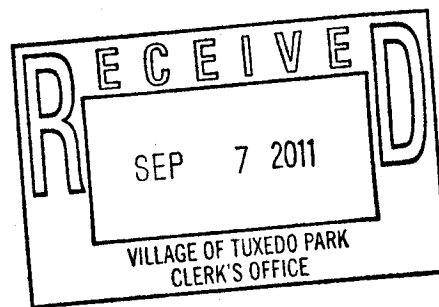


 **Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

State of New York

September 1, 2011

Honorable Thomas Wilson
80 Lorillard Road, P.O. Box 31
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987



Dear Mayor Wilson:

As you know, Hurricane Irene severely damaged the MTA's Metro-North Port Jervis Line. I inspected the damage today and to say that it is "catastrophic" is not an exaggeration. I have enclosed some photographs of today's inspection to give you an idea of the damage. Clearly, it will be several months and many millions of dollars before service is back to normal; in some places we will need to rebuild the railroad from scratch.

The work on the Port Jervis Line must be a priority for the MTA. Today, I invoked the MTA's emergency powers so that bureaucratic hurdles and red tape do not slow us down. The MTA has also begun a careful and disciplined survey of every mile of the Port Jervis Line and all supporting structures, systems and equipment. A team of diverse specialists is being assembled to assess the full extent of damage and develop a work plan that addresses the need to rebuild many miles of the right of way. This includes new foundation, tracks, switching equipment signals and new bridges. Please be assured that we are committed to rebuilding this 100-year-old railway to 21st Century standards.

In the absence of rail service, customers may now park in the Harriman lot and catch a bus to a nearby NJ Transit station for the rest of the commute toward New York City. In addition, we are honoring Port Jervis Line tickets on both the Newburgh-Beacon bus and ferry, and on Metro-North's Hudson Line.

Starting today we will be bringing MTA buses from New York City to transport our Port Jervis and Middletown customers directly across the Hudson River to Beacon where they can catch a Hudson Line train to Grand Central. Further refinements to this emergency service plan will follow in the coming days.

In addition, we will be making a special effort to communicate with the communities and customers who will be faced with long-term inconvenience. In addition to the use of social media, we have unveiled a special website to keep our customers updated on the emergency service plan and the reconstruction effort (<http://www.mta.info/pj>). We are also assigning an MTA liaison to meet with all local officials on a regular basis for the duration of the outage.

I wanted to assure you that we are doing all we can to cope with this catastrophic damage, and I will keep you informed of the progress as it occurs. In the meantime, I ask for your

The agencies of the MTA

MTA New York City Transit
MTA Long Island Rail Road

MTA Long Island Bus
MTA Metro-North Railroad

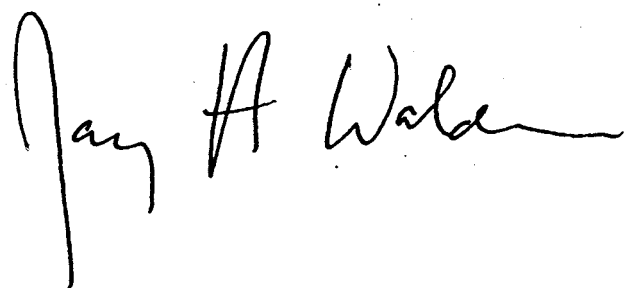
MTA Bridges and Tunnels
MTA Capital Construction

MTA Bus Company

patience, and for your help in assisting us in getting timely and correct information out to our customers and your constituents about the work that is being done and the accommodations that are being made to provide the best service possible.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can be doing, or if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay A Walden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.



