



## SERVICE UPDATES FROM CT RAIL COMMUTER COUNCIL

UPDATE 8:30 pm Sunday

Governor Malloy made no mention of train service in his 6 pm briefing.

But the Commuter Council has learned that Metro-North will provide about half the usual service Monday morning between New Haven and Stamford and GCT. Regular service from Stamford to GCT will be provided.

There will be train service on the New Canaan and Danbury lines, but busing on the Waterbury branch. A timetable will be posted by Metro-North at 8 pm this evening.

Posted below is the latest from Metro-North as of 8:30 pm

JIM CAMERON

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On Monday morning, February 11, regular weekday train schedules will remain in effect on Metro-North Railroad's entire Hudson and Harlem lines, as well as on the New Haven Line between Stamford and Grand Central Terminal.

And for the first time since the blizzard of 2013 hit, trains will operate between New Haven and Stamford at about half of the normal weekday rush hour service level. Train service also will resume on the Danbury and New Canaan branches, but not the Waterbury branch.

On the Danbury Branch, four of the five regular trains will operate. The 6:18 a.m. departure from Danbury will not operate.

In addition, there are several minor changes in service between Stamford and New York. The 6:11 a.m. from Stamford is cancelled and customers who usually catch the 7:35 a.m. out of Port Chester (that also stops at Rye at 7:39 a.m.) will be accommodated on the local that leaves Stamford at 6:59 a.m. - within five minutes of their regular time.

Also, some of the east end trains that ordinarily stop at Greenwich are not running tomorrow.

Both the Haverstraw and Newburgh ferries and the Hudson Rail Link buses are running tomorrow.

All customers should use caution when entering/exiting trains and on the platforms and stairs. New Haven Line customers should anticipate crowded trains.

A regular off-peak/midday scheduled will be in operations. The PM peak schedule will be available Monday morning.

Many Connecticut residents in the New Haven area, including Metro-North employees, may have trouble reaching their train stations and work locations because many local roads remain impassable.

Crews continued working all day and overnight to remove deep snow from yards in New Haven and Bridgeport and to clear the track switches that allow trains to change from one track to another. In addition to Metro-North forces, about 45 maintenance of way workers from New York City Transit rode a diesel train to Bridgeport and New Haven yards to assist in the clean up effort. Another crew of 45 workers were to arrive at about 9:30 pm to continue working in the yards.

There are two jet engine snow blowers at work and CDOT has sent two frontend loaders and several triple axle trucks to remove snow from the yards.

In addition, deep snow has to be removed manually from the roof of each train car so that the pantographs can go up and down. (The pantographs are the mechanical arms that capture electricity from the overhead catenary wires.)

Metro-North has been running empty trains up and down the line this evening to help clear switches, overhead wires and train roofs to ensure that the infrastructure and trains are operating safely and reliably after the three-day hiatus.

For specific schedules, please check <http://mta.info/mnr> or in New York City call 511. In Connecticut, call toll-free 877-690-5114.

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Noon Sunday 2/10/13

Fellow Commuters...

As of noon on Sunday 2/10, CDOT and Metro-North say there will be **NO TRAINS** Monday morning from any stations between New Haven and Stamford. There will be service to GCT from Stamford and intermediate stations.

The problem is that most of our fleet of trains is trapped under 3+ ft of snow in the New Haven and Bridgeport yards. National Guard troops are trying to dig them out.

Substituting buses for trains is not an option. A single ten car train on Metro-North carries 1000 passengers. That would mean 50 buses for one train, and buses are not available.

Driving to Stamford to catch a train will **not** be an option. The 1900 space garage at Stamford is usually full by 7 am on a typical weekday and is probably full already today (Sunday).

Here are some of your alternatives:

- 1) Stay home. Telecommute.
- 2) If you must be in NYC Monday morning, go in today (Sunday).
- 3) You may be able to take a bus to Stamford. Schedules are available at [www.cttransit.com](http://www.cttransit.com) and [www.norwalktransit.com](http://www.norwalktransit.com). But as of Sunday bus service is either still cancelled or very limited.
- 4) Drive to another train station west of Stamford though parking will be a problem. Also consider the Harlem line of Metro-North where large stations like White Plains offer more parking. New Haven line tickets are honored on that line (but not on Hudson line trains).
- 5) Consider Amtrak from New Haven or Bridgeport. Limited service is being restored between Boston and NYC on Sunday. Check for the latest at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

The sun may be shining today. Your local station's parking lot and platforms may be clear. But do ***not*** count on train service, especially Monday morning, if you commute from any station between New Haven and Stamford, including the New Canaan, Waterbury and Danbury branch lines.

Metro-North and CDOT are working as hard as they can to restore service. If anything changes today, we will update you on our website at [www.trainweb.org/CT](http://www.trainweb.org/CT) and on our Twitter feeds ([@CTRailCommuters](https://twitter.com/CTRailCommuters)).

Please forward this e-mail to your friends and fellow commuters.

JIM CAMERON

Chairman

CT Rail Commuter Council

**"Advocates for better rail services in CT"**

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