

# Mileposts

A Publication for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

April 2012



## Once Again, We're Stepping Up To The Plate!

Our ever-popular game-day service to Yankees-East 153rd Street Station, located on our Hudson Line, resumes on **Opening Day, April 13th**, when the Yankees take on the **Los Angeles Angels at 1:05 PM**.

Fast, convenient, reliable... our service is a real triple threat! And we take you out to the ball game without the major league expense of filling up the tank, or paying for parking and tolls. *(And don't forget the hassle of dealing with all the traffic to the stadium... we didn't!)*

We offer plenty of "trains to the games" for Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven Line fans, and of course, attractive fares. *(Next to catching a ride with A-Rod in his limo, it's the easiest way to get to the stadium.)*

Look for our **Special Yankees-E. 153rd Street Station Game-Day Timetable**, available now in Grand Central Terminal, at outlying stations, or visit [mta.info/mnr](http://mta.info/mnr).

On game days, **Hudson Line** fans enjoy direct service from Grand Central Terminal, Harlem-125th Street Station and outlying Hudson Line stations.

For **Harlem and New Haven Line** fans there is direct service from select

stations for 7:05 PM weeknight games, as well as for weekend and holiday games.

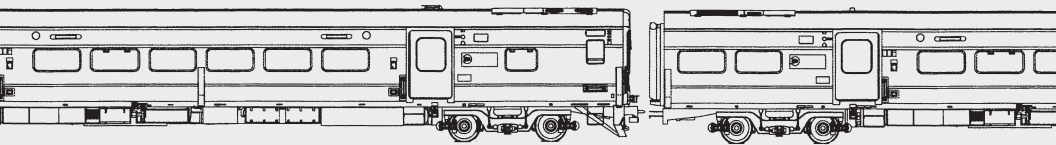
At other times, Harlem and New Haven Line customers can transfer to Hudson Line trains or special game-day shuttles, at Grand Central Terminal or Harlem-125th Street Station – these trains will get you to the Yankees-E. 153rd Street Station.

Did we mention that train service is provided before, during and after the game? *(So, in the case of a Yankee blowout, you can leave anytime you like.)* Or that getting to and from the game is a one-ticket ride from all three lines? Or that you can buy your tickets at any ticket office, from one of our many ticket machines, or from WebTicket ([mta.info/mnr](http://mta.info/mnr))? *(Well, we just did...)*

Also, **monthly and weekly ticket holders** who normally travel to or from Manhattan (on any of the three lines) can travel to or from Yankees-E. 153rd Street Station at no extra charge.

Best of all, the station is a short leisurely walk to the stadium and local destinations.

So travel like a pro this baseball season: Take a Metro-North "Train to the Game!"



## ***Getting Down To The Wire, Again!***

Once again, catenary work has resumed on two tracks between Southport and Bridgeport, and will continue through the end of November.

This leaves us again with only two of four tracks in service in this 7-mile area, impacting our operating flexibility and ability to combat potential service disruptions during emergencies. And although we will work diligently to ensure we provide you with the best commute possible during this period, some of you may experience occasional train delays and service disruptions.

(In 2011 we had 2 tracks out of service for this project. However, we returned one track back to service in December 2011 in order to be as prepared as much as possible in the event of any winter weather-related emergencies.)

However, on the positive side, having two tracks out of service will enable us to accomplish a lot, including:

- Replacing 4 open-deck bridges in Bridgeport and Fairfield (at North Benson Rd., Fairfield Ave., South Ave. and Main St.) with closed deck ballast-style ones (which provide a smoother ride). The support girders of these bridges rest on two tracks, making it necessary to take them out simultaneously. This work is scheduled to take place from June to September.
- Replacing interlocking wire (basically the wire for track switches) at Bridgeport Station. This work is slated during June and July.
- Installing about 7 miles of new catenary wire over one track between Bridgeport and Southport. This work will occur from September to November.

When completed, this project, underway since 1991, will replace the original catenary, first erected in 1907.

If it seems that we have a lot more to do, we would like to point out that a lot has been done already!

