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Press Release

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[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

Ridership on the Pascack Valley Line Explodes 40% in One Year

Since MTA Metro-North Railroad introduced weekend and mid-day off peak train service on the Pascack Valley Line in Rockland County, weekly ridership on the line has grown an astonishing 40% from spring 2007 to spring 2008.

All time periods, weekday peak, weekday off-peak and weekends, experienced significant increases on the New York State portion of the line. Combined weekly ridership on the Pascack Valley Line is now 11,634, highest in Metro-North history.

"Not only did the addition of weekday off peak service make sense for the occasional customer but we believe it made the line more attractive to would-be peak-hour commuters who wanted the safety net of a way to get home early," said Metro-North President Howard Permut.

The new service, inaugurated October 28, 2007, includes 16 new weekday trains, nine inbound to Secaucus and Hoboken and seven outbound. Weekend service began with 23 trains operating each weekend day - 11 inbound to Hoboken and 12 outbound each day, but an additional inbound train was added August 3. There are now a dozen trains in each direction each weekend day.

These improvements were made in conjunction with New Jersey Transit, which operates the service under contract for Metro-North. NJTransit reported yesterday that ridership on the Bergen County portion of the line increased nearly 16% in the first three months of the year.

Ridership in the AM peak has increased by 22% since last fall and 30% since spring 2007. Metro-North's Pascack Valley line now carries 975 AM peak commuters. Off-peak inbound ridership went from zero in spring of 2007 to 35 a day last fall to 119 this spring, an increase of 240%.

Over 2,100 trips are now made each weekday on the Pascack Valley Line, Metro-North's smallest. Located in Rockland County, it has just three stations in New York: Spring Valley; Nanuet and Pearl River. The line continues south through New Jersey to Hoboken.

Weekend ridership on the line increased by over 60% since the first few weekends of operation last fall when the first counts were taken. Saturday ridership has increased by almost 75% since last fall while Sunday ridership has increased by almost 50% since last fall. Approximately 800 trips are currently made on the Pascack Valley Line each weekend.