

# MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

March 2017

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## New Schedules Effective April 2

When developing our **new timetables**, which go into effect **Sunday, April 2**, we wanted to make small adjustments to improve our performance in peak periods while continuing to accommodate essential track outages for crucial infrastructure work. (See *"We're Making Tracks" in this issue.*)

Major changes to look for by line include:

### On the Hudson Line:

**Weekday reverse peak busing between Philipse Manor and Scarborough stations to support Sandy-related fix and fortify work will now continue until Monday, May 1.** On that date, train service to those stations will resume. Thank you for your patience during those infrastructure improvements!

### On the Harlem Line:

Look for a new weekend express train departing Grand Central at 6:50 AM, serving Valhalla to Southeast. (The 6:24 AM train from Grand Central will now operate to North White Plains as a result of this addition.)

Also, on weekdays, the 1:15 AM train from Grand Central to North White Plains will depart five minutes later at 1:20 AM.

### On the New Haven Line:

Minor schedule adjustments will see 2 minutes added to most inbound trains' running times to accommodate infrastructure improvements being made from Stamford to just east of Harrison Station. See a new timetable for changes.

### Also, on the Waterbury Branch:

Look for minor adjustments to the first two inbound AM peak trains, which depart four minutes earlier at 5:40 AM and 6:38 AM.

Be sure to pick up a new timetable in Grand Central and at outlying stations to check for possible adjustments to your train's schedule. Schedules are also available [online](#) or on your tablet or smartphone via [our free Train Time App](#).



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## Reminder: New Fares Effective March 19 in New York State

**New fares** will go into effect on the Harlem and Hudson Lines, as well as on the New Haven Line for travel between stations in New York State ONLY, on Sunday, March 19, 2017.

- **For monthly and weekly commuters**, fares will increase by no more than 3.75%. Monthly ticket increases will not exceed \$15.00.

• **Intermediate monthly and weekly ticket** increases are also capped at 3.75%. Some one-way fares will have larger increases only because fares must occur in 25¢ increments. For these one-way fares, any increase greater than 6% would not be more than 50¢ per ride.

- **Monthly/Weekly UniTicket Fares** will increase by approximately 4%.
- The cost of **Family Fare tickets and City Tickets** remains unchanged.

The MTA's continued discipline in keeping costs down has resulted in the lowest increase since 2009, when the MTA committed to a biennial schedule to keep adjustments as small and predictable as possible.

**PLEASE NOTE: The March 19 fare increase does not affect ticket prices for travel between stations in Connecticut and New York, or between stations within Connecticut.**

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## We're Making Tracks!

As you probably have noticed, our program of aggressive infrastructure improvements continues, setting the foundation for delivering safe, reliable and smooth service to you! (*We alluded to it in the last issue of Mileposts.*)

Since 2013, we've:

- Replaced **149,044 ties**,
- Laid **26.5 miles of continuous welded rail**,
- Rebuilt **148 switches**,
- Renewed and/or upgraded **60 railroad crossings** (45% of all the crossings on our territory) and,
- Performed **4,835 welds** on joints that connect rails with one another.



Normally, such extensive track work brings an increased probability of train delays. But we've been able to adjust train schedules to accommodate off-peak and weekend track outages. (*See the previous story.*) This allows us to perform critical maintenance and capital construction projects with little impact on your travels.

In 2016, Metro-North crews made particularly strong strides forward in the Railroad's field welding program. Last year, crews completed over 1,900 welds, a jump of almost one third from 2015. Each weld removes one joint in the rail; this not only provides you with a smoother ride, but also eliminates a possible failure spot and potential service disruptions.

**Our crews also accomplished an extraordinary amount of repair work on railroad bridges**, installing new timber decks and making steel repairs, as well as upgrading overhead highway bridges that we maintain which carry local roads over our tracks.

**Track inspections are another massive undertaking.** In addition to visual track inspections, which are conducted twice a week, we use a myriad of sophisticated equipment that can detect issues unseen by the human eye.

**High-tech inspections look at:**



### Track Geometry

To measure the position, curvature, alignment, smoothness, and the cross level of the two running rails, (parallel track) track geometry cars operated by the Federal Railroad Administration and Mermec (a company that provides track geometry assessments) are employed. The cars use a variety of sensors, measuring systems, and data management systems to create a profile of the track being inspected.

