



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

June 27, 2012

[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

Summer Schedules Allow Railroad Construction Projects

Track Outages Will Reduce Cost of Routine Maintenance Work

Metro-North Railroad is making minor schedule changes effective Monday, July 2, 2012 on the Hudson and New Haven Lines to accommodate several construction projects. There are no changes on the Harlem Line.

Metro-North is taking a new approach to managing these construction projects. By having workers on the track for longer periods of time and by doing a number of repair projects simultaneously in the same geographic area, the railroad expects to save \$1.8 million or 7% of the normal cost of this work. This new approach slightly increases the risk to the railroad's operating reliability while reducing costs to the capital program's long term infrastructure improvements.

"Maintaining our on-time performance while doing so much work will be a big challenge," said Metro-North President Howard Permut. "But we believe these schedule changes, combined with increased focus on service delivery, can mitigate the risks. The July schedule change is a model for finding creative ways to do our work at lower costs."

In addition to minor adjustments of one or two minutes on a small number of trains, the following schedule changes will be made:

The Hudson Line:

- On weekdays, the schedules of seven mid-day off-peak trains will revert to the service pattern between Croton-Harmon and New York that had been in place before work began at the Tarrytown Station, which is now complete.
- On weekends, most upper Hudson Line trains will be adjusted a few minutes earlier or later to accommodate switch replacement and wood tie replacement projects between Croton-Harmon and Peekskill. Metro-North expects to save \$500,000 by taking track 2 between Croton-Harmon and Peekskill out of service for a continuous five-week period, rather than the normal weekend-only outages for eight weekends. A cyclical wood tie replacement project will be done at the same time. The ability to work around the clock—instead of during off-peak hours only—will result in additional savings of \$240,000.

Hudson Line schedules will be changed on August 27 to restore the current weekend schedules through October 13. The next East of Hudson schedule change is planned for October 14.

The New Haven Line:

- Every night after 9 p.m., seven nights a week, several inbound trains from Stamford and New Haven operate up to fifteen minutes later and the 11:40 PM eastbound train from GCT to Stamford will operate five minutes earlier to accommodate station rehabilitation work at Mount Vernon East and Pelham and New Rochelle stations. These minor changes to certain late-night trains will significantly lengthen the overnight track outage windows for this project. As a result, Metro-North expects to save about \$1.1 million on this project.

The Waterbury Branch:

- To accommodate the continuing Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) catenary replacement project on the main line, most weekday and all weekend Waterbury Branch trains will make connections to/from main line trains at Stratford station, instead of Bridgeport, from July 2 through July 22.
- Also impacting Waterbury Branch service is a CDOT bridge rehabilitation project to replace four bridges over rivers and streams, one each Seymour and Beacon Falls and two in Naugatuck. This work requires the suspension of train service between Bridgeport and Waterbury from July 23 through September 2. During this extended track outage, Metro-North maintenance of way forces will install five miles of continuous welded rail south of Derby-Shelton, upgrade several switches, refurbish several grade crossings and resurface the track for the entire line for a smoother ride. Substitute buses will replace trains, resulting in travel times up to fifteen minutes longer for all customers on the Waterbury Branch.
- The New Haven Line timetables will be effective from July 2 through October 13. A special Waterbury Branch construction timetable will be printed to cover the period between July 2 and September 2. Regular Waterbury Branch service between September 3 and October 13 will be included in the July 2 New Haven Line timetable.