The Connecticut portion of the line has seen the replacement of wires from New York/Connecticut State Line

to just east of South Norwalk; and from Milford to New Haven (including an interface with the Amtrak shoreline catenary system east of New Haven Station). Currently about 59% of the catenary replacement work in Connecticut has been finished.

And, from 1991 to 1995, on the New York State portion of the New Haven Line, third rail replaced existing catenary wire from Woodlawn to just north of Mt. Vernon East. We also installed new catenary wire from Pelham to Port Chester. The catenary project is being done to replace the older, existing fixed termination catenary system with a state-of-the-art constant tension system. As the name implies, this type of construction can better accommodate temperature extremes.

We're coming closer to the "wire" (pun intended) with this catenary work and as we advance, we'll continue to provide you with updates in *Mileposts* and at [mta.info/mnr](http://mta.info/mnr).

## ***Our Version Of Fast Track...***

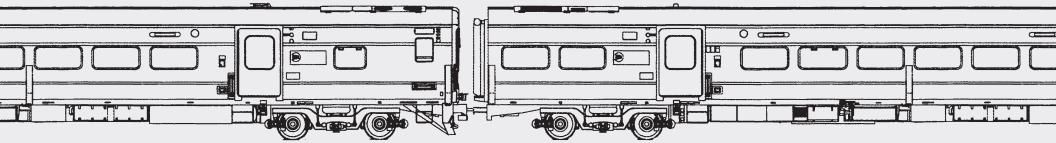
Spring is traditionally the time we begin "sprucing up" our right of way, and this year is no exception.

In addition to our catenary work on the New Haven Line, we will be undertaking the following projects in the next few months, some of which will occur, or are occurring, on the Hudson and Harlem Lines:

- In the Park Avenue Tunnel, we will be making structural repairs and replacing third rail brackets
- We'll be replacing switches in the Bronx in the vicinity of Mott Haven and between Croton-Harmon and Cortlandt.
- We'll be replacing 340 bridge timbers on the Harlem River Lift Bridge.
- We'll be building a new 118-foot-long retaining wall near Peekskill along the high tide mark of the Hudson River.
- We will begin installing a new interlocking in the Bronx between Fordham Station and the Botanical Garden.

We'll give you more details on these projects upcoming *Mileposts*.

In order to do this work, we will do our best to minimize any impact on your commute by scheduling most work for



weekends, off peak hours and evenings.

However, there will be some work that will require us to adjust our schedules accordingly.

We will also improve efficiency by scheduling other work to take advantage of track outages (which will also save money at the same time).

We appreciate your patience as we make these improvements to our right of way.

### ***Things Have Gotten A Lot Quieter!***

Metro-North’s “Quiet CALMmute” Quiet Car program, due to popular demand, has expanded to include all inbound AM and outbound PM peak-period trains.

For those who use the Quiet Cars, this is reason to cheer (*silently, of course*).

For those of you who plan on traveling in one of our Quiet Cars in the near future, please keep in mind:

- During the **AM Peak (to Grand Central)**, the **LAST CAR** of the train will be designated a Quiet Car.
- During the **PM Peak (leaving Grand Central)**, the **FIRST CAR** of the trains will be designated a Quiet Car. (Reverse-peak trains are not included in this program.)

When traveling on Quiet Cars, you should:

- Not use cell phones.
- Disable sound features on computers & other electronic devices.
- Conduct conversations in a subdued voice.
- Use headphones at a volume that cannot be heard by fellow passengers.

To help reinforce Quiet Cars etiquette, conductors hand out on an “as needed basis” specially designed “Shhhhhh” cards that explain the rules in English and Spanish. (As always, we appreciate your cooperation when you are traveling on a Quiet Car.)

**Please note:** All regular announcements will continue to be made in the designated Quiet Cars.

So whether you are a Quiet Car veteran, or entering the “realm of silence”

for the first time, we say “enjoy the CALMmute!”

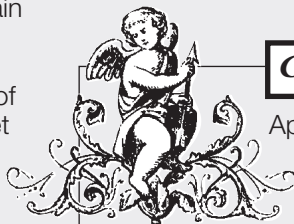
### ***We’re Planning A BIG Party...***

... to mark the 100th anniversary of Grand Central Terminal on Feb. 1, 2013. Look for an exciting roster of exhibits and events celebrating the facility’s first century.

