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IMMEDIATE

West of Hudson Regional Transit Access Study Open House Set for June 1 in Newburgh

MTA Metro-North Railroad will hold a second Open House June 1, 2009 to present the latest information on the West of Hudson Regional Transit Access Alternatives Analysis/ Environmental Impact Statement Study.

After months of reviewing more than 80 alternatives for improving the quality of transit services connecting Central Orange County to Manhattan and for improving transit access to Stewart International Airport (SWF) from the mid-Hudson Valley and New York City, the study has reached a critical milestone.

The Open House will be held in the Ballroom of the Hilton Garden Inn in Newburgh from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Metro-North Railroad, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), and study partners, will present the findings and recommendations of the Level 1 Screening Analysis conducted on the Long List of Alternatives.

Alternatives being studied to meet the transit mobility and access needs of commuters and Stewart Airport passengers and employees include bus, rail and other transportation solutions for short, medium and long-term implementation. The Level 1 Screening Analysis identifies a shorter list of the most promising alternatives for further evaluation during the next level of screening after receiving public comments.

Some of the options that passed the first level of screening could be implemented without a full environmental review, assuming adequate market demand and availability of funding. An example of a low-cost improvement that could be implemented without a large capital investment includes improved shuttle bus service between the Stewart Airport and existing Metro-North rail stations in the area and increased coordination with other local transit providers.

Additional information about the project is available through the website: www.mta.info/mta/planning/whrtas. Those needing more information or wishing to comment on the project can call: 800-897-0302.