines and on the New Canaan Branch, every two hours on the Wassaic Branch, and every three hours on the Danbury and Waterbury Branches.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Hol schedule on Christmas Day.

- **CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR'S WEEK (Tuesday 12/26 – Friday 12/29)**
Historically, commuter ridership decreases in the week between Christmas and New Year's, while mid-day inbound ridership between 10 AM and 2 PM increases by more than 100% on the weekdays. This increase reflects high discretionary ridership while schools are on holiday recess, as well as shoppers taking advantage of after-Christmas sales. To accommodate this shifted demand, Metro-North will not operate a select number of morning rush-hour trains and will adjust train lengths and operate 6 additional mid-day trains (2 Hudson, 1 Harlem and 3 New Haven).

- **New Year's Eve – 12/31/2023**
On New Year's Eve, MNR will operate a regular Sunday schedule with extra service for customers after midnight to accommodate passengers going home from the Times Square ball drop.

As in past years, customers riding home on Metro-North's early-morning New Year's service will have their tickets collected prior to boarding trains at GCT.

Metro-North will operate extra service on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines to accommodate passengers going home from the Times Square ball drop.

- **New Year's Day – 01/01/2024**
Similar to Christmas Day, New Year's Day historically also has low ridership. Metro-North will operate a special schedule on New Year's Day, with hourly service on the Lower Hudson, Upper Hudson, Mid-Harlem, Upper Harlem, Inner New Haven and Outer New Haven Lines and on the New Canaan Branch, every two hours on the Wassaic Branch, and every three hours on the Danbury and Waterbury Branches. There will also be three additional trains in each direction on the New Haven Line.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Hol schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2024**

Martin Luther King Jr Day is a holiday with a unique travel pattern. Metro-North will operate an expanded Saturday schedule, with additional trains in the traditional AM and PM peak periods. Trains will be shown in the regular Saturday schedule.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Hol schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

- **President's Day, February 19, 2024**

Metro-North will operate a regular Saturday schedule.

Metro-North will operate an enhanced Sat-Sun-Hol schedule on the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines.

West Of Hudson Schedule Change

The Pascack Valley Line will have a minor schedule change effective Sunday, November 12, 2023, with two Pascack Valley Line AM Peak trains adjusting schedules by 3 minutes to maintain connections with NJT trains at Secaucus Junction to Penn Station New York.

There will be no changes on the Port Jervis Line.

Upcoming Schedule Changes

The next schedule change for all three East of Hudson lines is tentatively set for Sunday, March 30, 2024.

cc: J. Lieber
Y. Hill-Donald
S. Sarch
J. Vonashek
A. Buder