

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

January 2019

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With the New Year, New Accomplishments @Metro-North!

Metro-North Awarded Up to \$2.3 M to Enhance PTC Implementation

Metro-North Railroad has been awarded a grant of up to \$2.3 million dollars from the Federal Railroad Administration to support Positive Train Control (PTC) communications testing.

Metro-North was awarded the grant, which is part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program, for its proposal to establish a test lab to help the railroad efficiently investigate radio interference issues and improve PTC functionality along the Northeast corridor.

The improvements are just another step forward in our Way Ahead Strategic Plan

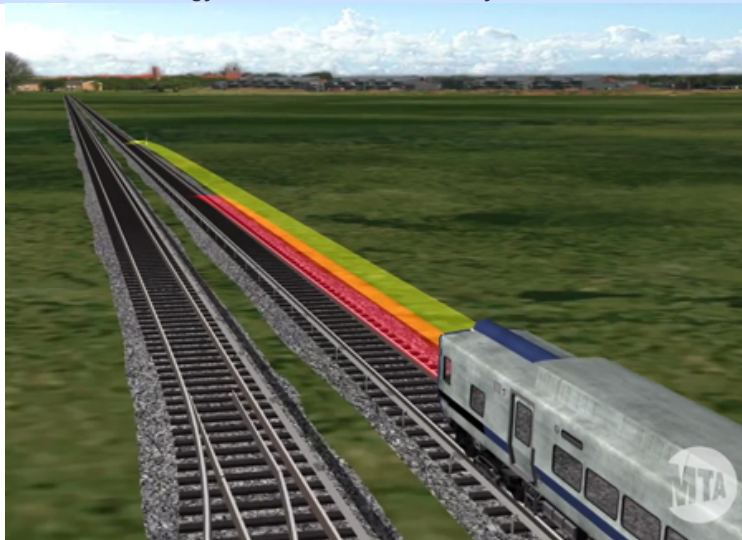
to improve the safety of our railroad for our customers and our employees.

The test lab, comprised of a series of networked computer stations, will simulate how radio spectrum will operate and mitigate potential problems. The radio spectrum will be used by all passenger railroads that operate in the Northeast corridor, so it's essential to learn how all railroads can most effectively communicate with one another and avoid interference.

Catherine Rinaldi, Metro-North Railroad President, said:

"Safety is a core value of Metro-North, and this test lab will support our efforts to move ahead with full PTC implementation and ensure on-going service reliability. I congratulate our PTC team at Metro-North on this achievement, and we'll continue to aggressively look for new and better ways to improve safety throughout the railroad."

PTC is a technology that enhances train safety behind the scenes.



PTC is a technology that enhances train safety behind the scenes by eliminating the potential for human error to contribute to train-to-train collisions or derailments caused by a train traveling too fast into a curve or into a misaligned switch. It's organized by equipment on board trains along with

equipment on the side of the tracks. These systems communicate with a central back office computer, which requires radio spectrum.

PTC builds upon existing Metro-North systems such as in-cab signaling with Automatic Train Control, automatic civil speed enforcement and our Enhanced Employee Protection System (EEEEPS) — which adds a layer of protection for employees who work along and near railroad tracks — all of which already offer some of the most substantial functions of PTC.

Prospect Hill Road Bridge Completed Ahead of Schedule

As part of our ongoing commitment to investing in our infrastructure, our teams at Metro-North have completed the replacement of the Prospect Hill Road Overhead Bridge in Southeast.



This design-build project was done within budget and more than two months ahead of schedule.

Rebuilding the bridge is an important part of our **Way Ahead Strategic Plan**,

and one of the three top priorities, improving our infrastructure.

The 270-foot-long bridge, which was originally built in 1910, is located just south of the Southeast station; it carries Prospect Hill Road over the Harlem Line tracks and portions of Metro-North's Brewster Yard.

"The Prospect Hill Bridge has been a key component of the Town of Southeast's infrastructure for over a century, and we're pleased that this new bridge is now a reality for Putnam County residents," said Catherine Rinaldi, Metro-North Railroad President.

"The bridge's reopening will increase resident and commercial mobility in the area, and we're delighted to have partnered with the local community on the project."

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Sandy Restoration Makes Progress Along the Hudson

Another step forward in our **Way Ahead plan**, Metro-North is continuing to make progress replacing and restoring the power, communications and signal equipment and other infrastructure that were destroyed or compromised during Superstorm Sandy.

Phase 1 of the project encompasses over 16 miles of the Hudson Line, from Greystone to Croton-Harmon, while **Phase 2** deals with over 14 miles of railroad further south along the Hudson Line, from Greystone to the Bronx.



Work to install medium voltage signal power cables/conduits in **Phase 1** is continuing, as well as the installation of new fiber and communication cables and numerous new, elevated above-flood-level steel platforms.

At the various DC-traction power substations, cables that supply power to our trains are also being replaced. Power, signal and communication cables between Tarrytown to Croton Harmon will be moved over within the next year, followed by localized commissioning of the components for the associated equipment located on the elevated platforms.



teams at work, you can say, 'This is related to Sandy.'

As **Phase 1** of our project nears its final stage, the design work for **Phase 2** is also wrapping up: Field walk-throughs and surveys were conducted for design finalization as part of the design-build process.

