

Statement by Kevin M Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor, Inc Village of Floral Park
At Long Island Rail Road Scoping Hearing
May 24, 2016

Good morning, I am Kevin Fitzgerald Deputy Mayor of the Inc Village of Floral Park. Thank you for allowing me and our residents to comment on this potentially significant intrusion in our daily lives. Approximately a decade ago the same project was presented to us and, as is style of the people of Floral Park, all documents were thoroughly reviewed to weigh the impacts and benefits. Unfortunately this time the Scoping Document is woefully short on particulars especially those specific to Floral Park. There are no details or construction diagrams to visualize the impact or where specifically the additional track would start, what service changes would occur both during and after the proposed construction, what property easements are needed during the construction, the height of walls to be built, etc. In fact the document goes so far to state that "there would be no major station modifications at the Floral Park station as part of the propose project". Therefore our residents do not have the requisite data to make informed commentary about this project. In fact since there is minimal info specific to Floral Park, some may think there is no or negligible impact to our Village. However based on a reading of the entire document we can see that a project of this size and scope will have a direct and meaningful impact on Floral Park

Separately the document has no discussions on the impact to the lives of the surrounding communities. Some of those concerns that will need to be described, studied and remediated are, but not limited to:

- The impact of construction vehicles, road closures, and increased traffic which will result in delays by our Police and Fire Dept response times when seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Our emergency service teams respond to over 2,000 calls for service a year which our residents thankfully can rely on them being there when needed
- Impact to our Recreation Center and pool which abuts the right of way. This 13 acre facility is the center of our community from toddlers to senior citizens throughout the year. It should be noted that the 2015 to 2019 Capital Plan did not include a single line item for such an expansion and as such the Village in 2015 after reviewing the Capital Plan and other related documents completed a \$6mm project to rebuild our community pool which was over 50 years old at the time

- Impact whether it be noise, air quality especially for the infants and senior citizens, additional vehicle traffic, damage to property and to utilities caused by vibrations, to the residents and their homes especially those that live on surrounding blocks during a construction phase. Similarly there is no discussion of the impacts increased train and freight traffic if the additional track is completed

Additionally I would like to have entered into the record that the environmental impacts I previously mentioned have not meaningfully changed since the last time this project was brought forth, and I am therefore requesting that all comments both spoken and written made during the made public comment period in 2005 be reviewed and those questions and concerns also be answered as part of this project.

As time is limited during this meeting to set forth all my concerns, I will also be submitting, in writing, an extensive list of concerns that I have that I have not previously mentioned.

Lastly I would like to reiterate the seven points that the various Mayors of the communities along the mainline, including the Mayor of Floral Park have set forth as alternatives to addressing the potential need

- New Passenger Train Yard in Huntington to preset trains for westbound commute
- Electrify Port Jefferson Branch
- Completion 2nd track into Ronkonkoma
- Grade crossing elimination, in a contextually sensitive manner
- Correct the Jamaica Crawl along with upgrading problematic switches
- Compete East Side Access into Grand Central Terminal
- High speed signaling and switches in conjunction with passing sidings throughout the LIRR system

In closing, based there being viable alternative and on the minimal information in the Scoping Document I have to express my opposition to this mega project as one would have to assume that this project will have a severe detrimental and lasting impact to the Village of Floral Park, its residents, businesses, and schools along with the way of life we have nurtured in our community for the last 108 years.

Thank You