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Press Release

September 7, 2011

Metro-North

IMMEDIATE

Damage Assessment of Metro-North's Port Jervis Line Is Underway: Busing Alternatives Expand

A team of engineers hired by MTA Metro-North Railroad is inspecting and assessing the catastrophic flood damage to the Port Jervis Line. Meanwhile buses are providing alternative service for the 2,300 people who normally use the line each weekday.

Following through on MTA Chairman Jay Walder's emergency powers invoked to expedite rebuilding the devastated line, work began last week on an on-the-ground assessment of damage from the storm and a final condition assessment report is expected by the end of the month.

AECOM of New York City began a conditions analysis of track and structures along 14 of the hardest hit miles of the right-of-way as well as a hydrology study of the area. Their sub-consultant, Systra of New York City, is assessing all railroad communications and signal systems, and M.G. McLaren of West Nyack, another sub-consultant, will assess damage to the rail bridges in the affected area. AECOM was issued a Notice to Proceed for emergency work, not-to exceed \$500,000.

Bus service will further expand on Thursday, when buses provided by MTA Bus Company will begin service from Salisbury Mills/Cornwall Station, which had been inaccessible because of area road closures, to the Ramsey/Route 17 Station. [Bus schedule information is available at mta.info.](#)

Soon after the August 28 storm passed and flood waters receded, Metro-North established the first bus service for Port Jervis Line customers on Tuesday, August 30, from Harriman to NJ TRANSIT's Ramsey/Route 17 Station for trains to Hoboken. Fifteen buses from Leprechaun Lines continue to provide the service under contract to Metro-North.

Bus service from Port Jervis and Middletown stations began Thursday, September 1, to Metro-North's Beacon Station on the Hudson Line for trains to Grand Central Terminal.

Bus service from Tuxedo and Sloatsburg to the Ramsey/Route 17 Station began Tuesday September 7.

In addition, West-of-Hudson customers with LAZ parking permits are welcome to use the Beacon and Cortlandt station parking lots on the Hudson Line. Although a permit does not guarantee a space, no one has been turned away and Metro-North is closely monitoring usage.

In addition, customers can use Port Jervis Line commutation tickets on the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry and about 15 people have taken advantage of this route each day. The Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle Bus also is available. Port Jervis Line commutation tickets are being honored for travel on the Hudson Line.

Significant damage to the line identified last week by an aerial inspection includes up to 40 washout locations including three washouts each at least a thousand feet long near Sloatsburg, a 400-foot section of track washed out just south of Sloatsburg, significant damage to several railroad bridges and exposure of what had been a subterranean signal cable.

Metro-North is studying its options to improve service during the long repair work ahead.

All the latest bus information is available on the website at www.mta.info. Every station has a special published bus schedule, which differ from train times.