

Additional Information for Fares Comparison Chart, May/June 2010 *Railgram*

Stations Used and Distances

METRA: Chicago terminal to West Chicago (UP West Line). Mileage 30.0, from 1960s *Official Guide*.

SEPTA: Philadelphia Market East to Levittown, 28.6 mi, from PRR operating timetable to Phila Suburban Station, distance to Market East estimated at 0.9 mi.

MBTA: Boston South Station to Westborough (Worcester line), 31.9 mi, from 1960s *Official Guide*.

MTA: Grand Central Terminal to Ossining, 30.9 mi (Scarborough is 29.5 mi, same zone); 1960s PC operating timetable; current M-N public timetable shows 31 to Ossining, 30 to Scarborough.

NJ Transit South: Philadelphia 30th St. to Atco, 29.5 mi; from PRR and PRSL operating timetables (30th St - Zoo, 1.5; Zoo-Shore, 6.0; Shore-Vernon 9.2; Vernon-Atco, 12.8.)

NJ Transit North: New York Penn Station to Convent Station, 30.3 miles; from operating timetables and Google Earth Maps (for distance from Newark Broad St. to Secaucus).

Ticket Price Calculations

Rides per Month for Monthly Tickets: 42 one-way trips assumed.

Monthly Prices:

METRA: West Chicago is Zone F. Monthly price, \$128.25 or \$2.92 per one-way ride.

MBTA: Westborough is Zone 7; monthly pass \$235, or \$5.34 per ride.

SEPTA: Levittown-Tullytown is Zone 5. Monthly TrailPass is \$181, or \$4.11 per ride. Note that this pass includes access to the Philadelphia local transit system, which separately costs \$78 per month; note also that Philadelphia monthly transit pass holders (TransPass) can use the commuter lines within the limits of Philadelphia off-peak (and to the Airport at all times). Note the advantage of an integrated transportation system!

MTA Metro-North: Monthly, \$243 or \$5.52 per ride. Note that MTA offers a 5% discount for tickets purchased by Website and mail delivery. This has not been included in our calculations. Note that NJT by comparison charges a SURCHARGE for monthly tickets-by-mail.

NJ Transit South: (New fares, 5/1/10): Monthly, \$183.

NJ Transit North: Old Fares, before 5/1/10: Monthly, \$259. New fare: \$324.

Off-Peak Prices:

METRA: One-way fare is \$5.00 for single tickets. However, 10-trip tickets are \$40.40 and are very popular, so we have assumed that 50% of riders use the 10-trips. So the price used is the average of \$5.00 and \$4.04, or \$4.52. There is no off-peak discount per se on weekdays. However, on weekends, METRA offers an all-weekend system pass for \$7.00, so the actual price would be \$3.50 each way on weekends; we have not used this value.

MBTA: One-way tickets are \$7.25; 12-ride ticket sold but no discount. No off-peak discount.

SEPTA: Off-peak one way fare is \$4.75, round trip \$9.25 or \$4.63 per ride. We have assumed that riders purchase the round-trip ticket.

MTA: Off-peak one-way is \$8.25. However, Metro-North also offers a popular 10-trip off-peak ticket for \$70.25; we have assumed that half the riders use it, so the net cost is \$7.64. Web discount of 5% is not included.

NJ Transit South: One-way, \$6.50. No off-peak discount (was true before May 1 increases also.)

NJ Transit North: Old price was half ORT (\$15.75) or \$7.88. New fare is \$11.50.

Peak Prices:

METRA: Same as off-peak, see above, \$4.52 used.

MBTA: Same as off-peak, \$7.25.

SEPTA: Peak one-way is \$6.00, peak round-trip is \$11.75 or \$5.88 per ride. SEPTA also offers a 10-trip ticket for \$57.50. We have assumed that half the riders buy the round-trip ticket and half use the ten-trip, for an average price of \$5.81 each way.

MTA: Peak one-way fare is \$11.25. A ten-trip ticket is offered, but no discount.

NJ Transit South: One-way, \$6.50.

NJ Transit North: Old fare was \$9.25; new fare, \$11.50.