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Press Release

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[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

Ferry Service Resumes Monday between Newburgh and Beacon

The ferry that sails from Newburgh and meets MTA Metro-North Railroad's express trains at Beacon will resume service Monday (March 28) after a nine-week winter hiatus caused by heavy ice in the Hudson River that damaged the dock on the Newburgh side.

Divers and cranes on barges were required to retrieve the floating dock and gangway and to replace pilings snapped off by floating ice that pushed the docks from the pilings and turned them sideways, grounded in shallow waters.

Ferry service was suspended on January 17 due to the worst ice conditions since Metro-North started the service six years ago. Buses have been provided in lieu of ferry service and, bus ridership has averaged about 200 daily rides.

As soon as river conditions allowed, the ferry operator, NY Waterway, took action to remedy the situation, mobilizing a tug boat and divers to remove the damaged docks, repair underwater pilings; and install a temporary docking facility. Since the docks were dislodged, they have been secured by cables to prevent them from drifting during heavy tides and winds. Repair work this week was delayed by a spring snowstorm on Wednesday and Thursday.

A decision has not yet been made regarding whether to repair the damaged docks or allow the temporary docking facility to remain permanent. Going forward, Metro-North with NY Waterway will develop a plan to protect floating facilities during future winter service suspensions, including planned ferry outages.

The Newburgh-Beacon ferry was launched in 2005 as a way to improve access to the Beacon station and provides 250 parking spaces for West of Hudson customers. Since its inception, the service has been under contract to NY Waterway. Metro-North's Operations Planning and Analysis Department manages the ferry contractor, which is responsible for all components of the ferry service, including bus contingency provision and emergency response and repairs.

Daily ridership on the ferry over the past year had been in the low-300s; historical highs before the economic downturn were in the mid-400s. There are 14 ferry runs daily: six in the AM peak and eight in the PM peak.

The ferry service is fully funded with state and federal monies through an agreement with NYSDOT and Metro-North expects that any costs associated with the repair work will be covered under that agreement.

Metro-North and NY Waterway welcome our customers back to the Newburgh ferry and appreciate their patience during this disruption. We would also like to inform them that the newly refurbished, freshly-painted Capt. Mark Summers vessel with padded seating is expected to go into service sometime in April and will provide improved comfort.