



# MILEPOSTS WEST

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers Fall/Winter 2019

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## New Schedule on the Port Jervis and Pascack Valley Lines, Effective November 3, 2019

NJ Transit made a [schedule adjustment](#) effective **Sunday, November 3, 2019**, which results in minor changes to connecting trains at Secaucus Junction for Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Line trains.

The changes are the result of cab signal installation on the Port Jervis line in support of Positive Train Control implementation. With the revised operating conditions, these minor schedule adjustments will provide a more reliable service to our customers.

### Pascack Valley,

There are no changes to Pascack Valley Line trains between Spring Valley and Hoboken:

- However, **two southbound/inbound trains have adjustments to connecting trains** at Secaucus Junction, resulting in arrivals at Penn Station-NY **4 – 5 MINUTES EARLIER.**

### Port Jervis,

#### Eastbound/ Inbound

- **Eight eastbound morning trains** depart their stations **1 – 4 MINUTES EARLIER,** between Port Jervis and Tuxedo/Sloatsburg in order to reflect the slightly lengthened train performance resulting from the continuing installation of cab signals on the Line.
- There are no changes to schedules between Suffern and Hoboken.
- **Two eastbound morning trains** and mid-day have **adjustments to connecting trains** at Secaucus Junction, resulting in arrivals at Penn Station-NY **4 – 11 MINUTES EARLIER.**

#### Westbound/Outbound

- **Six westbound afternoon and evening trains** arrive at their stations 1 – 4 minutes later in order to reflect the slightly lengthened train performance resulting from the continuing installation of cab signals on the Line.
- There are no changes to schedules between Hoboken and Suffern.

The next schedule change for both West-of-Hudson lines is effective **December 8, 2019**, and will include services for Christmas, New Year's, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and President's Day.

Pick up a schedule at a ticket office, or [plan a trip on our new site](#) or at [mta.info/mnr](http://mta.info/mnr).

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## Metro-North's West-of-Hudson Thanksgiving Holiday Service (November 27 – December 1)

Our [Thanksgiving holiday service](#) gets you, or your guests, to the table without having to deal with traffic, tolls and all the other headaches that come with driving on "turkey day."

[On Wednesday, November 27,](#)

to help you "take flight" we offer early getaway trains:

#### On the Port Jervis Line,

- The train departing Hoboken at 2:41 PM (Penn Station-NY at 2:29 PM, arriving at Secaucus at 2:38 PM), will add stops at Otisville and Port Jervis.
- The 6:15 PM from Hoboken (6:03 PM from Penn Station-NY) will not operate.



#### On the Pascack Valley Line,

- A train departs Hoboken at 12:45 PM (Penn Station-NY at 12:34 PM, arriving at Secaucus at 12:43 PM);
- Also, on November 27, a train departs Hoboken at 2:58 PM (Penn Station-NY at 2:51 PM, arriving at Secaucus at 3:01 PM).
- The 5:58 PM from Hoboken (5:51 PM from Penn Station-NY) will not operate.

#### On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28,

a weekend schedule will be in effect on both lines.

- **On the Port Jervis Line**, an extra train departs Port Jervis at 6:22 AM for those of you heading to the Macy's Parade. Heading home, an extra train departs Hoboken at 12:21 PM (Penn Station-NY at 12:14 PM, arriving at Secaucus at 12:23 PM).

#### On the Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 29,

a regular weekday schedule will be in effect.

#### Finally, on Saturday, November 30 & Sunday, December 1

a regular weekend schedule will be in effect.

See the current **November 3, 2019** timetable for details or [visit our schedules page](#).

**We wish you a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving, and hope you will make Metro-North/NJ TRANSIT part of your holiday travel plans.**

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## An Historic Trestle Gets New Life

### At 110-years-old, Metro-North's Moodna Viaduct occasionally needs some Tender Loving Care (TLC).

After all, the 3,200-foot-long, 193-foot-tall trestle spanning the Moodna Valley on our Port Jervis Line is older than Grand Central Terminal, which first opened its iconic doors in 1913.



**Another fun fact:** the Moodna Viaduct is the tallest, and longest, trestle east of the Mississippi!

**Most recently**, Metro-North crews tackled important steel repairs on the viaduct's structural support beams. They also continued aggressive timber tie and bridge deck replacement.

#### What's that mean for you?

These ongoing crucial repairs — once completed — will lift speed restrictions on the viaduct and the need for service outages.

In 2019, Metro-North crews replaced 420 ties on the Moodna Viaduct.

But the hard work isn't done yet! In 2020, we expect to replace 1,000 more ties, and an additional 1,500 in 2021!

**It's all in an effort to give you — our customers — a safe and enjoyable ride atop one of New York's most historic and scenic trestles.**

## MTA Board Approves Historic \$51.5 Billion Capital Program



### [The MTA's 2020-2024 proposed Capital Program, \[PDF\]](#)

which will invest a record \$51.5 billion in across-the-board modernization, now awaits final approval by New York State's Capital Program Review Board, after receiving Board approval last month.

The program, with 70% percent more funding than the former program, will provide \$4.7 billion to Metro-North for projects in New York State.

