

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers



September 2017

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New Timetables Effective October 8

Our new timetables, effective Sunday, October 8, feature adjustments that restore service while allowing critical infrastructure work that improves the safety and reliability of your commute to continue. ([See the next story...](#))



Changes to look for include:

On the Hudson Line

Weekdays,

four AM peak trains departing Croton-Harmon (**5:15 AM, 5:40 AM, 6:37 AM and 8:12 AM**) will operate **1 minute earlier**, through Hastings-on-Hudson.

In the PM peak, the **6:59 PM** and **7:21 PM** trains from Grand Central revert to their normal schedules, with the **6:59 PM** departing the Terminal **4 minutes earlier** and the **7:21 PM** stopping at Croton-Harmon through Poughkeepsie **4 minutes earlier**.

On weekends,

Poughkeepsie-bound trains return to their pre-April 2 schedules with the completion of track work occurring from Cold Spring to just north of Beacon, which translates to a savings of 8–12 minutes on your trip.

On the Harlem Line

AM and PM peak service returns to pre-June 4 schedules thanks to the completion of a comprehensive track improvement program between Mount Vernon West and Crestwood.

On the New Haven Line

Schedule changes are designed to reduce delays at intermediate stations, and reflect operating speeds where construction projects are in progress. Slower speeds are required when changing tracks and for worker safety. Sixteen New Haven-bound trains operating between **7:30 AM** and **3:05 PM** have their schedules adjusted by **1–3 minutes**.

Please be sure to pick up a new [timetable](#) for possible changes to your commute.

New timetables

will be available in Grand Central, at outlying stations, [online](#) and via our [Metro-North Train Time app](#) for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#).

As always, we thank you for your patience as we continue to make critical improvements to our infrastructure.

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Making Tracks... The Sequel

Just like countless Hollywood "blockbuster" sequels, our aggressive infrastructure improvement program returned this summer.

The only difference is that our "sequel" stars extensive track work that improves the safety and reliability of your service. (*The "blockbusters" just featured the same old CGI aliens no one*

wanted to see... yawn!



We started with railroad ties...

At the beginning of 2017 we had planned to replace 42,000 ties. As of this writing, we've completed 85% of our plan on the New Haven line (and replaced 6,155 or 15% of our total planned tie replacements).

And we've "Rail Vac-ed" (that's vacuuming up tons of track debris)

more than 2,019 wood ties, with the majority of them located in the Harlem/Park Ave. Viaduct area of our territory.



And added rail.... and new surfacing...



We have completed 73% of our planned 9.9 miles of track replacement. Most of this occurred, again, on New Haven (five miles done out of seven planned).

And when it comes to surfacing (a process that ensures the vertical evenness and smoothness of our track), we have completed 53% or 49.5 miles out of a total year's 94 planned miles of track.

The biggest gains were on the Harlem and New

Haven lines.

And renewed switches swiftly...

Out of the 34 switches we have planned to complete, 53% have been renewed—with planned work in Grand Central Terminal and on the Harlem Line 100% complete, the Hudson Line 50% done, and the New Haven Line 30% complete.

...While our ambitious Grade Crossing Program continued to make strides...



Of the 17 planned grade crossing renewals planned this year, we have achieved 35% of our goal,

or 6 out of 17, with more scheduled in the coming months. On the Danbury and Waterbury Branches, 50% and 40% respectively of the crossings set for renewal have been completed.

...We were busy welding and grinding too!

So far, we've completed 26% of the 1,600 rail joints that we planned to weld this year, and "ground" 34.3 miles of rail. (Grinding is a process that makes rails smooth again.) We've "ground" 100% or 8.9 miles of our New Haven plan, which represents 26% of the total planned for the year. (Another 24.5 miles are set for the Hudson and Harlem lines combined).

...While we were majoring in Track Geometry...

We've surveyed 58% of our right-of-way, uncovering and correcting rail defects in New York and Connecticut, so you can continue to experience a smooth ride!

...And taking it to the bridge(s)...

We've been making repairs to walls, load-bearing supports and replacing timber decks, with the most work completed in New Haven to overhead bridges at Broadway and Central Avenue, and on the Hudson Line at Ludlow Street.



Also in Connecticut, we have completed five out of 15 total planned bridge timber repairs, and four of 10 planned steel and masonry repairs. And repairs to the remaining bridges are well underway. In New York, we completed one of three planned bridge timber projects.

...Meanwhile, our Grand Central Terminal track workers were "all tied up."

To prep for the arrival of Amtrak's six Empire State trains coming and going from 44th Street this summer, we rehabbed all of Track 11 in Grand Central Terminal (with more than 2,000 feet of rail), and Track 41 (consisting of 2,400 feet of rail).

...And just where did that graffiti go?

We continue to remove graffiti from Metro-North-owned buildings, bridges, retaining walls and rock cuts on the Hudson and Harlem lines. (Apologies to all you budding Keith Harings out there...)

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve our right-of-way, and we'll be providing you with more updates in future issues of *Mileposts!*

Get Real!

Real easy tickets. Real-time departures. Our [Metro-North Train Time app](#) and [MTA eTix®](#) give you everything you need to make your next Metro-North trip as simple as possible.

Check train time departures and buy tickets from your phone — anytime, anywhere. Get started today!



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It's The Time of the Season...

...for hurricanes.

You've seen the news reports and the damage they can do. We want to remind you that Hurricane Season runs through November 30, with our region being most vulnerable from now through the end of October.

