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Press Release

September 5, 2012

[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

### New Canaan Branch Track Maintenance Planned

#### *Off-peak Busing Required Next Week*

Track maintenance work on MTA Metro-North Railroad's New Canaan branch for the next four weeks will require weekday, off-peak bus substitution.

Beginning on Monday, September 10 and running through Friday, October 5, 2012, track workers will replace 5,800 wooden ties as part of Metro-North's regular cyclical maintenance program along the entire eight-mile branch. Tie work on the line is done once every seven years. So it takes four cycles, or 28 years, to replace all the ties.

At a pace of about 300 ties per day, the track gangs cut the old ties and pull them out, slide a new one in with new fastener plates then attach the rail to the tie with big screw lag.

The surfacing machine follows right behind the tie gang. This specialized piece of rail equipment puts the track in its proper profile for a smooth ride and adds elevation at the curves to allow trains to maintain proper speed and make a smooth transition in and out of curves. This big, computer-controlled machine lifts and levels the rails and adds ballast (loose stone) as needed.

Buses will be provided beginning with the 9:07 a.m. train from Stamford (train #1712) and will continue through the 3:28 p.m. train from New Canaan (train #1771).

Train service will resume with the 3:58 p.m. train from Stamford (train #1738).

No track work will be performed on weekends. This capital project is funded by the State of Connecticut.