



# Mileposts

A Publication for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

April 2014

## **The First Step**

Metro-North's recently released 100-Day Action Plan focuses on returning to the basics of good railroading. This requires, first and foremost, that we rebuild the culture of safety at Metro-North that had served as the railroad's foundation.

Our priorities are simple:

- We need to operate safely.
- We need to start communicating better.
- We need to bring back Metro-North's legendary on-time performance.

We will also look at recommendations obtained during our series of informal "Connect with Us!" customer forums. ([See the listing of upcoming dates and times.](#))

Our 100-day plan will be adjusted to reflect the results from all of these efforts.

We realize that the promise of a safer, more reliable service is not enough; Metro-North must develop concrete plans and actions and deliver on them.

While we continue to develop this plan, you can view a general summary of the key themes and initiatives that we have identified to date [here](#). We will also post regular updates so you can track the progress we make on our promises.

## **Spring Brings Track Improvements**

Metro-North's aggressive program of system-wide track improvements to ensure the overall safety and reliability of the railroad is underway again.

This next round of work is currently taking place on Track 1 (one of two center tracks) between Melrose and Woodlawn Stations. New Haven and Harlem Line trains operate over the four tracks in this area and then merge with the Hudson Line south of this location.

This track will remain out of service continuously until early May, so that it can be rebuilt and drainage can be improved. Once the work is completed, crews will clean up debris in the area as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When this phase of work is completed, it will allow for the current 40-mph speed restriction on that center track to be lifted, resulting in improved performance and reliability in time for our next timetable change on May 11. (Speeds on the other three tracks were increased to 75 miles per hour last fall following completion of track improvements in this six-mile section.)

The availability of three tracks in this area of the Bronx will limit our operating flexibility in the event of an incident affecting service, which may result in delays. To stay informed as to impacts on your commute, we encourage customers to sign up for Metro-North's [email/text alerts](#) and [Train Time app](#).

Melrose and Tremont customers: Weekday Peak period busing will be in effect at your stations for the duration of this work. Customers may take buses to Fordham for train service. Train service at these two stations will be provided during the off-peak and weekends. Please see a timetable for details, or visit our [schedules page](#).

Through the end of the year, we will also be making track improvements between Harlem-125th Street Station and Mott Haven in the Bronx. This work will be performed on weekends only, so as not to impact weekday service.

**Hudson Line** customers: Beginning in June, right-of-way improvements will take place between Riverdale and Greystone stations. We will inform you when this work is about to begin.

We appreciate your patience as we continue this critical work along our right-of-way.

## **Signal Upgrades Completed At Curves And Bridges Ahead Of Schedule**

Metro-North has completed permanent signal system changes to ensure automatic speed enforcement at five critical curves and five moveable bridges in New York and Connecticut, five months ahead of schedule.

The final signal modification was finished Thursday, March 20 at the Devon Bridge in Stratford, Connecticut.

The complete implementation of the requirements of the FRA's Emergency Order 29, issued on December 8, 2013, brings us another step closer to a safer railroad, which is our number one goal.

Signal engineers first designed modifications to the circuitry at each location by calculating where and when speed limits should be reduced. Then signal maintainers had to reconfigure wiring along the tracks that sends the signal to the train to control its speed. Extensive testing was then performed to confirm that the changes were working as designed.

The signal display observed by train engineers in their cabs now will automatically indicate reduced allowable speeds on the approaches to these 10 locations. If the engineer does not reduce the train's speed accordingly, the train will automatically come to a stop.

Our Signal forces began work on changes to the Automatic Train Control system at Spuyten Duyvil just days after the fatal derailment and completed the modifications there on the same day the FRA order was issued.

Signal system modifications for the remaining four curves at Yonkers, White Plains, Bridgeport and Port Chester were all completed by February 8, ahead of the FRA March 1 target.

Work then shifted to the five moveable bridges on the New Haven Line at Cos Cob, South Norwalk, Westport, Bridgeport and Milford in Connecticut. The "Peck" Bridge in Bridgeport was completed first on January 18 and the fifth and final bridge at Devon was completed March 20.

### ***Meet The Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council***

The Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) will host a "Meet the Council" event on Thursday, May 15th, next to the Station Master's Office in Grand Central Terminal from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Take a few minutes on the way to or from your evening train to meet members of the Council and its staff, share issues and concerns about Metro-North, and learn more about the Council and its activities.

The MNRCC was established by the New York State Legislature more than 30 years ago to monitor and study Metro-North's operations and to make recommendations to improve the riders' experience.