### Internal Metal Defects and Fatigue

To detect flaws, defects and metal fatigue inside our track's steel rails, Sperry Rail Service operates a specialized car over the rails, inspecting them with ultrasonic and induction test equipment.



### Mismatched Joint Bars

To identify any instances where the end of a rail does not match up precisely with the beginning of the following rail, Georgetown Rail Equipment Company's Aurora System patrols our territory, taking measurements of rail joint bars that are accurate to within two-hundredths



of an inch.

#### Track Loading

A track loading vehicle is used to give rails a stress test, applying forces close to the strength limits of the rails, track ties, rail fasteners, and stone ballast.

#### In addition to all of the above:

**We have purchased and installed Automated Geometry Inspection Equipment** on three of our revenue train cars, which will allow continuous track geometry measurements to be made as they travel around the system. This equipment is in test mode, and is expected to be fully functional later this year.

#### Finally, we are purchasing a state-of-the-art self-propelled track geometry car

that will use innovative laser, optical and inertial sensor systems to analyze the condition of the rail and track infrastructure, alerting us to any track anomalies. The inspection vehicle will undergo a period of calibration and testing before it's entered into service in early 2018.

**In the next issue of Mileposts, we will provide you with an overview of the extensive track work we have planned starting in the spring.**

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## Avoid the Triple Play...

...of parking, tolls and traffic. Take **Metro-North's Game Day service to Yankee Stadium!** Opening Day is April 10, when the Bronx Bombers take on the Tampa Bay Rays.

**Hudson Line fans** enjoy direct service from Grand Central Terminal, Harlem – 125th Street Station and outlying Hudson Line stations to Yankees – E. 153rd Street Station.

**For Harlem and New Haven Line fans**, there is direct service from select stations for 7:05 PM weeknight games, as well as for weekend and holiday games.

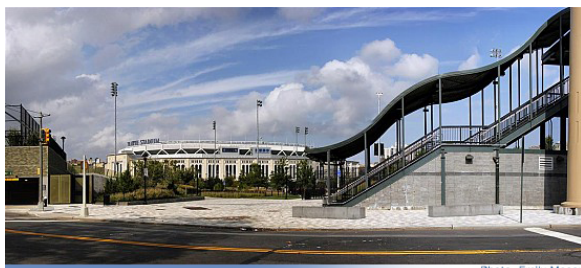


Photo: Emily Moser

At other times, Harlem and New Haven Line customers can transfer to Hudson Line trains or special game-day shuttles at Grand Central Terminal or Harlem – 125th Street Station for service to the Yankees – E. 153rd Street Station.

Did we mention that plenty of train service is provided before, during

and after the game? Or that getting to and from the game is a one-ticket ride from all three lines? Or that you can buy your tickets at any ticket office, from one of our many ticket vending machines or by using **MTA eTix®**?

Also, monthly and weekly ticket holders who normally travel to or from Manhattan (on any of the three lines) can travel to or from Yankees – E. 153rd Street Station at no extra charge!

So travel like a pro this season (*and we don't mean in a limo!*) Take a Metro-North "Train to the Game."

Look for our special Yankees – E. 153rd Street Station Game-Day timetable, available soon in Grand Central Terminal and at outlying stations.



**Soccer fans can get their kicks too!** We also provide **game-day service to New York City Football Club matches** at Yankee Stadium.



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## Metro-North & Zipcar: Ride2Drive

Now we take you to where the "rubber meets the road!"

# HOP ABOARD.

ALL OUR TRIPS ARE EXPRESS.



Thanks to a new partnership recently announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo between **Metro-North and Zipcar**, you've got more convenient access to a set of wheels at nine of our stations in the Hudson Valley!

A total of 14 Zipcars are available now through the partnership including a Honda Civic, a Jeep Renegade and a Honda CR-V. The vehicles are parked at dedicated, clearly marked spaces at station lots, providing you with the ease and simplicity of stepping off the train, hopping into a Zipcar and conveniently continuing on to destinations beyond the station.

