

FROM: Raritan Valley Rail Coalition

For Immediate Release

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REGION, NJ - Raritan Valley Line (RVL) riders will get the long awaited off peak evening direct trains to NY Penn Station beginning January 12. The announcement from the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition (RVRC) had special significance since the direct evening service was previously cancelled by NJ Transit.

“The Coalition launched a public information campaign, including public meetings, and worked closely with NJ Transit to get this important second phase of direct train service on the RVL,” said Peter Palmer, RVRC Chairman and Somerset County Freeholder. “But, we’re only halfway toward our goal of full mid-town direct service,” he added.

The NJ Transit decision to implement the evening service came after securing funding from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski emphasized the importance of the decision. “We appreciate the support from the NJTPA on this issue. The cost of expanding the one-seat ride on the RVL is low compared with the enormous payback in terms of economic development, improved property values and the productivity of our commuting workforce.”

It is expected that there will be four weekday evening direct trains leaving NY Penn Station between 9 pm and midnight, with exact time still to be published. The morning off peak direct trains, which began in March, currently run between 8:43 a.m. and 4:25 p.m.

The ultimate goal of the RVRC, which has championed the one-seat direct train service to NYC since 1998, is full mid town direct service. Currently, riders on peak hour trains still have to transfer in Newark.

Members of the RVRC continue to meet regularly with NJ Transit officials to accomplish the goal. “We understand the complex nature of implementing these changes,” said Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, who heads the Mayor’s Coalition. “However, our first responsibility is to the residents of every town on the RVL and making sure they are treated fairly in the transit system.”

For more information and articles about the efforts to get one-seat service go to [www.raritanvalleyrail.com](http://www.raritanvalleyrail.com) or contact [info@raritanvalleyrail.com](mailto:info@raritanvalleyrail.com)

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