The Council's members are regular commuters who come from communities throughout the Metro-North service area. Learn more about the council at [www.mnrcc.org](http://www.mnrcc.org).

### ***A Necessary Evil!***

While we believe public transportation should be everyone's preferred means of travel, there are times you need a car. *(For instance, to get you to the train station...)*

And you can see plenty of them—from futuristic concept cars to never-before-seen production models—at the New York International Auto Show.

But don't drive there! Take Metro-North's discount rail and show package and save money! *(Not just on rail fare and admission, but on gas, tolls and parking...)*

The 114th annual event is happening April 18 – 27 and is open daily from 10 AM to 10 PM and on Sundays from 10 AM to 7 PM at the Jacob Javits Convention Center.

Highlights for adults and kids alike include antique cars in the LeMay Museum on the lower Level and a Camp Jeep Outdoor Off-Roading Ride Along at the Inner Roadway.

For more information, visit [www.autoshowNY.com](http://www.autoshowNY.com) or call 800-282-3336.

Purchase your rail/admission ticket from any Metro-North ticket office or full-service ticket vending machine (excluding Grand Central) or through [WebTicket](#).

Metro-North monthly/weekly ticket holders who wish to purchase only the Auto Show admission ticket must do so at a Metro-North ticket office. Discount will not be honored by presenting your rail pass at the Auto Show.

[See a full listing of our discount Getaway packages.](#)

### ***What Type Are You?***

We're asking because Metro-North is working with the NY Blood Center (NYBC) again to host a Community Blood Drive on Thursday, April 17, from 8 AM to 8 PM, in Grand Central's Vanderbilt Hall. Donating blood only takes about one hour from start to finish!

To ensure that waiting time is kept to a minimum, make an appointment to donate NOW by calling 800-933-2566 (BLOOD) or visiting [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org).

And, if you're not ready to commit, no worries—walk-ins will be welcome.

You can also call the NYBC with any questions or concerns about donating or about your medical eligibility at 800-688-0900.

### ***Mangia & Ride!***

There are great events for cyclists taking place in Putnam County, all on Saturday, May 10!

- Putnam Cycling Classic: For 2014, the Putnam Cycling Classic offers 100 & 62-mile rides. Rides will contain a timed climb section and a time trial section. For those used to a more comprehensive and competitive ride, this has it all.
- Tour de Putnam: After a short retirement the Tour De Putnam is back with 12 and 24-mile family recreational rides.

- Inaugural Putnam Pasta Picnic: An all you can eat spaghetti and meatball feast, open to the general public and also a part of each rider's ticket.

Register for all three online at [putnamcycling.com](http://putnamcycling.com).

Getting to all three is easy. Take the Harlem Line to Brewster Station and walk one block onto Main Street. Bike permits will be waived for this event. [See our Schedules page for train times.](#)

### **Safety Rule Of The Issue**

Walking is easy. It's the slipping, tripping and falling that is hard—on you!

That is why we present the following reminders:

- Always look down when getting on and off the train and step carefully over the gap.
- Also, allow your fellow customers to get off the train before you board.
- If you are traveling with a child, always hold their hand when exiting and entering the train.
- Never run down station stairs, and always keep a hand on the railings.

Remember: Your safety, whether walking to or riding on our trains, is always our first priority.

### **Courtesy Corner**

The French have given the world so much: baguettes... Pepe Le Pew... a new appreciation for the films of JerryLewis...

And now, because behavior has gotten so bad on their trains, they have created "politeness police" to hand out tickets to a growing number of rude and rowdy commuters.

Put your feet on the seat—that's a ticket... speak loudly on your smart phone—that's another ticket... light up a "Gauloises"—that gets you a ticket. (And thrown off the train, too!)

All we can say is "sacre bleu!" Don't behave "a la francaise!" While riding our trains, police yourself and always practice good old-fashioned American politeness.

It's the courteous thing to do.

### **February 2014 On-time Performance\***

Line	AM	PM	Off-Peak		Total	YTD**
			Weekday	Weekend		
<b>Harlem</b>	85.3%	93.2%	89.3%	94.4%	90.5%	90.9%
<b>Hudson</b>	87.1%	84.5%	88.7%	93.6%	89.2%	90.1%
<b>New Haven</b>	75.9%	81.1%	81.8%	90.2%	82.7%	84.5%
<b>System</b>	81.8%	85.8%	86.0%	92.4%	86.8%	88.0%

\*Arrivals within 5 minutes, 59 seconds of schedule. \*\*Year to date.

Published by  
Corporate & Public Affairs  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
345 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

[Mileposts Archive](#)