We’ll kick things off with a series of commemorative activities starting later this year and extending throughout 2013.

A wide-range of happenings will feature something of interest for all New Yorkers, including the 750,000 customers who pass through the Terminal daily. The Terminal’s retail tenants will also join in the celebration through special promotions and sales activities.

And the February 1 fete will feature a spectacular celebration including music, other performances, a formal re-dedication ceremony with VIP guests, and numerous other public activities, which will be capped by a gala event.



### ***Courtesy Corner***

April isn’t just for “fools.” It is also the month Noah Webster published the first American

dictionary, the US Treasury minted the first coin with “In God We Trust” on it, and the first *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie was copyrighted. (*Foolish to some, but not to Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello, and Michelangelo...*)

Now that you know it is such a serious month, you should try and refrain from foolish activities such as:

- Putting your feet up on the seats;
- Leaving your garbage on the train;
- Speaking loudly on your Smartphone;
- Excessively grooming your-self in public.

Show April, and your fellow commuters, some respect. It’s the courteous thing to do!



## February 2012 On-Time Performance\*

Line	AM	PM	Off-peak		Total	YTD**
			Weekday	Weekend		
<b>Harlem</b>	98.2%	99.6%	98.6%	99.2%	98.8%	98.9%
<b>Hudson</b>	98.7%	98.9%	98.7%	99.7%	98.9%	98.9%
<b>New Haven</b>	98.5%	98.3%	98.5%	99.3%	98.6%	98.8%
<b>System</b>	98.4%	98.8%	98.6%	99.3%	98.8%	98.8%

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

\*\*Year to date.

Also that day, The New York Transit Museum will launch a six-week exhibition in the Terminal's historic Vanderbilt Hall. This large-scale exhibit features artifacts, archival material, moving images and photographs from the Museum's collection -- and private collectors -- that explore the past, present and future of Grand Central Terminal.

There will also be historic events, a special line of Grand Central memorabilia, and other tributes designed to spotlight the magnificence of the Terminal.

We have enlisted a number of public leaders and area businesses, who along with The MTA Transit Museum and MTA Arts for Transit will work together to create a meaningful and powerful salute to Grand Central.

If you are a collector of railroad memorabilia and would like to lend or donate to this exhibition, the Transit Museum is seeking old uniforms, caps, badges, coat hooks, clocks, ashtrays, baggage

carts, "gate curtains" with old train names, and memorabilia tied directly to the Terminal and/or to the famed historic railroads that used this landmark facility as a gateway—New York Central Railroad, Penn Central, and Conrail. Also, still photographs, videos or films of the Terminal; timetables or tickets from the old railroads; matchbooks or menus from Terminal tenants; flyers or ads from events held there – galas, political events, USO shows, or special exhibits.

For consideration, take a digital photo and email it to Transit Museum archivist Carey Stumm at [carey.stumm@nyct.com](mailto:carey.stumm@nyct.com) with a brief description, including its dimensions, current location, and source (to the extent that it's known).

The Museum staff will acknowledge every proposed offering/donation. Selected items will be treated, conserved and protected according to Museum standards, and donor names will be acknowledged in the actual Vanderbilt Hall exhibit, scheduled to open on February 1, 2013. (And they will return your items to you!) So how about being part of history?

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

We don't want you to look foolish, so here are a few reminders to help you remain injury free during the month of April:

- Always concentrate on watching your step when getting on or off the train. Watch the gap!
- Always use the stair handrails, especially after "April showers." They don't just bring flowers, they can also make steps and platforms wet and slippery.
- Always use the handholds located near the car doors when standing on a moving train.
- Always use the overpass/underpass/designated walkway to get from your station parking lot to the platform.
- Always stand back from platform edges.

We present these reminders because we are no fools: Your safety is always our first priority, every month of the year!

### ***Smart Phone Users: Bookmark Us Again***

The MTA mobile device address has changed to **[m.mta.info](http://m.mta.info)**. If you bookmarked our previous mobile device URL of [mta.info](http://mta.info) (including Train Time, Schedules, Fares, Service Status, etc.), it is no longer valid. Bookmark the new address. This change will let us offer more "on the go" service information in the future.

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