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THOMAS J. TWEEDY

**TRUSTEE**  
DOMINICK A. LONGOBARDI

**TRUSTEE**  
KEVIN M. FITZGERALD

**TRUSTEE**  
DR. LYNN POMBONYO

**TRUSTEE**  
ARCHIE T. CHENG



**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**  
GERARD M. BAMBRICK

**VILLAGE CLERK**  
SUSAN E. WALSH

**SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC WORKS & BUILDINGS**  
STEPHEN L. SIWINSKI

**POLICE COMMISSIONER**  
STEPHEN G. McALLISTER

*Incorporated Village of Floral Park*

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February 3, 2016

Hon. Barbara Donno, President  
Nassau County Village Officials Association  
PO Box 484  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040-5572

Dear Mayor Donno:

We the undersigned Nassau County Mayors object to the Governor's surprise announcement and resubmittal of the Mainline Third Track Project. We ask the Nassau County Village Officials Association to join with the Villages along the Mainline in opposition to this ill-conceived plan.

The Main Line Third Track Project has previously been operationally discredited, publically debated and defeated. There is no demonstrated compelling need for such a tremendously disruptive project especially as there are several incremental and necessary proposals to address any reverse commute issue already submitted by LIRR President Pat Nowakowski and former LIRR President Helena Williams. LIRR President Pat Nowakowski's innovative and less invasive proposals will more precisely address the issue of the reverse commute while simultaneously positively impacting the westbound commuter. President Nowakowski's proposed improvements include but are not limited to:

1. Creating a New Passenger Train Yard in Huntington to preset coaches for westbound morning operations clearing the Mainline of eastbound empty "deadhead" passenger trains which will allow for an eastbound "reverse" rush hour commute.
2. Electrify the Port Jefferson Branch and complete a small passenger train yard at the Port Jefferson Branch Terminus thereby increasing reliability and efficiency for the growing LIRR commuter need there and creating a new more accessible tourist destination.
3. Complete the Second Track into Ronkonkoma and electrify its entire length.
4. Grade Crossing elimination along the entire expanse of the Mainline corridor, thereby improving safety, reliability, and speed, while addressing environmental concerns of noise and air quality at each of these locations.

5. Upgrade problematic switches and correct the Jamaica crawl by untangling the archaic 19<sup>th</sup> Century track design which create bottlenecks.
6. Complete the East Side Access into Grand Central Terminal.
7. Hi-speed signaling and high speed switches in conjunction with passing sidings throughout the LIRR system. President Nowakowski's proposal is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century solution to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century problem.


Once these decades old needs and operational deficiencies are completed, including addressing sound attenuation along the entire Third Track corridor, we agree to re-evaluate the need for a Third Track plan at that time.

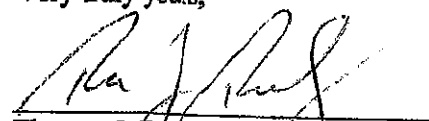
The MTA Mission Statement professes that, "the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) preserves and enhances the quality of life and economic health of the region we serve through the cost-efficient provision of safe, on-time, reliable and clean transportation services." Each of the criteria espoused by the MTA in its Mission Statement is more appropriately and effectively addressed by the incremental improvements proposed. We believe that the decades-long construction of this multi-billion dollar megaproject would forever negatively impact the foundation of our businesses, the valuation of our homes and the destruction of suburban life in our communities. We question any real operation improvements promised for western Nassau's LIRR commuter. Ultimately, our communities would bear the entire burden and derive none of the benefit. The Third Track plan is fundamentally contrary to the tenets of the MTA's Mission Statement and we strongly oppose this plan.

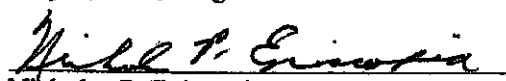
We ask the NCVOA to address this issue at your next meeting, adopt a resolution expressing the NCVOA's support of the Mainline Villages and convey the NCVOA's opposition to this proposal to Governor Cuomo.

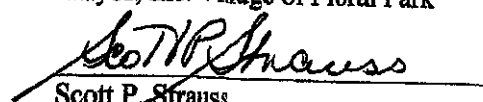
Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to any one of us to discuss further.

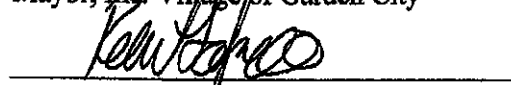
Very truly yours,

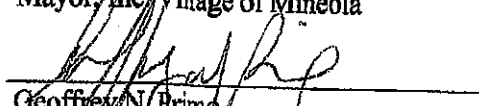
  
 Henry J. Schreiber  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of Bellerose

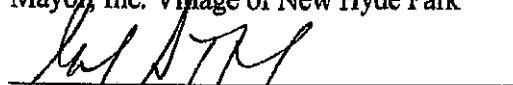
  
 Thomas J. Dweedy  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of Floral Park

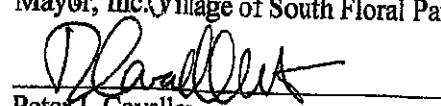
  
 Nicholas P. Episcopia  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of Garden City

  
 Scott P. Strauss  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of Mineola

  
 Robert A. Lofaro  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of New Hyde Park

  
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 Peter I. Cavallaro  
 Mayor, Inc. Village of Westbury