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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Rocklanders to Enjoy Huge Service Improvements on the Pascack Valley Line: Sunday and Off-peak Trains to Run for First time in Sixty Years

For the first time in 60 years, Rocklanders will be able to take a train on the Pascack Valley Line on Sundays, beginning Sunday October 28, 2007 when new timetables go into effect.

MTA Metro-North Railroad also is adding midday trains on weekdays and evenings. And for the first time in 40 years, there will be Saturday train service too.

The new service was celebrated on Sunday October 21 with a special train that carried dignitaries and railroad officials from Hoboken to North Hackensack and Pearl River, where speaking programs were attended by local officials.

In all, Pascack Valley Line customers will benefit from 126 new trains per week, nearly doubling service. The improvements are made possible by the completion of new "passing sidings" constructed along the single-track line.

The service, which is operated by NJTRANSIT under contract to Metro-North, will include 16 new weekday trains, nine inbound to Secaucus and Hoboken and seven outbound. Of the additional weekday trains, one inbound and two outbound will operate in the evening, including a late-night train, with the remainder of the new service offered midday.

Customers will benefit from weekend service, with 23 trains operating on Saturdays and 23 on Sundays-11 inbound to Hoboken and 12 outbound each day.

Metro-North has invested significantly in its West-of-Hudson service, including an entirely new train fleet, including 65 Comet V coaches and overhauled locomotives, refurbished stations with new shelters and expanded parking at the three Rockland County train stations on the line - Spring Valley, Nanuet and Pearl River. In all, 535 parking spaces were added at the three stations, an investment of more than \$6.5 million in parking and access improvements.

"The MTA is committed to improving service for our West of Hudson customers and the addition of weekend and off-peak service is an historic initiative," said MTA Executive Director and CEO Elliot Sander. "The increased service reflects our continued goal of meeting growing ridership demand even in difficult fiscal times."

"The introduction of off-peak and weekend service makes the train a more appealing and enjoyable way to travel and commute," said Carl Wortendyke, Rockland's representative on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. "Boosting the number of trains on Metro-North's Pascack Valley Line is the culmination of years of work and we hope people will try this new service."

"We are pleased to have contributed to making these long-awaited service improvements a reality for our customers," said Metro-North President Peter Cannito. "With the level of service on the line essentially doubled, we can offer increased flexibility to our Rockland County commuters traveling to and from work, while opening up new opportunities for leisure travel for both new and existing customers."

The service improvements are made possible by three "passing sidings" constructed along the alignment in Hasbrouck Heights and Hackensack, NJ and Nanuet, NY. The passing sidings enable trains operating in opposite directions to pass one another on a short stretch of double track. Metro-North contributed \$11.3 million toward construction of the sidings.