

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

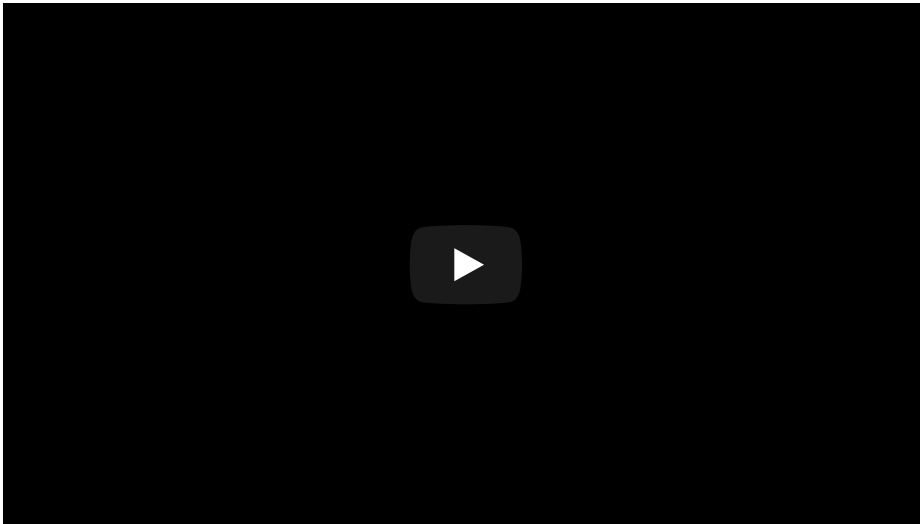
February 2021



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The Maybrook Trailway is Now Open!

On January 4, Metro-North announced the opening of the **Maybrook Trailway**, a 23-mile section of the **750-mile Empire State Trail** that spans **New York City to Canada and Albany to Buffalo**. Built by Metro-North with \$42 million in state funds, the trail runs through Dutchess and Putnam Counties alongside our Beacon Line.



“Governor Cuomo’s vision of a state-spanning trail is a reality and is giving new life to this area along Metro-North’s Beacon Line. Metro-North is proud to have played a role in the creation of this trailway. Healthy, socially distanced outdoor recreation never seemed more important than it does now.”

– Catherine Rinaldi, Metro-North President

In addition to creating a vital link in the Governor’s Empire State Trail, the **Brewster to Pawling section** is rideable by all cycling abilities as it is relatively flat.

“We tried to keep the trail ADA-compliant and that was pretty easy due to the fact that it’s an old railroad bed - trains don’t like going uphill,”

– Richard Bottali, Project Manager and Assistant Director, Sustainability and Environment at Metro-North.

The trail is an 8 to 10-foot-wide, asphalt-paved path that serves cyclists, runners and walkers of all ages and abilities, and so far, is garnering an A++ rating by nearby residents for its prodigious scenery and generous length.

Expect to be wowed as you wind past three lucid bodies of water, Tonetta Lake, Ice Pond, and



Whaley Lake, as well as several natural swamp areas. Wooded areas abound, as well as seasonal waterfalls and at one juncture, the trail crosses the Appalachian Trail.

Tremendous history can be felt as you pass Ice Pond, where back in the day, ice was harvested, and loaded onto rail cars for further distribution to New York City and other parts, according to Bottali.

In the winter months, you can expect fewer users and when snow covered, skiers and snow-shoers. During the other three seasons, the trail promises to be more heavily used with families, baby carriages and dogs. Trip variations abound. For example, you can walk/ride from

families, baby carriages and dogs. Trip variations abound. For example, you can walk/ride from

our Brewster or Southeast train stations to the southernmost trailhead located in Castle Park adjacent to Lake Tonetta.

The trail then takes you northwest to the hamlet of Hopewell Junction in Dutchess County, passing through the towns of Southeast, Patterson, Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill. While in Hopewell Junction, be sure to stop and take a break at the [Hopewell Depot](#), the former station house has been beautifully restored and contains a museum that is open to the public on the weekends.

The Maybrook Trailway connects to the William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail in Hopewell Junction, and this section will take you northwest to the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park in Poughkeepsie! ([View a map of the Empire State Trail.](#)) And there you can take the train back from Poughkeepsie to New York!



Or keep heading northwest on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail and Walkkill Valley Rail Trail! And if you want to ride south, take the Maybrook Trailway to the Putnam Trailway, to the North and South County Trails in Westchester all the way to the southern tip of NYC on the Manhattan Greenway Trail! Your possibilities are endless!

In thanking Metro-North, the new trailway is part of Governor's Cuomo's plan to connect the state and "provide New Yorkers with boundless opportunities for healthy and safe outdoor recreation, which is more important than ever during this pandemic."

– Erik Kulleseid, New York State Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Information including an [interactive map](#) detailing the route, designated parking areas and nearby attractions is available online at [Empire State Trail](#).

As the weather continues to warm up, we hope to see you soon on the Maybrook Trailway!

Statements from Local County Leaders about the newly completed Maybrook Trailway:

"Metro-North has always been a good partner to the county and, once again, the railroad has shown its commitment to Putnam residents. The new Maybrook Line section of the Empire State Trail is an amazing asset and a great way for cyclists and walkers to see the natural beauty that Putnam County has to offer."

– MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive

"As we begin 2021, we are thrilled to have the addition of the Maybrook Trailway, as part of the newly completed Empire State Trail. Dutchess County is proud to partner with Metro-North Railroad to maintain much of this new 23-mile section, which connects to our Dutchess Rail Trail at the Hopewell Depot and extends to Brewster."