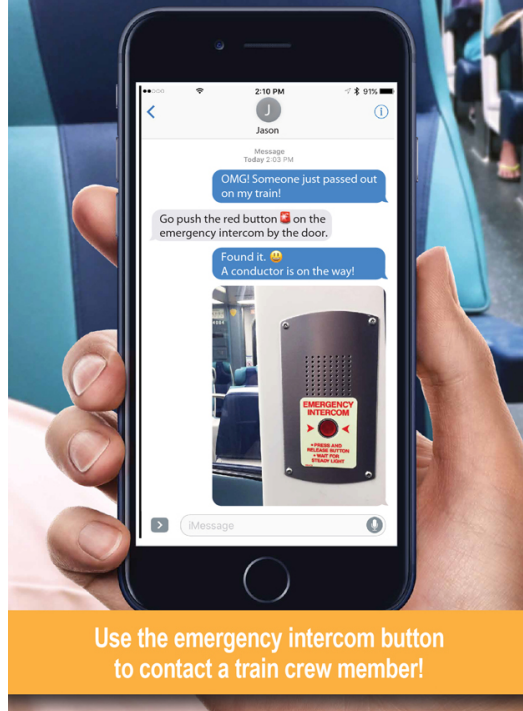
We can't stop the weather's worst from happening, but we can control our team's response to it. In the event of a hurricane or severe storm, we have several operating plans at the ready, depending on the weather's impact.



Read our [Hurricane Season Travel Tips](#) to learn more.

Safety Rule of the Issue

PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU



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Speaking of Your Safety, It is Still Bridge Plate Season...

Bridge plates are currently in use at several stations to accommodate track work.

Please use caution when crossing them and follow these rules:



- **Never wait on the bridge plate** for your train. Don't stand on it as a train is entering or leaving the station.
- Don't step on the bridge plate **until your train has come to a complete stop.**
- Do **allow customers to exit the train** before getting on the bridge plate.
- Don't crowd onto the bridge plate. **Cross it one person at a time.**

cooperation.

Thank you for your

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Wild... Wooly... Winey!

**It's Farm Fresh Poughkeepsie:
Wine, Wool & Spirits**
Saturday, September 30

Delight in the fall foliage of the Hudson Valley! Stock up on local produce and baked goods at the Migliorelli Farmstand. Then, visit the Hudson Valley Sheep & Wool Farm and shop for yarn, fiber supplies and handcrafted items. (*You can never get enough fiber!*)

Wind down the day at Tousey Winery and Hudson Valley Distillery to wind down the day. Wine and spirits tastings will be available at an additional cost.

Farm fresh bus reservations are required and must be made at least 48 hours in advance and confirmed BEFORE you purchase a train ticket.

Purchase your rail/bus ticket at any ticket office or full-service ticket machine (excluding Beacon station). Some activities may require an additional fee.

*Getting there is easy. Take the **Hudson Line** to Poughkeepsie Station where a shuttle will meet the train arriving at Poughkeepsie at 10:44 AM*



Rambling on the River!

18th Annual Hudson River Ramble

Weekends of September 23, 24, 30 and October 1

Celebrate the history, culture and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley. Guided hikes, walks, paddles, bike rides, historic site tours, festivals, and much more! Most events are easily accessible by Metro-North. Some of the participants include:

- **Free Sails with Ferry Sloops** from Ossining
- **Saw Mill River Heritage Tour** from Yonkers
- **Tours of Untermyer Gardens** from Greystone
- **Hawks on High** at Philipse Manor
- **Fall Crafts** at Lyndhurst from Irvington
- **Farm Fresh Dinner on Bannerman's Island** from Beacon



*Getting there is easy. Take the **Hudson Line** to the various stations close to where the events will be held.*

Journey Through the Past... in the Present!

Path Through History Weekend

Columbus Day weekend, October 7-9

I LOVE NEW YORK hosts its second Path Through History Weekend October 7–9. Events celebrate New York's rich heritage at historically and culturally significant sites. And many of the events are easily accessible via Metro-North, including:

- **Yonkers:** Saw Mill River Heritage Trail Tour
- **Beacon:** **Bannerman Island History Walking Tour and Cruise on the Estuary Steward**
- **Beacon:** Beacon Historical Society's Ghost Tours (evening event)
- **Greystone:** **Garden and Estate Tours of Untermyer Gardens**
- **Irvington:** **Tours with a Halloween Twist at Lyndhurst Mansion**
- **Poughkeepsie:** Behind the Scenes Tour at Locust Grove Estate
- **Harrison:** Moonlight over the Jay Heritage Center (evening event)

[See all of our Getaway deals!](#)



Courtesy Corner

Are you more like the good FBI Agent Cooper, or the evil Agent Cooper? Take our quick quiz to find out. (*You don't need to be a Twin Peaks fan to play!*):



When you depart your train you:

- A. leave your cherry pie wrapper and coffee cup behind for the next person to handle.
- B. take your trash with you, and dispose of it in the proper bin at your station.



When riding in a quiet car you:

- A. talk as loudly as possible, and give a piercing evil stare to those asking you to "please be quiet."
- B. refrain from using your cell phone, disable the sound features on your computer and use headphones at a low volume so that your "Roadhouse" mix CD cannot be heard by fellow travelers.



When your conductor asks to check your monthly ticket you:

- A. give them that piercing evil stare yet again.
- B. promptly hand your ticket to the conductor and thank them for doing a "mighty fine" job.



If you answered "A" to any of the above, you deserve to be sent straight to the "Black Lodge." But if you answered straight "Bs" you are definitely a "good Coop" and know that courtesies counts!

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