



MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

VALENTINE
ISSUE

February 2015

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New Fares Effective March 22

New fares for travel between Metro-North's New York State stations go into effect on Sunday, March 22.

Look for the following specific changes:

- The vast majority of fares will increase by 4.25% or less.
- For monthly and weekly commuters, all fares to/from Manhattan will increase by no more than 4.25%.
- Intermediate fares will increase by an average of approximately 4%. (The increases for some one-way and ten-trip fares may be higher or lower than 4% due to rounding. However, all intermediate fare increases of more than 6% will be a maximum of 50 cents per ride.)
- Monthly/Weekly UniTicket Fares will increase by approximately 4%.

PLEASE NOTE: The March 22 fare increase does not affect ticket prices for travel between stations in Connecticut and New York, or between stations within Connecticut.

We'd like to remind you about the time-saving and convenient purchasing options that will save you money:

- The best and most cost-effective way to buy tickets is by purchasing multiple-ride tickets (such as monthly, weekly, or ten-trip tickets) in advance of your trip.
- Join **Mail&Ride**, our monthly ticket-by-mail subscription service, and save 2% on the rail portion when you purchase a joint Monthly Ticket/Monthly Unlimited MetroCard. You can manage your account online, and pay using a number of convenient options.
- **Pre-tax federal transit benefits programs** can help you save on commuting costs. Contact your employer and ask about participation that saves both you and your company money.

Details can be found in our Tickets & Fares brochure, which will be available in the coming weeks at outlying ticket offices, the Grand Central Terminal Customer Service Window, our information booths and the Station Master's Office.

[View new fare/ticket information.](#)

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We're Committed to Rebuilding Ourselves, For You!

around Valentine's Day!

And there are not many who
can make a statement like that

But we can assure you that the major safety initiatives and aggressive track improvements that defined 2014 for Metro-North will continue in 2015.

Let's start with what we are doing for your safety.

Safety improvements in 2014 included the installation of alerters on our entire fleet to ensure that train engineers remain responsive, the launch of a pilot program to identify key employees



who may have sleep apnea, and the award of a contract for the purchase of inward- and outward-facing cameras onboard all trains.

Major work progressed along our right-of-way to restore our infrastructure.

Some program highlights from 2014 include:

- We replaced 42,500 cross-ties on all three lines, re-surfaced 83 miles of track across all lines

resulting in upgrades to 20 miles of right-of-way, including drainage improvements.

- Two dozen new switches (that allow trains to move from one track to another) were installed on the main lines, at Grand Central Terminal and in yards to improve operational flexibility.
- Three highway grade crossings were renewed at Chippawalla Road and Pleasant Ridge Road on the Harlem Line and at Manitou Road on the Hudson Line. Workers replaced 7,000 feet of continuous welded rail on six curves on the Hudson Line and 4,700 feet of rail on three curves on the New Haven Line.
- Steel repairs were made to four under-grade bridges and timber bridge decks were replaced on nine bridges, east and west of the Hudson River.
- New timber ties, continuous welded rail, new miter rails and presence detectors were installed at Walk Bridge in Norwalk, CT; and new timber ties were installed at the Devon Bridge in Milford, CT, and at the Harlem River Lift Bridge, which connects Manhattan and the Bronx.

In 2015, our Maintenance of Way forces will continue to clean or replace ballast throughout the territory. (Ballast is the small stones that stabilize the track structure which sometimes gets contaminated and become less effective.)

We will also create a new gang that will focus solely on drainage improvements, as standing water is damaging to good track.

And another specialty track gang will be created to replace ties in areas that are difficult in which to work, such as interlockings and adjacent to station platforms.

Also on tap is the installation of eight miles of continuous welded rail, replacement of eight grade crossings in Connecticut and installation of fiberglass brackets and channels to support new aluminum third rail that will be installed in targeted locations.

We still face a lot of work. But, in order to continue to improve, it is critical that we bring our infrastructure to a state of good repair, and that we continue to focus each and every employee on the importance of safety as our core value.

We appreciate your patience as we move forward with our efforts.

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For A Hot Time, Push the Button!