*"The proposed program will allow Metro-North to continue its aggressive programs to upgrade its aging infrastructure and to improve the customer experience," said Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi.*

### [In addition to other improvements,](#)

\$187 million is being allocated to pursue the phased construction of new core infrastructure West-of-Hudson, which includes a midpoint yard and passing sidings — needed to allow future reverse-peak and better off-peak service on the Port Jervis Line.

The funding will also cover continued state-of-good-repair work necessary to support the potential future increase of daily train service.

### [Read more:](#)

- [Overview of the MTA 2020-2024 Capital Program \[PDF\]](#)
- [MTA 2020-2024 Executive Summary \[PDF\]](#)
- [MTA 2020-2024 full report \[PDF\]](#)

## Metro-North's Rail Safety Poster Contest Asks Children to Submit their Best Artwork for Safety's Sake

### **The deadline to enter is Friday, November 29.**

Tell your kids to grab their colored pencils, markers, and crayons. Metro-North's second annual Rail Safety Poster Contest is back! Metro-North is asking students (Pre-K–12) within its territory to illustrate what they think is most important about rail safety.



[See contest Rules \[PDF\]](#)

Find out more about [Our TRACKS Education Program](#)

Students are encouraged to incorporate our TRACKS slogan, “*Learn the Facts, Stay Off the Tracks!*” and prominent social media hashtags including **#MNRTRACKS** and **#USRailSafetyWeek** in their design. Potential topics can include: Train Passenger Safety, Pedestrian Safety, Grade Crossing Safety, Trespassing on Railroad Property, Gap Safety, and Emergency Preparedness.

One winning student will be chosen from grade levels: Pre–K, K–3, 4–8, and 9–12. Students can use the art medium of their choice. Digital submissions (PDF, JPG, GIF, PNG Files) are also accepted.

**The winning posters will be featured in Metro-North’s TRACKS presentations throughout the year,**

and displayed across the entire territory on our information screens and monitors at stations and Grand Central Terminal. Winning artists will also receive a certificate of recognition from Metro-North President **Catherine Rinaldi** and Vice President of Safety, **Justin Vonashek**.

If you or your students or children intend on submitting their work, please email [MNRTracks@mnr.org](mailto:MNRTracks@mnr.org) at your earliest convenience to show your intent to submit.

Then follow the submission instructions that are posted online, Metro-North’s [Rail Safety Week Poster Content Information and Entry Form](#).

**DEADLINE: Friday, November 29, 2019.**

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## Improvements at Sloatsburg and Nanuet Stations

In addition to reliable train service, our customers also expect comfort and safety. And you recently got an upgrade in comfort, safety — and good looks — at the **Sloatsburg Station on the Port Jervis Line**, and the **Nanuet Station on the Pascack Valley Line**.

### Changes started at Sloatsburg

when Metro-North got a call from **State Senator David Carlucci**, who conveyed a request from **Mayor Carl Wright** of the Village of Sloatsburg—asking us to construct a new bench inside the existing shelter of the Sloatsburg train station—because it seemed to be missing one.

Our Structures team responded and installed a new bench in a short period of time.

After the bench was installed, it was inaugurated by Anamaria Bonilla, Director, Structures, M of W, [MTA Board Member](#)



**Randy Glucksman, State Senator David Carlucci, and Mayor Carl Wright, Village of Sloatsburg.**

**Other aspects of the station needed an upgrade. So, our teams...**

- Painted the handrails of the stairs and the platform,
- Added new tactile plastic strips along the platform edge.
- They also added new slip-proof covers, made of epoxy resin in colors of gray and yellow on the stairs.

**At the Nanuet Station, our crews have also been busy making upgrades.**

- They rebuilt the ADA access ramp,
- Made repairs to the Hi-Lo ADA platform,
- Replaced the bird netting (*to keep unwanted "bird business" away from customers*)
- Replaced the waiting shelter's glass and repaired the shelter roof, and
- Replaced wood on the wrap around benches and repainted them.
- Fixed the concrete areas of the platforms, walkways and stairs, and
- Added new tactile strips to the platforms.

To enhance the safety and security of our customers (*that's you!*), we installed new LED lighting on the platforms and new video cameras.

**So now, at both stations, our customers will be more comfortable and safer as they make their way to the train.**

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## Safety Message of the Month



**Winter is Around the Corner**

Before you know it, 'Old Man Winter' will be visiting once more.

Severe winter weather can create hazardous travel conditions throughout our region. It can also hamper Metro-North's ability to provide you with regular service. And, most importantly, we want you to be safe no matter where you are going.

So, please, take a moment to acquaint yourself with our handy **Winter Weather Guide**.

**We bring you this message because your safety is always our first priority all year long!**

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## Courtesy Corner



**Save 'Bah Humbug' for Another Time!**

**Yes, it is only Thanksgiving!**

But it's also the beginning of the holiday season.

And when the holidays are at their busiest, many of us can forget our manners, and behave like Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," even when we don't intend to!

**So please remember,**

when riding alongside your fellow passengers, — male or female — acting like a sweet Bob Cratchit, a generous Mrs. Cratchit, or a guileless Tiny Tim — will take you a long way!

**It's the courteous thing to do!**

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