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Press Release

September 17, 2014

Metro-North

IMMEDIATE

Grade Crossing Renewal in Patterson This Weekend

Bus Substitution Required on the Wassaic Branch

The complete replacement of the State Route 311 at-grade crossing over the Metro-North train track in Patterson will require substitute bus service between Southeast and Wassaic from Friday night through early Monday morning, September 19, through September 22.

Metro-North Railroad Maintenance of Way employees will begin work Friday night after the 10:23 p.m. train leaves Southeast for Wassaic.

Crews will remove the thick rubber mats around the track, rip up the track, remove the ties, then dig out any accumulated mud and finally vacuum out the old ballast, the loose stone that secures the rails in place. After this complete excavation, another crew will begin Saturday morning to lay out 40 brand-new ties and attach brand-new, galvanized hardware. Then they will connect the new running rail to the ties. New ballast stone will be dropped and the track will be resurfaced to the correct specifications for a smooth, safe ride.

On Sunday, crews with cranes will lay new, prefabricated concrete slabs on either side of the track. These are more durable than the old rubber mats they replace.

Normal Branch line service will resume Monday with the 5:10 a.m. departure from Wassaic. But midday service on Monday will be bused. Full, regular train service resumes Monday with the the 5:07 p.m. from Southeast, due Wassaic 5:52 p.m.

Metro-North also will be doing other maintenance work to take advantage of the track outage, including tamping and surfacing various locations on the branch to stabilize the track structure and repair of insulated joints.

This weekend, customers should allow extra travel time, as bus times are about 10 minutes earlier than train times to ensure a good connection with trains at Southeast. There will be sufficient buses to carry the approximately 500 people who use the Wassaic Branch on Saturdays and 750 customers on Sundays.