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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Metro-North and NYSDOT Extend Ferries for Two Years

State Senators Help Secure Funding

MTA Metro-North Railroad and the New York State Department of Transportation have developed a funding plan to continue the operations of the Haverstraw-Ossining and Newburgh-Beacon Ferry Services for the next two years.

As part of this funding plan, State Senators Thomas P. Morahan and William J. Larkin Jr. have secured \$658,000 and \$600,000 respectively to ensure the continuation of two ferry runs that provide Rockland and Orange county residents with access to Metro-North's Hudson Line train service.

Additional state and federal funds also have been secured, that along with an estimated \$300,000 in farebox revenues, will cover the \$7.1 million cost of operating the ferries through Dec. 31 2010. The current funding agreement between Metro-North and NYSDOT expires on November 30, 2008.

The Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry, in service since September 2000, carries over 500 rides daily with many days in the 550s, and the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry, which began operation in October 2005, provides an average of 475 rides a day, with some days over 500. The ferry facilities provide a total of approximately 600 additional parking spaces for Metro-North customers. The Haverstraw service connects to fifteen and the Newburgh service to fourteen morning and evening Metro-North trains with a Guaranteed Ride Home Program provided for both services when ferry is not running during mid-day and late-night hours (specific details available at www.mta.info)

"The Haverstraw-Ossining ferry service provides local commuters with a safe, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to driving while also expanding access to Metro-North trains for many New Yorkers," said Governor Paterson. "I commend Senators Morahan and Larkin for their efforts to secure funding for the continuation of these services. I also commend the MTA and DOT for working together on a funding plan to ensure that New Yorkers continue to benefit from this great service."

"The continuation of this ferry service is another example of how the MTA is partnering with elected officials and other agencies to create a seamless, regional travel network," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "Much like Metro-North's partnership with Enterprise Rent-a-Car, this service provides our customers with another easy and sustainable way to get to and from the commuter rail network."

"I am pleased to provide \$600,000 in MTA Capital Reserve Funding for the continued operation of the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry," said Larkin. "During these difficult economic times it is important that commuting costs remain affordable for Hudson Valley residents. With this additional funding, the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry will continue to provide local commuters with an efficient, cost effective means of transportation through the year 2010."

"I'm pleased to have been able to secure the needed funds to insure continued service for the Haverstraw-Ossining ferry," Morahan said. "This form of transportation is a necessary option that expands access to Metro-North trains for Rockland County residents. The ferry affords comfort and starts and ends the day in a peaceful way on the magnificent Hudson River."

"We're pleased to see the continuation of these ferries, which offer commuters an alternative to driving, thereby reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gases," said New York State Department of Transportation Regional Director Joan Dupont. "Commissioner Astrid C. Glynn is dedicated to supporting all modes of transportation in the Hudson Valley and across New York State."

"With a perennial shortage of parking around train stations and with serious traffic on the Hudson River bridges, these two ferries give people west of the Hudson River a better choice for access to Metro-North's excellent train service," said Metro-North President Howard Permut. "Thanks to the partnership and cooperation of our state Senators, the New York State Department of Transportation and the transportation planning organizations in the counties we serve, this service will continue and continue to attract new riders to mass transit."