This winter, our "hottest" station enhancements are also generating some serious energy savings.

"Push for Heat" is an eco-friendly method of heating our station shelters without demanding more energy than we need. This new heating philosophy gives Metro-North the chance to shrink its energy footprint while continuing to keep you warm and happy during these winter months.

Here's how it works: The cost of energy consumption from a constantly running heater piles up, and many times there's no one actually in the shelter itself (Previously, shelters would be heated 24/7).

The Push for Heat button solves this wasteful problem by allowing riders to get heat "on-demand" for a period of 10 minutes, which is about how long most customers wait for their trains.

The energy savings of this ingenious idea, developed in-house, were immediate: after a pilot run in Hawthorne Station on the Harlem line, it was determined that the energy consumption per shelter was reduced by 85%... which is equivalent to about \$500 per shelter per heating season. And spread out to all lines, the total savings can reach nearly \$150,000 per year!

As we go to press, Push to Heat is now available at all of our Hudson and Harlem Line station shelters.



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Safety Rule of the Issue

Elvis couldn't help "falling" (*in love with you, that is*).

But you are not Elvis. (*Are you?*) You can help yourself from falling...not in love, but on our stairs, station platforms and getting off our trains. Slip, trip and fall injuries remain at the "number one" chart position on our causes of customer injuries. So we ask that you:

- Always concentrate on watching your step when getting on or off the train. Watch the gap!
- Always use the stair handrails, especially after rain/snow, when steps and platforms can become 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 bring you these rules, not just to remind you of Elvis (*the young skinny one*), but because your safety is always our first priority.

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Courtesy Corner



Every Valentine's Day there are an abundance of articles giving us advice on what we can do to attract a date.

From getting "inked" (*nothing says notice me like a tattoo of the Tasmanian Devil on a surf board*) to sporting a new "do" (*today's "faux hawk" may just be tomorrow's mullet*) to buying expensive designer chocolates (*at least Jacques Torres will love you*), the web is full of "helpful" tips. No wonder so many people spend Saturday night alone.

Instead, may we suggest the following to help you look your best during your commute?

- Keep your feet off the seats. (*It increases your chances of someone actually being able to sit across from you...*)
- Refrain from personal grooming, such as trimming nails, flossing teeth, etc. (*Let them think you look*

that good without all the work...)

- Take your garbage with you when you leave the train. (*Self-sufficiency is very attractive.*)

Try one, or all of the above. Your fellow commuters will love you for it, because it's the courteous thing to do!

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Cheap Dates!

There's nothing we love more than saving money when you take your "special Valentine" on a date.

And one of the easiest and fun ways to do that is by purchasing one of our Getaway Packages, to some of the region's best events and destinations. And many offer discount admission and rail fare.



If you purchase our discount Getaway package to the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, your beloved will think you are cultured and thrifty (*making you quite the catch!*) A world of great art awaits you at the Met (*not to be confused with the NY Mets*), the City's largest museum and most-visited attraction, from the wonders of ancient Egypt to the amazing New American Wing. The Met also hosts 30 special exhibitions a year, and

all are free with Museum admission.

Touch a shark, watch a seal show, see otters, jellyfish, frogs, giant halibut and tiny seahorses at the **The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk**. Only Aquaman has a better view! Your ticket includes a classic IMAX movie on a screen six stories tall. (*So it is like two dates in one!*) Afterwards, take a romantic stroll around the surrounding SoNo neighborhood with waterfront dining, clubs, shops, art galleries and more.



Or let them think you are a high roller with our **Empire City Casino Getaway**. It's a little bit of Vegas at Yonkers Raceway, with 5,300 slot machines, electronic table games, harness racing and live entertainment. (*Remember: What happens in Yonkers stays in Yonkers...*) Empire City's got all that and restaurants and a food court, too! This package includes a free shuttle bus and a gaming bonus (a \$10 Free Play and \$10 meal credit).



You can purchase our Getaway packages from Metro-North ticket offices or full-service ticket vending machines or through **WebTicket**.

[See a complete listing of all our discount Getaways.](#)

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