Zipcars can now be found at the following stations:

#### **On the Hudson Line:**

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- Poughkeepsie
- Beacon

#### **On the Harlem Line:**

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- North White Plains
- Woodlawn

#### **On the New Haven Line:**

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- Port Chester
- Harrison
- Mamaroneck
- Pelham
- Mount Vernon East

The availability of Zipcars at these stations is part of our new **Ride2Drive** program, which aims to encourage visitors to travel to the Hudson Valley and at the same time increase mobility to New Yorkers who don't own cars. Within the next year, the program is **expected to expand to an additional 24 of our train stations** in New York State, both east and west of the Hudson River.

In addition to our select Metro-North stations, Zipcar provides access to thousands of vehicles in greater New York for reservation by the hour or day. Prospective members can join the service instantly through the Zipcar mobile app for **iPhone/iPad** or **Android devices** or **online**.

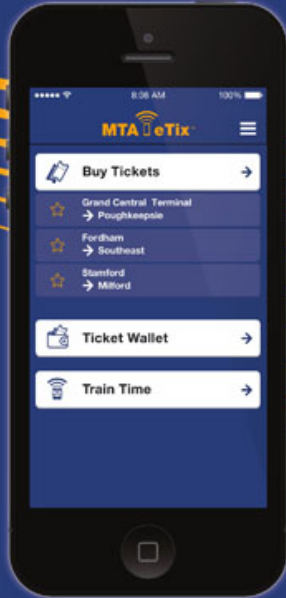


So hit the rails this weekend, and then hit the road!

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# GOOD NEWS FOR MONTHLY & WEEKLY MTA eTIX CUSTOMERS



Now, you only have to activate your monthly or weekly ticket once - the first time you use it. After that, simply click on the ticket in your wallet whenever you ride.

To enjoy this new convenience, be sure you download the latest MTA eTix update.



MTA.INFO/eTIX



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## Spring Flings



### New York International Auto Show

Take our discount package to the **New York International Auto Show** and save on rail fare and admission. Preview the latest in automotive excitement from futuristic concept cars to never-before-seen production models. Fun for the whole family!

### Hilltop House Bed & Breakfast

Take our **Two Night Midweek Getaway (Tuesday and Wednesday Nights, or Wednesday and Thursday Nights)** to this quaint B&B nestled atop a gentle hill in Dutchess County just minutes from the Connecticut border. Nearby attractions include: Lime Rock NASCAR and SCCA racing, TriArts summer stock, wing shooting and horse trials in Millbrook, as well as fly fishing on the Housatonic, the Appalachian Trail, and biking on



the rail trail. And when you've worked up an appetite, there is an abundance of fine dining options.



#### Funfuzion

**Westchester's only INDOOR amusement park** with Bumper Cars Max Flight, Space Shot, Lazer Tag and more, conveniently located in New Roc City in downtown New Rochelle, a two-block walk from the train station.

**See all of our getaway packages;** and plan

a spring fling!

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## Safety Rule of the Issue

**TRACKS** is our safety education community outreach program designed to promote safe behaviors at or around railroad grade crossings and tracks.

**Our FREE program** provides in classroom presentations or informational tables to schools (K-12), summer camps, community and civic groups, driving schools (professional and non-professional) busing and trucking companies.

Our mission is to educate as many drivers, passengers, pedestrians and individuals that live and/or work in or around the communities we serve.

So play your part in keeping the railroad safe for everyone: **email TRACKS** or call them at 914-461-0459 today and have them visit your school or organization!



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## Courtesy Corner



March has to be the most "boorish" month. It roars in like a lion... backstabbers love it (**Julius Caesar can attest to that**)... and it was named for the ultimate warmonger, Mars. (*Granted, he was the Roman god of war, but is that any excuse...*)

But just because March's rep is ruined doesn't mean yours should be, too! (*Behaving badly isn't going to get you a month named after you, or even a weekend!*)

That's why, when traveling on your train, please remember to:

- Keep your feet and packages off the seats;
- Observe the rules when riding in a Quiet Car<sup>®</sup>, (On all weekday inbound trains, the last two cars are designated Quiet Cars<sup>®</sup>, on all outbound trains it's the first two.)
- Take your garbage with you when leaving the train.



By the way, these rules are good for any month. Try them. It's the courteous thing to do!

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