Now crews have already started working on the early days of installation work in **Phase 2**, as it heads south to the Bronx. The overall completion of the project is expected in the first quarter of 2021.

So, when you're riding on the Hudson line and you look out the window and see our



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Winter is Here — Until March!

When winter storms hit, it's always best to be prepared.

Severe winter weather can create hazardous travel conditions throughout our region.

It can also interfere with Metro-North Railroad's ability to provide you with regular service. We present the following information because we want you to understand and be prepared for any service changes we make based on winter weather conditions.

To handle emergency weather situations,

Metro-North has developed up-to-the minute communications, snow-ready equipment and fleet protection, and continuous infrastructure treatment before, during and after a storm.

Our Customer Communications Center improved the content and coordination of real-time information.

Check your status however you like.

You know to listen to announcements, and see the platform displays at our stations, but you can also check-in with your computer or, for information on the go, from your smartphone or tablet.

[To your inbox](#)

[Via Social Media](#)

[Info on the go](#)

[Give us a ring](#)





Get updates with **text** and **email alerts**.

Go online for up-to-the-minute information on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and at www.mta.info/mnr

Download our **Metro-North Train Time® app** (on **iPhone** or **Android**)

Or call our main Customer Information Center at **511** (in Connecticut call **877-690-5114**), which will have a taped message upfront describing current service conditions.

Prepping our equipment in advance of storms

Our employees begin prepping the fleet by verifying that the Protective Heat Circuits are operational, purging air brake lines of any moisture to prevent them from freezing, fitting electric trains with special third rail shoes with holes in them to prevent snow from sticking, treating contact shoes with deicers and covering exposed couplers to keep snow out.

Readying our infrastructure

Along the right-of-way, we treat switches with an anti-freeze agent and lubricate them, and activate heating rods. Periodically our Operations Control Center operates switches to help keep them functioning. We also position jet engine and cold air snow blowers, snow throwers and plow trains to start operating as soon as snow accumulations begin, allowing us to clean yard switches and third rail. We use front-end loaders and snow plows to plow our right-of-way to access track interlockings and power substations.



Finally, we dispatch snow-fighting crews to all stations and position crews at numerous locations ready to clear platforms and stairways.

Train Crews



Our train crews have been trained on providing critical communications in emergency situations, and are instructed in new protocols and guidelines on customer care and safety during emergency situations.

We also conduct regular safety drills that focus on the importance of these areas and give railroad employees and regional first responders hands-on emergency experience.

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Safety Rules of the Issue

Start the New Year on the Right Foot!

In 2019, resolve to keep the family upright! Please don't let the gap get your child down!



We bring you these rules because your safety is always our first priority all year long!

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This Year's Resolution: Save on Family Fun!

Metro-North and ZipCar Ride to Drive team-up to bring you these fun, adventurous, simply playful [discount rail packages](#).



Skiing at Hunter Mountain!

Hunter North adds 80 new acres to Hunter Mountain increasing total skiable terrain by 33%.

See just how special the savings are for Metro-North Customers only at [Metro-North discounts \[PDF\]](#).

Or Log onto the [Hunter Mountain Site](#) using the Club Name: **HM METRON** and Password: MetroNorthSki.

Getting there:

Make a [Zipcar](#) reservation, then take a train on the [Hudson Line](#) to Poughkeepsie Station (or take an Uber, Lyft or Taxi) to Hunter Mountain.

Or take a pony ride or snow tube at

Pine Ridge Dude Ranch!

Find out about all the activities included in [Metro-North's discount Getaway package](#) day-pass!

Getting there:

Make a [Zipcar](#) reservation, then take a train on the [Hudson Line](#) to Poughkeepsie Station (or take an Uber, Lyft or Taxi) to Pine Ridge Dude Ranch.



Building new and amazing structures at the Legoland Discovery Center in Westchester!

See what **Metro-North's discount rail package** to the ultimate indoor LEGO® playground has to offer!

Getting there is easy:

Make a **Zipcar** reservation then, then take a train on the **Harlem Line** to **Woodlawn Station** (or take an Uber, Lyft or Taxi) to Legoland.

Hit the rails this weekend, and then hit the road!

See a complete list of our Getaways.



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Courtesy Corner

It's a New Year's tradition.

Once again, to ring in 2019, we have spanned the globe to see how other cultures start the New Year (*thanks in large part to Google and BuzzFeed!*)



In Denmark, unused plates are saved up all year, until the 31st of December when they are thrown at the front doors of your friends and family in a display of affection.



In Japan, bells are rung 108 times in a Buddhist tradition that is meant to banish all human sins. The Japanese also believe it is good luck to be smiling or laughing going into the New Year.



In The Philippines, hoping to bring prosperity and wealth for the year ahead, Filipinos try to use as many round things as possible to represent coins and wealth. Round clothing, round hats, round food — if it's round, they'll use it on this day.



And on Metro-North, to ensure a happy New Year, we ask you to respect your fellow travelers while riding on our trains by keeping your voices at a minimum when carrying on a conversation or speaking on the phone, especially when riding in a Quiet Car!®

Have a happy, safe and courteous 2019!

It's the courteous thing to do!

Published by
Corporate & Public Affairs, MTA Metro-North Railroad
420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10170

www.mta.info

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