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Press Release

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Metro-North

IMMEDIATE

### Metro-North Progresses West-of-Hudson Transit Access Study

MTA Metro-North Railroad announced plans today to begin an expanded study of transit access in its West-of-Hudson territory and to Stewart International Airport.

"Orange and Rockland counties have experienced unprecedented population and economic growth in the last two decades," said Peter A. Cannito, Metro-North President. "The railroad is looking to the future and anticipating continued growth and demand for improved transportation."

It is with this backdrop of growth in mind and in anticipation of a new emphasis on the economic development of the Stewart Airport area specifically that Metro-North is seeking proposals from consulting firms to evaluate new strategies of regional transit access.

Consultant services would be performed in two parts. The first would be a 12-month Alternatives Analysis. Second would be an 18-month option to be exercised at Metro-North's discretion for an Environmental Impact Statement for improving transit access to the West of Hudson Region and Stewart International Airport.

Proposals are due September 28, 2007.

The proposed Alternatives Analysis follows up on the Transit Access to Stewart International Airport Feasibility Study (FS) issued in December 2003. The FS evaluated a number of transit options including express bus, light rail and ferry options along with several commuter rail options. The most promising alternative evaluated in the FS was a direct commuter rail route from the Salisbury Mills Station north to the airport.

In addition, a Master Plan Update (MPU) for the airport was approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in June 2005. The Master Plan Update accommodates a commuter rail station.

Metro-North is working closely with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and with the New York State Department of Transportation, which owns the airport. The Port Authority is currently negotiating to take over the long-term lease of Stewart from its private operator.

NJTRANSIT, which operates Metro-North's West-of-Hudson service under contract, the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the Orange County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Stewart Advisory Commission also will participate in the study as steering or technical committee members.

Metro-North Railroad is working to identify funding for the study and an award will be made when funds are secured.