– Marc Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive

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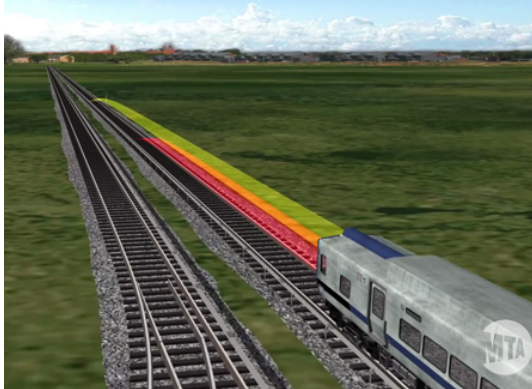
Metro-North Completes PTC in 2020: with Live Integration, Some Delays in Service Expected

Metro-North Railroad has completed its Positive Train Control (PTC) project on its Hudson, Harlem and New Haven lines as well as its West-of-Hudson Pascack Valley and Port Jervis lines.

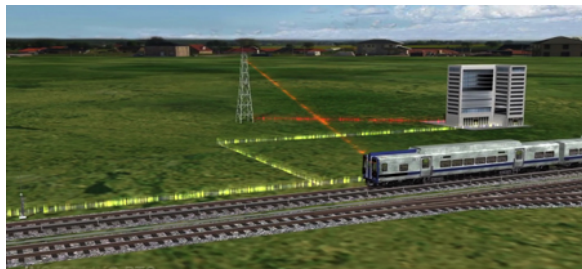
“Metro-North’s completion of PTC before the December 31, 2020 deadline was an all hands-on-deck effort that spanned multiple departments across the railroad. It represents a historic leap forward in the safety and reliability of the system.”

**— Catherine Rinaldi,
President Metro-North Railroad**

In completing full operability of Positive Train Control, an advanced commuter rail safety technology, Metro-North fulfilled the December 31, 2020 deadline mandated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).



PTC is a complex computerized system



where all Metro-North trains automatically communicate in real-time with wayside locations and our Operations Control Center regarding train position, speed and actions of our locomotive engineers. For example, if a train is traveling too fast, the safety system will automatically take control of the train, bring it down to a safe operating speed and

alert the locomotive engineer.

Upon transitioning from the PTC Extended Revenue Service Demonstration, to an all-systems go live environment,

we have now entered a ‘burn-in’ phase for software and hardware integration that has resulted in about 5% of our consists being pulled out of service for adjustments.

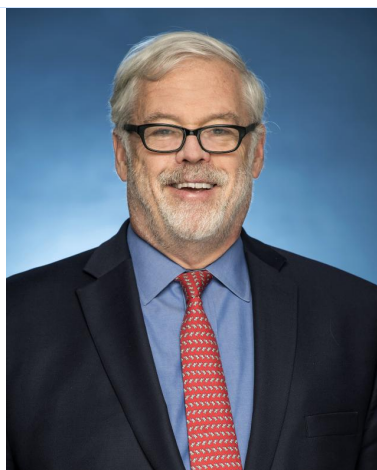
Most of these occurrences have to do with software and hardware anomalies that were not detected during testing because they only occur in a live, fully implemented operations environment. The Federal Railroad Administration is aware of this continued fine-tuning, which many railroads are currently undergoing. This process never compromises your safety but can result in minor delays to your trip.

When an anomaly is experienced on trains that operate through Stamford, we are required to remove the consist from service to determine the cause.

For those trains, Metro-North is working actively to mitigate the impact to our customers by having a replacement train at Stamford station ahead of the train’s arrival, where we can minimize the delay as customers transfer and continue on to their destination.

We apologize for the inconvenience and delays while we continue to fine tune the system. Metro-North has a team actively working with the vendors to eliminate these software issues and improve service reliability. This process is expected to continue through the third quarter of 2021.

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MTA-Wide Fare Increase Discussion Postponed

“As part of our biennial review of fare and toll policy, the MTA conducted the unprecedented level of outreach this year required, holding eight public hearings and receiving 2,100 public comments. What we heard at these hearings was that people are suffering and cannot shoulder even a modest fare increase right now,”

— Patrick Foye, Chairman and CEO of the MTA.

“Buoyed by President-elect Biden, New York incoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the MTA also has hope for \$8 billion in additional pandemic relief and continued federal investment in mass transit in 2021 and beyond. For these reasons, the MTA has decided to postpone the planned fare increase for several months. We plan to move forward with a discussion and vote on recommended toll changes in February.”

[Read the full press release.](#)

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Safety Rule of the Issue

A safety reminder from Metro-North:
Please remember to...

Always wear a mask 

Wash or sanitize your hands several times a day 

Keep at least 6 ft. distance from others 

If you're sick or have a fever, stay home 

Please respect the health of your fellow passengers


 **TRACKS**
Together Railroads And Communities Keeping Safe
mta.info/mnr/tracks

Your safety is always our first priority.




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Courtesy Corner



Nope. Not quite. Try again.

 **That's the one!**

Stop the spread. Wear a mask.



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Spoil Your Sweetie in 3 Easy Steps...

On Valentine's Day, whether it's "Puppy Love" or the "Love or Your Life," we can give you a hand with the hardest part — deciding on what to get for your sweetheart.

At **Grand Central by Appointment**, our personal shoppers have got you covered.

Break the Ice

Visit us online and fill out the form to let us know the basics.

Love Finds A Way

Choose a time frame that works for you and we'll schedule a phone consultation to discuss details.

The Rendezvous



Make sure you **wear a face covering**, keep your



social distance, and follow all COVID-19 safety protocols. Then, we'll rendezvous to show you pre-selected merchandise

in the stores of your choice.

All that's left is to



See a **complete list of our Getaways.**

When traveling on Metro-North, a face covering is **REQUIRED** at all times.

Please also practice social distancing when riding on our trains.



GRAND CENTRAL
by *A P P O I N T M E N T*

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