

GEORGE P. LAWLOR
11 WILLOW STREET
FLORAL PARK, NEW YORK 11001

February 10, 2017

Via First Class Mail and Online Submittal

EDWARD M. DUMAS, VICE PRESIDENT
MARKET DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD EXPANSION PROJECT
MTA LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD, MC 1131
JAMAICA STATION BUILDING, JAMAICA, NY 11435

RE: Comment to Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for the Long Island Rail Road Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Dumas:

I have lived in Floral Park since 1959. I witnessed as a child, the devastation that raising the railroad above grade did to the business community here. This is not NIMBY, it is enough in my backyard. If there are funds available for any projects, we first need to have ADA accessibility addressed here at Floral Park and ALL other stations like it around long island [RVC, Baldwin Freeport etc]. When my disabled daughter worked in the city, she could not use the train to go to the city, she had to go to Queens to catch the express bus. This is unacceptable as it is hindering her as well as many other disabled and elderly residents. I do support the elimination of the 7 grade crossings as this is a huge safety issue and affects traffic congestion issues in the other towns. Additionally, as you can see by the LIRR East side Access program to bring trains to grand central station attests, the MTA has a spotty, at best, record to have any projects completed on time and on budget. I believe this project that started in 2006 was supposed to be completed by 2009 at a cost of \$4.3 billion. It now scheduled to be completed in 2023 at a cost of \$10.8 billion [14 years late]. I highly doubt either the cost or completion date will come to fruition. None of the questions from our community leaders has been answered satisfactorily, nor has a needs assessment been completed. The DEIS that the MTA/LIRR has presented is not complete. Please do not let the Governor steamroll this project through as a needed stepping stone to further his political career at the cost of the health of the people [Agent Orange used around the tracks] and to the detriment of our businesses and our community. If there IS \$2 billion available in the budget, I am sure it could be put to much better usage than this boondoggle.

Sincerely,



George Lawlor

cc: Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy